FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN
Langlade County
2014

December 2014

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
LANGLADE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Acknowledgments:

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LANGLADE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

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Attachments:

A.  Town Farmland Preservation Maps
B.  Agricultural Enterprise Area fact sheet
C.  Public Participation Plan and Resolution
D.  Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution and Ordinance
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

In 2010, agriculture constituted a $59 billion industry in Wisconsin. Farmland around the country is being lost at an alarming rate, and, once it is gone, we cannot get it back. Farmland preservation planning is crucial to preserve the agricultural land remaining in Wisconsin, because of the economic importance of agriculture in the State and the potential for loss of our agricultural land base.

Much of the best agricultural areas in the nation are located in the upper Midwest, stretching from Ohio to the Dakotas. While Wisconsin does not contain as much prime farmland areas as some of the other upper Midwest states, there are still many areas where agriculture is important.

Despite its importance, agriculture faces many challenges, especially in the Northwoods, where the main challenge is a shorter growing season. Other challenges to maintaining successful agriculture are the acidic sandy soils that developed under pine forests; and shallow depth to groundwater, which restricts many agriculturally cultivated plants from growing.

OVERVIEW OF WLI/FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLANNING

Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative (WLI) was adopted in 2009 as part of the 2009-2011 biennial budget. The law is specified in Chapter 91 of Wisconsin State Statutes. The main components include:

1. Modernization of the state’s farmland preservation plans;
2. Establishment of agricultural enterprise areas;
3. Increased tax credit opportunities and certainty of credit value; and
4. Development of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

A Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) provides a vision and guidelines for future growth, development, and land preservation in the County. The plan functions as the primary policy document setting forth directions for how the County intends to preserve agricultural production capacity, farmland, soil and water resources, and rural character. These plans also review the economic and cultural importance of agriculture
in the County. One of the primary components of a FPP are detailed maps that identify farmland areas for preservation based on locally established criteria.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PLAN

The most recent Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) was adopted in 1982. The dated plan is simply a listing of how conservation standards would be met in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes. Landowners would make sufficient annual progress to ensure that the standards would be met by the end of the schedule of compliance. Each participant would certify in writing every year that they were complying with the soil and water conservation standards required in the plan.

PLAN MAINTENANCE AND AMENDMENT

The Farmland Preservation Plan is an element of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. On December 31, 2014, the 1982 farmland preservation plan is set to expire. This 2014 farmland preservation plan is intended to fulfill the statutory requirements for both the Farmland Preservation Plan (Chapter 91, Subchapter II, WI Statutes) and the Agricultural Element of the Comprehensive Plan (§66.1001(2), Wis. Stats.).

Wisconsin Statute §66.1001 requires that an adopted plan be reviewed and updated at least once every ten years. This is not a static plan, but one that may change over time. Changing land uses, policy changes, regulatory changes, or shifting economics are some reasons to review if this plan is still current.

See Chapter 7, under: “PLAN AMENDMENTS AND CONSISTENCY” for details about how this plan is consistent with the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan.
CHAPTER 2 - PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process considers existing and future agricultural conditions, the local economy, existing and future growth trends, and current and future prospective participation in the program. The plan tries to coordinate all of this with other agencies who work with landowners, as well as offer the public the opportunity to have input into the planning process. This chapter will discuss the planning process, including public participation.

REQUIREMENTS

The Farmland Preservation Plan must address certain elements as specified in Chapter 91, Wisconsin Statutes. There are several required plan elements to develop the farmland preservation plan. Once certified by the state, landowners become eligible for various programs, which includes income tax credits.

Several meetings were held during the development of this plan. All meetings were held in a public place, easily accessible, and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. They were advertised well ahead of time, with phone numbers and names of contact persons in case of questions or comments. A public hearing was held as part of the formal plan adoption process and this too was published as required by law. Several objectives were met by holding these meetings: Participants of all races, ethnic backgrounds and economic levels had an equal opportunity to voice their opinion and be involved in the process.

All residents of Langlade County had an opportunity to be aware of the planning process through the advertisement of the meeting and the stated objective of the Farmland Preservation Plan and mapping criteria. Residents were also offered the opportunity to call or write to voice their comments if they were not able to make them in person. Public involvement strengthens the sense of vested interest in the success of the process and in the community as a whole.
PLANNING PROCESS

The Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan was developed during calendar year 2014 in cooperation with the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC).

To assist in the revision of the Farmland Preservation Plan, Langlade County Land Conservation Department invited participation from a variety of resource protection agencies as well as local farmers. They discussed farming issues and mapped where farmland should be preserved over the next 15 years. The resource protection agency staff members were a part of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the local farmers and other interested individuals were part of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Both groups were assembled to jointly plan for Farmland Preservation (this plan) and for the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. CAC and TAC members are listed on the back of this plan’s cover.

A chronological history of the plan update activities is as follows:

- March 4, 2014 – the first meeting for both the CAC and TAC was held at the Safety Building in Antigo, and 26 people attended.
  - Joint planning meeting for both the CAC and TAC to identify current farming trends and issues in Langlade County.
- July 16, 2014 – the second TAC meeting was held at the Safety Building in Antigo, and 9 people attended. Work Plan tasks were identified.
- August 5, 2014 – the second CAC meeting was held at the Safety Building in Antigo, and 18 people attended.
  - Mapping criteria established; and
  - Goals, objectives, and policies created.
- August 27, 2014 – a third CAC meeting was held at the Safety Building in Antigo, and 14 people attended.
  - Sample maps based upon mapping criteria were reviewed and mapping criteria was revised and approved;
  - Goals, objectives, and policies revised and approved; and
  - Farming trends and agricultural infrastructure discussed.
- September 23, 2014 – Draft Farmland Preservation Plan reviewed by Land Conservation Committee, and a public hearing date is set. Draft plan and public hearing notice sent to DATCP for plan review.
• September 26, 2014
  - Class I Notice published in the Antigo Daily Journal for the October 27, 2014
    Public Hearing; and
  - Each town mailed notice of the Public Hearing.
  - Draft plan and maps available for public review online.
• November, 2015 – Adoption of the plan by the Langlade County Board of
  Supervisors.
• December 2014 – DATCP sends letter adopting the plan.
CHAPTER 3 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. ISSUES AND TRENDS

This chapter provides a brief summary of the existing conditions in Langlade County. Some of this information was taken from the TAC and CAC participants, County Comprehensive Plan, the County Land and Water Management Plan, among other sources.

Both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members jointly met in March 2014, and provided the following assessment of issues and current trends. The full group was broken into sub-groups that each contained both TAC and CAC members so better interaction would occur.

Sub-group discussions identified the following issues and concerns:

- Acres under irrigation increasing significantly.
- Total agricultural acreage anticipated to remain constant.
- Number of farms will decrease, while farm sizes increase.
- Residences encroaching on agricultural and forest land uses.
- Increased land values.
- Forest fragmentation.
- Increased recreational uses and conflicts.

Sub-group discussions identified the following trends in farming practices:

- Precision agriculture will increase efficiency (e.g. field mapping, drones, satellites, variable rate fertilizer applicators)
- Production will respond more quickly to international markets.
- Sustainability and food safety practices will increase.
- Larger equipment will cause a need for wider roads.
- More irrigation will occur.
- More uses for forest products will occur.
B. NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

1. Landscape

Langlade County is located in northern Wisconsin and is bordered by seven other Wisconsin counties: Oneida, Forest, Oconto, Menominee, Shawano, Marathon, and Lincoln. The county is approximately 574,957 acres in size, including approximately 564,032 acres (98%) land and 10,925 acres (2%) surface water. Approximately 76 percent of the county's surface area is covered by forest lands (woodlands), which are held in both public and private ownership.

Langlade County's landscape is the result of several glacial advances and retreats that took place over northeastern and central Wisconsin some 12,500 to 20,000 years ago. As a result of this activity, numerous unique geologic and topographic features emerged such as a belt of terminal moraines, 10 to 12 miles wide, arching from the northwest corner of the county, southeast to the center, and finally southwest to the county line. The terminal moraines contain the hilliest region in the county. South and west of the terminal moraines is the outwash plain known as the Antigo Flats. Langlade County's physical landscape is defined not only by forest, wetlands, lakes, streams, woodlots, hills, and other natural features, but also by the farm fields and farmsteads scattered throughout the county.

Elevation ranges from 1,070 feet above sea level in the area where the Wolf River leave the county (in the southeast), to about 1,903 feet above sea level in the northwestern part of the Town of Langlade.

See Map 2: Natural Resources

2. Soils

Thirty three different soil types are found in Langlade County as identified in the County Soil Survey. These soils are grouped into six major soil associations that have distinct soil patterns, relief, and drainage features. The six associations are Kennan-Keweenaw, Antigo-Pence, Magnor-Cable, Oesterle-Minocqua-Scott Lake, Antigo-Langlade, and Milladore-Sherry-Myrea. See the Langlade County Soil Survey for detailed descriptions of each soil type, including tables to determine suitability and limitations.
The State Soil of Wisconsin, Antigo Silt Loam, is found in Langlade County. It is a productive, well-drained soil with a light-colored surface layer developed under northern hardwood forests. Antigo soils are formed in silty material underlain by sand and gravel on glacial outwash plains. See Map 3: Soils

C. POPULATION, HOUSING, AND MUNICIPAL EXPANSION

1. Population

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the County has an average population growth of -3.68 percent in the past decade. Table 1 shows the population in each municipality in the County in 2000 and 2010. The table also shows the percent change each town’s population experienced during that time. A wide range of changes took place throughout the County, from the Town of Ainsworth shrinking 17 percent to the Village of White Lake growing 10 percent.

2. Housing

The County saw a 10 percent increase in the number of housing units from 2000 to 2010. This is a large growth relative to the 3 percent population decrease during the same time period. The significant increase in housing units is mainly due to the construction of seasonal homes built around the lakes. In many of the towns, between 20 and 60 percent of all housing units are seasonal homes. Table 2 shows the number of housing units in each municipality in 2000 and 2010, as well as how that number changed over the decade. All towns, except Ainsworth, experienced growth of housing units during this period.

Table 1: Langlade County Population, 2000-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ackley</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>2.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ainsworth</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>-17.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigo</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>1,412</td>
<td>-5.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elcho</td>
<td>1,317</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>-6.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>5.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langlade</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neva</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>-9.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwood</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>-0.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrish</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-15.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peck</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>-1.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polar</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>-1.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>-6.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling</td>
<td>1,452</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>3.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>-2.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upham</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>-1.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilas</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>-6.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf River</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>-14.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Antigo</td>
<td>8,560</td>
<td>8,234</td>
<td>-3.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. White Lake</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>10.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| County       | 20,740| 19,977| -3.68% |

Source: U.S. Census
Table 2: Langlade County Housing Units, 2000-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ackley</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>5.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ainsworth</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>-3.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigo</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>6.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elcho</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>10.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>28.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langlade</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>26.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neva</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>16.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwood</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>14.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrish</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>9.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peck</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>16.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polar</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>19.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>23.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>15.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>26.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upham</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>36.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilas</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>6.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf River</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>20.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Antigo</td>
<td>3,938</td>
<td>3,972</td>
<td>0.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. White Lake</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>15.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>County</strong></td>
<td>11,187</td>
<td>12,360</td>
<td>10.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census

3. Municipal Expansion

Only two communities within Langlade County are incorporated, the City of Antigo and the Village of White Lake. According to the County Comprehensive Plan some municipal expansion is likely to occur around these incorporated areas and places like the “village area” of the Town of Elcho.

The population of older residents is growing at a faster rate than the younger population so the need for assisted living areas will grow. These facilities tend to be closer to towns where other services for the elderly are more readily available. This will ease the pressure to build on prime farmland.
D. UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

1. Energy

The Wisconsin Public Service serves the largest part of the county. Alliant Energy serves many areas in the eastern part of the county. There are two main high-voltage transmission lines traversing the county: one line runs along the route of US-45 north from Antigo and the other follows STH 64 from Lincoln County through Antigo to Polar and from there south into Shawano County.

The ANR pipeline enters Langlade County from Lincoln County running to Antigo. City Gas Company of Antigo provides natural gas service to the surrounding area along the main roads, including part of the towns of Antigo, Polling, Neva, Ackley, Peck, and Polar. Wisconsin Public Service provides natural gas service in the Elcho, Post Lake, and White Lake areas, and runs west along STH 64 to Evergreen and eastern parts of Polar. The remainder of the county depends on bottled gas from local suppliers.

2. Water/Sewer

The City of Antigo, the Village of White Lake, and the Town of Elcho provide water supplies for domestic and commercial use. Elcho Sanitary District #1 supplies public water to the “village” area of the town. Although Antigo, White Lake, and Elcho operate the only municipal water systems in the county, there are sixteen high-volume, non-municipal wells licensed in the county.

The City of Antigo and the Village of White Lake operate the two municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the County. The remainder of the County relies on privately owned wastewater disposal systems.

3. Transportation

Although the County is rural, it is also very accessible and the existing transportation elements are adequate for the foreseeable future. The County road network is in relatively good shape. The future land use plan shows a low level of new development so no new major road improvements have been identified for the future.

There is one U.S. highway in the County—USH 45. The County contains portions of five state trunk highways: 17, 47, 52, 55, and 64. The majority of highways and roads are
located along section boundaries throughout the county, with some significant roads crossing the County at 45-degree angles.

There are two types of WisDOT designated truck routes within Langlade County—1) Designated Long, and 2) 65 foot Restricted. The Designated Long Truck Routes are USH 45, STHs 17 and 64. The 65 foot Restricted Truck Routes are STHs 47, 52, and 55. County Trunk Highways connect the County's rural areas with the designated state truck routes, which then provide Langlade County with access to the rest of the state and the nation.

A problem arises when larger farm equipment is on the smaller rural roads, causing a conflict between farm and non-farm traffic. Some of the equipment can take up the whole road. If this plan is going to preserve farm land and give people the right to farm, then information and education needs to be done with the non-farmer population on the conflicts that arise with these types of issues.

There is no rail service in proximity to the Antigo area. Shipments needing rail service would have to be trucked to nearby cities with rail access, such as Merrill, Rhinelander, or Wausau.

Langlade County Airport, located in the Town of Antigo, is classified as a General Utility (GU) facility. GU airports are intended to serve virtually all small general aviation single and twin-engine aircraft. Two Air Carrier/Cargo airports are located near Langlade: Rhinelander - Oneida County Airport in Rhinelander and the Central Wisconsin Airport near Wausau. Two heliports for medical use only are found in the County: one at Langlade Memorial Hospital and one in Pickerel near the Fire and Rescue Squad Building.

4. Community Facilities & Services

Overall, Langlade County's economic development infrastructure is concentrated in the City of Antigo, although there are also industrial park facilities in Elcho and White Lake. This infrastructure investment provides a wider range of opportunities for the prospective entrepreneur or expanding business, and greatly increases the county's chances of developing and maintaining a stable employment base for its workforce in the future. Additional detail about non-agricultural community facilities exists in Chapters 5 & 6 of the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan.
Dairy and vegetable industries in Langlade County stand on equal footing. Long the main farming enterprise of Langlade County, dairy is the largest part of Langlade County's agriculture in terms of combined on-farm value and processing value. Both on-farm production and the processing of milk into dairy products occurs throughout Langlade County. Much of the corn and forage crops grown in the County remain in the County for livestock feed. As the price of corn has risen, so has the production of corn for export out of the County. That new corn acreage came from fallow land, and former dairy herd land.

Potatoes are by far the most important cash crop in the County. Several factors make Langlade County an excellent location for seed potato production: skilled management, cool climate, silt loam soils, packaging equipment, and management of crop protectants. In addition to the certified seed potato producers, the County is the home of two seed cleaning and packaging companies that market corn, soybean, and small grain seeds.

Other vegetables grown in the County on contract with canning companies (outside of the county) include: snap beans, peas, and sweet corn. Acreage of these crops can swing year to year. Acreage has increased recently as canning contracts have shifted northward out of the Central Sands region of Wisconsin due to the increased demand for field corn acreage there. Soybeans are also extensively grown for use both on local dairy farms and as a commodity sold outside of the County.

Maple syrup has been a prominent component of the agricultural economy in recent years. Greenhouse and nursery products including tomatoes, Christmas trees, and nursery stock also contribute to the local economy.

Direct marketing to consumers through roadside stand, farmers' markets and pick-your-own generate some revenue.

A healthy secondary market for agricultural implements exists throughout the county. Many farmers fix or sell implements to others right on their own farm. New and used implements can be purchased within Langlade County, and then repaired locally.

5. Communications

Cellular telephone service and wireless internet service have become important tools in today's farming climate. However, concerns over the locations of wireless service facilities and their possible impact on property values and health have led some
municipalities to develop restrictions on the location, placement and appearance of wireless service facilities. There are three telephone providers in the County – Charter, Frontier, and Solarus. Internet and cellular communication reception service is spotty/non-existent in some rural areas of Langlade County.

The Wittenberg Telephone Company has a citywide, fiber optic backbone system to provide broadband Internet service as a self-supporting utility. Other Internet Providers in the County include Cellcom, Charter, Frontier, Granite Wireless, Hughes Net, Solarus, and Verizon.

6. Waste Management

The City of Antigo has a brush and mulch landfill in the Town of Rolling. The majority of municipalities within Langlade County utilize a contract service to pick-up and haul waste and recycling material, as the County does not provide any pick-up services. Private garbage pickup is provided by Advanced Disposal Service and Waste Management.

A Hazardous Materials Clean Sweep program is held at the Langlade County Highway Shop as often as money is available, approximately every two years. This service helps local farmers and landowners dispose of waste that is potentially dangerous to keep on hand. This program has been very successful and would be welcomed every year if possible.

E. Public Ownership

Ownership is an important factor to consider related to comprehensive planning. Different levels of government throughout the county own various lands. See Map 5: Land Ownership.

1. Federal Ownership

Lands in the county owned by the federal government total approximately 40,000 acres as part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, most of which is in the Town of Wolf River.
2. State of Wisconsin Ownership

Within the county, the state of Wisconsin owns approximately 18,000 acres. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources owns land in fisheries and wildlife areas across the County, much of Wolf River’s shoreland, along with the Wolf River State Trail.

3. Langlade County Ownership

Langlade County owns 129,968 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested.

4. Town Ownership

Town-owned lands comprise less than 1% of the county’s total acreage. Primarily, town-owned land is used for town facilities such as administration buildings, community centers, garages/maintenance buildings, fire stations, etc. The Town of Peck owns 2,333 acres of land for the Peck Town Forest and 80 acres for Peck School’s Forest.

F. EXISTING LAND USE

While the vast majority of the county is forested and rural in character with scattered low-density residential uses, there are some areas of higher-density development (lakeshores) and areas where development pressures for higher densities are increasing. Residential development is concentrated around many of the larger lakes and scattered along town and county roads. See Map 1 and Table 3 which show existing land use.

Woodlands were identified as the largest land use in the county. Over 76 percent of the county is considered woodlands, although some of this is also wetland. Residential uses make up less than three percent of the total.

Table 3: Existing Land Use, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>87,029</td>
<td>15.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governmental</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Lands</td>
<td>11,468</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Recreation</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>17,120</td>
<td>2.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>5,861</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>10,925</td>
<td>1.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands</td>
<td>440,006</td>
<td>76.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acres</strong></td>
<td><strong>574,957</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCWRPC 2010 Land Use Cover
Langlade County has a significant amount of land used for agriculture, at 15 percent of total land. The majority of this agricultural land is found in the towns of Ackley, Antigo, Neva, Norwood, Peck, Polar, Price, and Rolling.

G. FUTURE LAND USE

A. Population

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) population projections are displayed in Table 4. The DOA projections indicate a negative 2.5 percent growth over the 30-year period from 2010 to 2040. The projected population for Langlade County in 2040 is 19,470 persons.

Table 4: Population Projections, 2010-2040

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>19,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>19,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>19,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>20,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>20,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>20,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
<td>19,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

B. Housing

The household projection may be a more important indicator of what might happen to land use. Nationally, the number of persons per household has been on a steady downward trend for a number of decades. This trend has also been seen in Langlade County. In 2000, the county’s average household size was 2.47, and in 2010 it was 2.29. The population is relatively stable while the number of persons per household is going down. This will mean an increased demand for housing in the next ten to fifteen years. Almost 300 new housing units will be needed to meet the projected 2030 demand. This does not include demand for seasonal housing, which accounted for 25 percent of the housing stock in 2010. Table 5 displays the project increase for housing units.

Table 5: Housing Projections, 2010-2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Housing Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>8,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>8,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>8,882</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCWRPC Housing Projections

Bases upon household projections, residential housing pressure, and the desire to keep housing out of the Antigo Flats area, the Town of Antigo placed their rural residential
land use in the upland wooded area of town, which is the southeast corner of town. This future residential growth area, as marked on the Future Land Use map (Map 6), will provide the land necessary for new houses, while preserving agricultural production in the Antigo Flats Agricultural Enterprise Area.
CHAPTER 4 - AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Identifying the resources and land uses in the County are important in order to recognize areas that need to be protected, or characteristics that would limit development potential.

The following will provide a brief review of some of these resources in Langlade County.

A. RESOURCES AND LAND USES

As seen in Table 3 from Chapter 3, agriculture accounts for 15 percent of the existing land use in Langlade County. Woodlands make up over 76 percent of the land. Residential uses make up less than three percent. Table 6 shows how the agricultural land is divided among various agricultural uses in Langlade County. The majority of agricultural land is used for crops, with 64 percent, followed by agricultural woodlands at 25 percent.

Table 6: Agricultural Land Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Distribution in 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Crop Land</td>
<td>78,258</td>
<td>73,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Woodland</td>
<td>30,797</td>
<td>29,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Pasture and Rangeland</td>
<td>6,116</td>
<td>6,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Buildings, Livestock, Facilities,</td>
<td>7,724</td>
<td>4,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>122,895</strong></td>
<td><strong>113,881</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture
B. FARMLAND CONVERSION

The rate and speed of farmland conversion is an important factor in understanding County-wide land use trends. The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, enacted in 1977 to preserve good agricultural land from development and provide income tax credit to farmers, is a helpful tool to limit where the farmland conversion can take place. Since the rate of population growth has increased, it is likely that either total farm land sold has increased, and/or the percent converted to non-farm uses has increased. See the projected conversion by comparing the Existing Land Use Map with the Future Land Use Map.

C. PROGRAMS

With the abundance of natural resources in Langlade County and the growing pressure on both public and private lands, the need to protect these precious areas is increasingly important. There are many Federal, State and Local programs in place that offer technical assistance and cost-share funding to help preserve the environment. Some of these are as follows:

Federal Programs:

Backyard Conservation
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
Conservation Security Program (CSP)
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Farmland Protection Program
Forestry Incentive Program (FIP)
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP):

State:

Managed Forest Law
Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)
Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)
WI Association of Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)
Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claim Program
Potential Funding Sources for environmental preservation may come from the following:

Private Sources:

Private Foundations
Individual Contributions
Volunteers
Conservation Organizations
Outdoors Forever
Trout Unlimited
Ducks Unlimited
Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

Local Government Sources:

County Land Conservation Department
County Planning & Zoning Department
County Forestry and Parks Department
County Highway Department

State Government Sources:

Department of Natural Resources
Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Priority Watershed Program
New Nonpoint Sources
Stewardship Grants
Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program
Lakes Planning Grants
Lakes Protection Grants
Land & Water Management Plan Implementation Funds
CHAPTER 5 - ECONOMICS

Agriculture and Forestry (one economic category) is the most significant driver of Langlade County’s economy. This category has a location quotient of 3.99. The location quotient model uses employment information for both the County and the nation by industry, and compares their ratios of sectoral employment to total employment. If a location quotient is greater than 1.00, then it is an exporting sector, while a number below 1.00 shows that sector to be an importer to the County. See Chapter 6, Table 4, of the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan for additional detail on how other economic sectors scored.

Dairy and vegetable industries in Langlade County stand on equal footing. Long the main farming enterprise of Langlade County, dairy is the largest part of Langlade County’s agriculture in terms of combined on-farm value and processing value. Data for this chapter mainly came from the Census of Agriculture, where statistics of Wisconsin Agriculture are published every five years by the Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Global demand for wood and wood products continues to support forestry employment in Langlade County. The presence of these forests has also led to a demand for a mix of both forest products and recreational uses. As more people move into the rural areas of Langlade County, more residential development follows, which affects how the forest is used and impacts the ecology of these areas.

A. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Agriculture is a significant employer and economic driver for Langlade County. The county produces a variety of agriculture products like corn, oats, and hay alfalfa as well as milk production. The agricultural industry infuses a significant amount of revenue into the county economy through the sale of agricultural products to customers outside of the State of Wisconsin. Agriculture is one of the county’s top export industries generating more than $100 million in export revenue in 2012.

The agriculture industry in Langlade County continues to grow the Region’s gross regional product while increasing access to local produce for the region. The increase in access ensures that local communities have the ability to eat fresh, affordable produce creating a healthier population. The agricultural industry will continue to be a driver
economy for Langlade County supporting a variety of additional industries like transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail and service.

1. Farms

Langlade County experienced a continuous decrease in the number of farms over the past ten years. Peaking in 2002 with 542 farms, the county decreased the total number of farms to 396 in 2012, a reduction of 146 farms. The reduction in the total number of farms negatively impacted the total land in farms. Between 2002 and 2007 the county decreased the total land in farms from 141,088 acres to 122,895 acres, an 18,193 acre decrease. The county decreased the total land in farms an additional 9,014 acres between 2007 and 2012 from 122,895 acres to 113,881 acres of farm land. Although the total number of farms and land in farms are decreasing in the county, the county has experienced an increase in the median size of farms. After a small decrease of 8 acres between 2002 and 2007, the median size of farms increased 36 acres between 2007 and 2012 increasing from 252 acres to 288 acres. The increase in the median size of farms in the county has helped offset the reduction in the number of farms over the past 10 years. The increase in median farm size also indicates that some of the 146 farms lost between 2002 and 2012 were the result of consolidation, larger farms absorbing smaller farms.

Table 7: Farm Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>-12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Size (Acres)</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Farms (Acres)</td>
<td>123,892</td>
<td>141,088</td>
<td>112,895</td>
<td>113,881</td>
<td>-8.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

2. Agriculture Production

Langlade County experienced an increase in the production of corn (for grain and silage) between 2000 and 2012. Corn continues to be the county’s top crop producing over 1 million tons of product in 2012. After increasing the amount of corn planted by 6,000 acres, the county increased production 26.2 tons per acre resulting in a total of 1,120,000 tons of production. The county increased the production of corn for silage significantly between 2000 and 2012. Increasing the amount of corn planted by 6,000 acres, the county increased the amount of corn for silage harvested from 3,800 acres to 5,600 acres resulting in 100,000 tons of product, an increase of 51,300 tons.
The production of oats and hay alfalfa decreased between 2000 and 2012. Production of oats decreased 187,000 bushels over the 12 year period. However, the county planted 4,800 acres fewer crops resulting in a decrease of 2,300 acres harvested. The 82 bushels produced per acre remained steady over the 12 year period resulting in 484,000 bushels in 2012. Hay Alfalfa production decreased 52,200 tons between 2000 and 2012. The county harvested 11,690 acres fewer crops over the 12 year time period. The amount of hay alfalfa produced per acre also decreased from 3.9 tons per acre to 2.3 tons per acre. The decrease in production was the result of a lower yield per acres and a significant decrease in the amount of hay alfalfa harvested in 2012.

3. Milk Cows and Cattle

Milk production in Langlade County continues to trend with the State of Wisconsin. Farmers are decreasing the number of cows while increasing the pounds of milk produced. In Langlade County, the number of cows decreased by 200 cows between 2000 and 2012 while the pounds of milk per cow increased 3,700 pounds to 20,500 pounds per cow. As a result of the increase in production per cow, total milk production has increased 24,390,000 pounds since 2000.

Langlade County increased the number of cattle by 800 between 2000 and 2010. The county increased the number of cattle by 200 from 2010 to 2012 resulting in a net increase of 1,000 cattle between 2000 and 2012.

4. Gross Regional Product (GRP)

Total gross regional product (GRP) in Langlade County in 2012 was $587,900,000. The revenues from NAICS 11: Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting in Langlade County resulted in a total GRP of $41,446,226 in 2012. In comparison to other industries, the agriculture industry generates the 4th largest gross regional product (excluding government) and accounts for 7 percent of the county's GRP. Manufacturing, retail,
healthcare and other non-industries are the only industries that produced a higher GRP that the agriculture industry in 2012.

5. Exports

In 2012, Langlade County exceeded $848 million in export revenue. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting was the second highest export industry accounting for over $104 million in export revenue, or 12.37 percent of total export revenue. Only manufacturing exported more goods and services in 2012. The agriculture industry continues to be a major export industry although their location quotient decreased from 9.09 to 8.78 from 2001 to 2012. The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry is 8.78 times more concentrated in Langlade County than it is on average in the United States. The county’s location quotient over the 11 year period indicates that the industry is a strong export industry and will continue to be an economic driver in the future. The ability to export goods and services is essential to the county's economy as it introduces new money to the economy, rather than simply circulating money that is already in the region. This influx of new revenue is redistributed throughout the economy at local restaurants, suppliers, and retailers.

6. Job Growth

The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry decreased employment 15.28 percent from 2001 to 2012, eliminating 176 jobs. In 2012, the agricultural industry directly employed 976 persons, down from 1,152 people in 2001. The decrease in jobs is the result of the county's competitiveness in the industry. Shift share analysis shows that Langlade County’s competitive advantage resulted in the elimination of 138 jobs from 2001 to 2012. Based on National Growth (25 jobs) and an Industry Mix (-64 jobs), the region would expect to lose 39 jobs in this industry over the 11 year time period. The industrial mix effect represents the share of regional industry growth explained by the growth of the specific industry at the national level.

The national growth effect explains how much of the regional industry’s growth is explained by the overall growth of the national economy. The regional competitive effect explains how much of the change in a given industry is due to some unique competitive advantage that the region possesses, because the growth cannot be explained by national trends in that industry or the economy as whole. As a result of the regions unique (un)competitiveness in this specific industry, the county experienced a decrease in jobs (176 jobs). The decrease in employment combined with a decrease in location quotient shows that the county is reducing employment in the agriculture industry while the nation is either increasing employment or reducing employment at a slower rate. This trend signifies that there is a need to strengthen the agricultural
economy as it is a driver industry for Langlade County supporting the retail and service industries.

Table 9 shows the number of small and very large farms increasing, while the number of hobby farms and medium-sized farms decreasing. The trend toward small farms is important to economic development for two reasons. First, the rapid increase in small farms demonstrates the explosion of “hobby farming.” These farms may produce on a very small or local scale but they generally do not employ labor or produce food for general consumption. While these types of farms are not being discouraged, it is not this type of land that needs to be preserved by a farmland preservation plan. Second, the largest farms produce large quantities of food but often are so modernized that they require only a fraction of the labor force as previously. As farming moves towards these two extremes of very small and very large farms, the economic impact will be seen and agricultural employment will likely decline.

Table 9: Number of Farms by Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-15.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 49</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 179</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>-9.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 to 499</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>-32.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 to 999</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>-8.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 +</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>-12.58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

B. FORESTRY ECONOMIC GROWTH

Forestry is a significant employer and economic driver for Langlade County. The county produces a variety of forest products like lumber, pulpwood, hardwood flooring, paneling, animal bedding, Christmas trees, maple syrup, and specialty items such as baseball bats for the Milwaukee Brewers. The forest products industry infuses a significant amount of revenue into the county economy through customer sales outside of Wisconsin. Forestry is one of the county's top export industries generating more than $35.7 million in export revenue in 2011.
C. HEALTH CARE

Easy access to quality health care is important to any community. Farming is a particularly hazardous occupation and health care is a necessary component to the overall plan of operation. One hospital and three clinics are located in Langlade County. Langlade Hospital is located in the City of Antigo and serves the entire county as well as other nearby areas.

D. OFF-SITE JOBS

With health insurance being an issue and the economy being what it is, many farm families are working off the farm. This necessitates commuting. The County provides elderly/handicapped bus service in Langlade County (and if space exists, then others may ride too); however commuting is primarily by personal vehicles. There is a taxi service in the Antigo area.

Of the 8,474 workers living in Langlade County, 3,937 commute outside the County to work. Slightly over half of the workers have found work within the County. This is helpful in a number of ways. In part, it saves on gas, wear and tear on vehicles, supports the local economy, and keeps the family close to home.
CHAPTER 6 - GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND MAPPING CRITERIA

A. OVERVIEW

This chapter will provide a description of what is included in the Farmland Preservation Plan map and why it was or was not included in the mapping process. Langlade County has had exclusive agricultural zoning since 1985. The County has seen an increase in participation in the Farmland Preservation Program. Because of these two factors, the future of the program in the County is somewhat uncertain. Policies, goals and actions will take this into account.

B. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

The Farmland Preservation Area is mapped in order to include as many potential participants as possible, while taking into consideration the 15-year future growth of the County.

All county residents went through the comprehensive planning process. Housing demand was projected during that process, and residents identified where additional housing would be located. These areas can be seen on the Future Land Use map. Residents identified why new residents would move into their communities, and recognized that future housing development would take a variety of forms.

No additional housing related goals, objectives, and policies were identified from what already exists in the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan, because of the housing trends identified.
Goal: Promote Working Forests and Farms.

Objective:

1. Minimize the conversion of agricultural lands and woodlands into other uses.

2. Encourage retaining large, contiguous, forestry and farmland tracts.

3. Work to preserve farming as a viable occupation within in County.

Policies:

1. Promote farmland preservation programs from all levels of government.

2. Promote agricultural cost share programs to farmers per the Langlade County Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

3. Promote DATCP’s tax credit program for eligible farmland owners.

4. Promote Managed Forest Law participation to forestland owners.

C. MAPPING CRITERIA

The Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan Map (Attachment A, and Map 7) identifies: “Farmland Preservation Areas,” and “Planned Out” areas. Farmland preservation areas were determined by including all the soils listed as prime agricultural (Map 3), and by including the following existing land uses (Map 1): agriculture, farmstead, open lands, and woodlands. The next step was determining what land to exclude. Basically, all land that is planned for development over the next 10-15 years was removed from farmland preservation, because non-agriculture is planned.

Below are the map legend definitions:

Farmland Preservation Areas - Parcels that meet the Farmland Preservation Plan mapping criteria. Landowners in this area may apply for farmland preservation income tax credits, if the town has adopted County zoning. In an un-zoned town, the residents may apply for an Agricultural Enterprise Area if they meet the criteria. These areas have been identified during the planning process to be agricultural uses or open spaces. No non-agricultural development is planned in the next fifteen years for those areas.
identified as farmland preservation areas. In addition, if there is a conflict with other plan maps, the Farmland Preservation Plan map will supersede those other maps.

**Planned Out** - Parcels that do not allow the owner to apply for farmland preservation income tax credits. These parcels are “planned out,” or excluded because they meet the criteria for non-farmland preservation areas.

**Criteria for Farmland Preservation Areas:**
- Lands depicted on the Soils Map as farmlands.
- Lands depicted on the Future Land Use Map as agricultural areas, forestry areas, or preservation & open space.
- All “agricultural use” (per Sec. 91.01(2) Wis. Stats.) buildings outside of the City of Antigo, Village of White Lake, and the sewered area of Elcho. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) are active farms that shall be included as farmland preservation areas.
- All land within an agricultural enterprise area.

**Criteria for Non-Farmland Preservation Areas**
Exclude all of the following:
- The City of Antigo, the Village of White Lake, and the sewered area of Elcho.
- Tax exempt land.
- Lands depicted on the Future Land Use Map that allow any development other than for an agriculture or forestry purpose to occur. CAFO buildings may be listed as commercial or industrial land uses, but they shall not be excluded from farmland preservation.
CHAPTER 7 - IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter identifies common tools available to assist landowners with preserving their farmland for future generations of productivity. Also included is a section about how to revise the plan when conditions change, and so that this plan remains consistent with the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan.

A. IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

Educating the public and local government agencies about the economic benefits of farming and the cost of converting farmland to non-agricultural use is an important part of the implementation strategy. Equally important is showing that land stewardship benefits the owner financially, while also protecting soil productivity into the future.

The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative was signed into law in 2009 and is comprised of the following three programs:

- Farmland Preservation Program
- Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Program
- Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program

Not all of these tools have funding available at any given time. The more specific tools that may be available are as follows:

**Farmland Preservation Income Tax Credits** - An active Farmland Preservation Plan provides participating landowners with an opportunity to claim farmland preservation income tax credits that are applied against their tax liability.

Landowners must be residents of Wisconsin and must meet other eligibility criteria to claim the credit, including compliance with state soil and water conservation standards.

Tax credits for land under Farmland Preservation Zoning are as follows:

- $10.00/acre if land is zoned and located in an Agricultural Enterprise Area.
- $7.50/acre if land is zoned exclusive agriculture.
- $5.00/acre if landowner has an agreement through the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program if signed after 2009.
**Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)** - This is a tool set forth in Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Designation of an AEA identifies the area as valuable for current and future agricultural use. Eligible farmers in an AEA can receive income tax credits per an agreement with DATCP. See [Map 8](#) and [Attachment B](#).

General eligibility requirements are:

- Five eligible land owner participants
- All land in the proposed AEA area must be in the farmland preservation area
- Land must be contiguous
- Land must be primarily in agricultural use

Benefits of the AEA designation are that the land is identified as important for agricultural preservation. This designation provides reassurance about future farmland use and may encourage investment in agriculture.

Eligible landowners can enter into a voluntary Farmland Preservation Agreement that allows them to claim a tax credit in exchange for keeping land in agricultural use for 15 years and meeting conservation standards.

**Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE Program)** - Agricultural Conservation Easements are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their properties to protect productive agricultural land. They sell a conservation easement to a government agency or private conservation organization. Landowners retain full ownership and continue to pay property taxes, and manage and operate the farm. Conservation easements are tailored to each property: purchasers and landowners decide which activities should be restricted or limited. When the landowner eventually sells the farmland, the development restrictions are passed on to the new owner.

**Farmland Preservation Zoning** - Agricultural protection zoning ordinances (Farmland Preservation Zoning) allow some residential development but can restrict density. Such constraints on development potential can limit land speculation and keep land affordable to farmers. Keeping large areas relatively free of non-farm development can reduce the likelihood of conflicts between farmers and their non-farming neighbors.
**Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)** - A similar program is the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) where government agencies buy up the development rights to a property. The program does not give the government agency the right to develop the agricultural land; it simply permits it to extinguish those rights in return for appropriate compensation.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)** - These programs allow landowners to transfer the right to develop one parcel of land to a different parcel of land. The programs are usually established by local zoning ordinances, and they are used to shift development from agricultural areas to designate growth zones closer to municipal services. The parcel of land where the rights originate is called the “sending” parcel. Once the development rights are transferred from a sending parcel, the land is restricted with a permanent conservation easement. The rights are transferred to a “receiving” parcel, which allows an owner purchasing the rights to build at a higher density than ordinarily permitted by the base zoning. Most TDR transactions are between private landowners and developers. Local governments approve transactions and monitor easements. Some jurisdictions have created “TDR banks” that buy development rights with public funds and sell them to developers and other private landowners. TDR programs can prevent non-agricultural development of farmland, reduce the market value (and tax burdens) of protected farms and provide farmland owners with liquid capital that can be used to enhance farm viability.

**Mitigation Ordinances** - Mitigation ordinances require developers to permanently protect a certain amount of farmland for every acre of agricultural land they convert to other uses. Developers can place an agricultural conservation easement on farmland in another location or pay a fee to satisfy mitigation requirements.

**Comprehensive Land-Use Planning** - The County and Townships can use their comprehensive plans as the basis for farmland preservation zoning ordinances. This not only protects these areas for agricultural uses but also offers a greater tax incentive for landowners.
B. MONITORING

Monitoring is an important step to the whole planning process in order to assess what is working and needs to be adjusted. The County will continually evaluate the plan and that the decisions made remain consistent with the goals and objectives of the Farmland Preservation Plan and the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Any participants in the programs will be monitored according to rules and regulations set forth by the Federal, State or Local agencies participating in the program.

C. PLAN CONSISTENCY AND AMENDMENTS

This 2014 farmland preservation plan fulfills the statutory requirements for both the Farmland Preservation Plan (Chapter 91, Subchapter II, WI Statutes) and the Agricultural Element of the Comprehensive Plan (§66.1001(2), Wis. Stats.).

Several methods were used to ensure consistency between this plan and the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan.

1. The Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted as an attachment to the Comprehensive Plan.

2. Goals, objectives, and policies initially came from the Comprehensive Plan, then were modified to focus on farmland preservation, while still complementing the Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives, and policies.

3. All maps came from, or are consistent with, the Comprehensive Plan.

4. Mapping criteria used the Future Land Use Map from the Comprehensive Plan.

Now that the Farmland Preservation Plan is part of the Comprehensive Plan, Wisconsin Statute §66.1001 requires that an adopted plan be reviewed and updated at least once every ten years. This is not a static plan, but one that may change over time. Changing land uses, policy changes, regulatory changes, or shifting economics are some reasons to review if this plan is still current.

The plan has a long-term outlook, one that may need to be readjusted as policy or trends become irrelevant or contradictory or errors/omissions have been identified. The plan has been written with some flexibility incorporated so future amendments should be limited in scope.
The process to amend the Plan is similar to that of writing this initial document. The steps to amend any part of the Plan will be as follows:

1. As a result of the request of a local government, a property owner, or a developer, the County staff and Committee will evaluate the proposed amendment to see if it meets the goals and objectives of the Plan, the State requirements, and any other laws or standards that may be in effect at the time of the request. If all is in order, the proposal will be brought before the County Board.

2. The County Board adopts a resolution outlining the proposal/amendment.

3. The County staff prepares the text and/or map that amend the specific part of the Farmland Preservation Plan or Plan map.

4. County Staff forward the amended materials required under Section 91.20, Wis. Stats., to DATCP for certification of the Plan amendment.

5. A public meeting is held for input on the amendment.

6. A Class 1 notice is published at least 30 days before the County Board public hearing is held.

7. The County Board holds the formal public hearing on an ordinance that would incorporate the proposed Plan amendment into the County's Farmland Preservation Plan.

8. Following the public hearing and DATCP certification, the County Board approves or denies the ordinance adopting the proposed Plan amendment.

9. County staff forward a copy of the adopted ordinance and Plan amendment to DATCP and any landowners who have requested a copy in writing as well as Township chairpersons.
Map 4       2013 Cropland Data
Map 6  Future Land Use
ATTACHMENT A

Town Farmland Preservation Maps
ATTACHMENT B

Agricultural Enterprise Area

DATCP Fact Sheet
Public Participation Plan and Resolution
ATTACHMENT D

Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution and Ordinance