FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN Langlade County 2014

December 2014

North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

LANGLADE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Acknowledgments:

Prepared under the direction of the Langlade County Land Conservation Committee:

David Solin, Chair William Bostwick Samuel Hardin Joseph Novak III Angela Schreiber Josh Willson

Langlade County Land Conservation would like to thank the following individuals who gave of their time by providing valuable input for this plan.

Citizens Advisory Committee

Sonny Wreczycki Lake Association citizen Tom Wild AG – Potato farmer Roy Gallenberg AG – Potato farmer Andy Bures AG - Dairy farmer Greg Schroepfer AG - Dairy farmer Helen Wanca Real Estate Dave Kautza Construction Paul Schuman Interested citizen

Technical Advisory Committee

Stephanie Plaster Langlade County – UW Extension - Agricultural Agent

Eric Rantala Langlade County – Forestry Department
Ron Barger Langlade County – Health Department
Tim Rusch Langlade County – Highway Department

Molly McKay Langlade County – Land Conservation Department

John Preuss Lumberjack RC&D – Tri County AIS

Matt Peplinski USDA – FSA
Peggy Winter USDA – NRCS
Keith Lindner WDNR – Forester

Staff for this plan

Duane Haakenson, Director Land Records & Regulations

Marie Graupner, County Conservationist

Fred Heider, AICP, Planner at NCWRPC

LANGLADE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

CHAPTER 1 - IN	NTRODUCTION	1
	Background	1
	Overview of WLI/Farmland Preservation Planning	1
	Overview of Current Plan	
	Plan Maintenance and Amendment	2
CHAPTER 2 – PI	LANNING PROCESS	3
	Requirements	3
	Planning Process	4
CHAPTER 3 – F	XISTING CONDITIONS	6
OTAL TER 5 - E.	Issues and Trends	
	Natural Resources and Environmental Preservation	
	Population, Housing, and Municipal Expansion	
	Utilities and Infrastructure Facilities	10
	Public Ownership	
	Existing Land Use	
	Future Land Use	15
CHAPTER 4 - AC	GRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT	17
	Resources and Land Uses	17
	Farmland Conversion	18
	Programs	18
CHAPTER 5 – E	CONOMICS	
	Agricultural Economic Growth	
	Forestry Economic Growth	
	Health Care	25
	Off-Site Jobs	25
CHAPTER 6 – G	OALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS	26
	Goals, Objectives, and Policies	
	Mapping Criteria	27
CHAPTER 7 _ IN	MPLEMENTATION	20
	Implementation Tools	
	Monitoring	
	Plan Consistency and Amendments	
	Tidil Colloid tolloy alla fullollallicitis	

List of Maps:

Map 1	Existing	Land	Use
-------	----------	------	-----

Map 2 Natural Resources

Map 3 Soils

Map 4 2013 Cropland Data

Map 5 Ownership

Map 6 Future Land Use

Map 7 County Farmland Preservation

Map 8 Antigo Flats AEA

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 for farmland preservation plan. Once certified by the state, landowners become eligible for various programs, which includes income tax credits.

Several meeting 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.
- April July, 2014 Development of draft plan text and initial maps.
- 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.
- October 27, 2014 Public Hearing for Farmland Preservation Plan.
- 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 in each population 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

Table 1: Langlade County Population, 2000-2010

Municipality	2000	2010	Percent Change
Ackley	510	524	2.75%
Ainsworth	571	469	-17.86%
Antigo	1,487	1,412	-5.04%
Elcho	1,317	1,233	-6.38%
Evergreen	468	495	5.77%
Langlade	472	473	0.21%
Neva	994	902	-9.26%
Norwood	918	913	-0.54%
Parrish	108	91	-15.74%
Peck	354	349	-1.41%
Polar	995	984	-1.11%
Price	243	228	-6.17%
Rolling	1,452	1,504	3.58%
Summit	168	163	-2.98%
Upham	689	676	-1.89%
Vilas	249	233	-6.43%
Wolf River	856	731	-14.60%
C. Antigo	8,560	8,234	-3.81%
V. White Lake	329	363	10.33%
County	20,740	19,977	-3.68%

Source: U.S. Census

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 2: Langlade County Housing Units, 2000-2010

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

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 singe and twin-engine aircraft. Two Air Carrier/Cargo airports are located hear 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-yourown 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 <u>Peck Town Forest</u> and 80 acres for <u>Peck School's Forest</u>.

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

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

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

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Population	19,977	19,765	19,915	20,210	20,340	20,140	19,470

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

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Housing Units	8,587	8,631	8,697	8,825	8,882

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

		Acres		Distribution in
Use	2007	2012	% Change	Distribution in 2012
Total Crop Land	78,258	73,093	-6.6%	64.2%
Total Woodland	30,797	29,268	-5.0%	25.7%
Permanent Pasture and Rangeland	6,116	6,528	6.7%	5.7%
Land in Buildings, Livestock, Facilities,				
etc.	7,724	4,992	-35.4%	4.4%
Total	122,895	113,881	-7.3%	100.0%

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

WI Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)

WI Forest Landowner Grant Program (FLGP)

WI Non-point Source Pollution Abatement 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

	1997	2002	2007	2012	Change: 1997- 2012
Number of Farms	453	542	487	396	-12.6%
Average Size (Acres)	273	260	252	288	5.5%
Land in Farms (Acres)	123,892	141,088	112,895	113,881	-8.1%

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.

Table 8: Farm Sales (in \$1,000)

	2007	2012
Grains	4,585	10,882
Vegetables and		
Potatoes	33,494	45,962
Nursery and		
Greenhouse	1,429	746
Christmas Trees	504	378
Livestock, Poultry,		
and their products	32,660	43,233
Other	1,377	2,702
Total	74,049	103,903

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

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

_					Change:
Acres	1997	2002	2007	2012	1997-2012
1 to 9	19	26	29	16	-15.79%
10 to 49	69	94	91	80	15.94%
50 to 179	153	225	199	139	-9.15%
180 to 499	153	135	109	103	-32.68%
500 to 999	37	40	40	34	-8.11%
1,000 +	22	22	19	24	9.09%
Total	453	542	487	396	-12.58%

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. OVFRVIFW

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:

<u>Farmland Preservation Areas</u> – 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.

<u>Planned Out</u> – 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:

<u>Farmland Preservation Income Tax Credits</u> – 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.

<u>Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)</u> - 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.

<u>Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)</u> – 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.

<u>Mitigation Ordinances</u> – 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.

<u>Comprehensive Land-Use Planning</u> – 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.

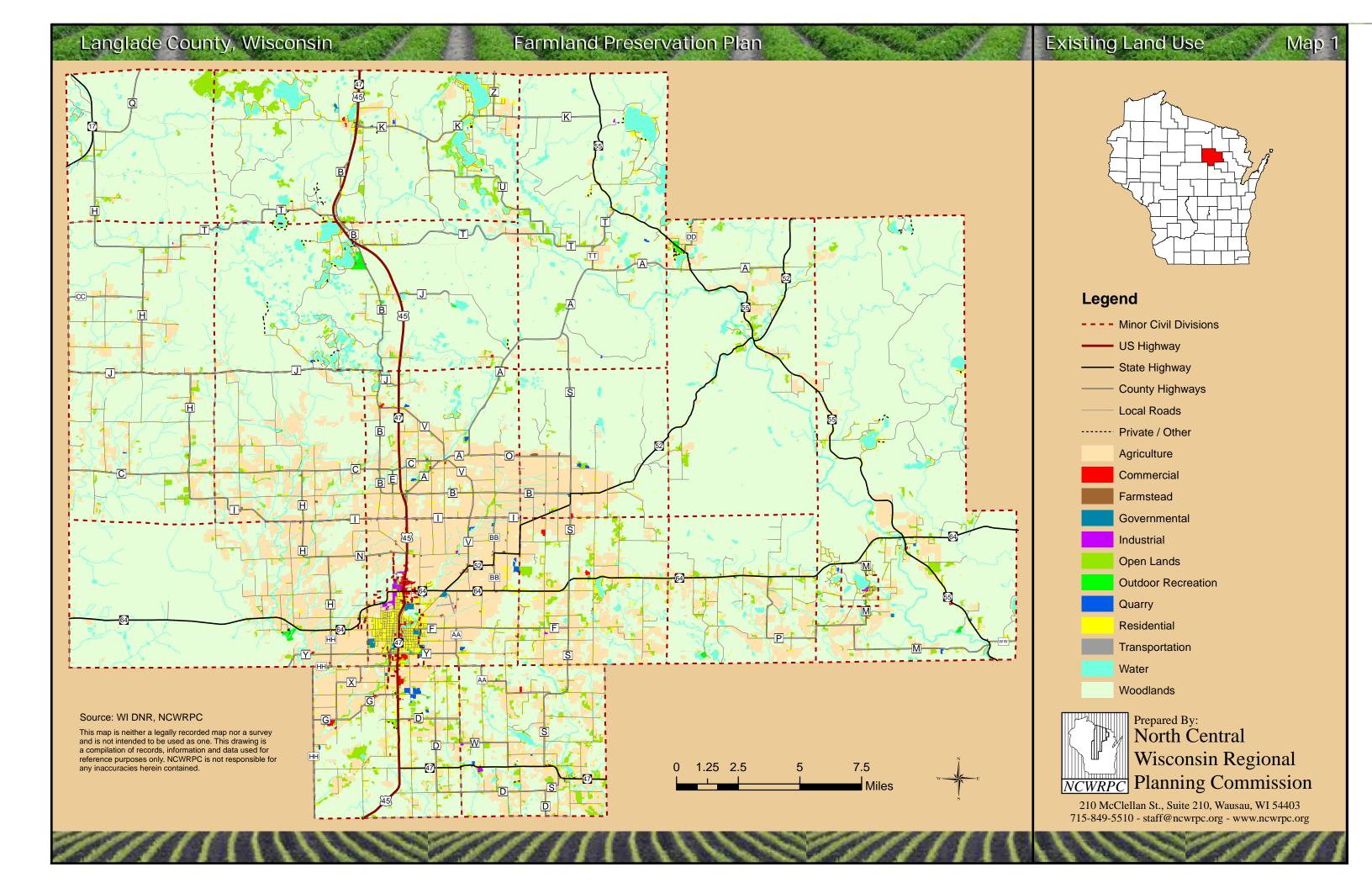
- 1. The Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted as an attachment to the Comprehensive Plan.
- 2. Goals, objectives, and policies initially came from the Comprehensive Plan, then were modified to focus on farmland preservation, while still complementing the Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives, and policies.
- 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.

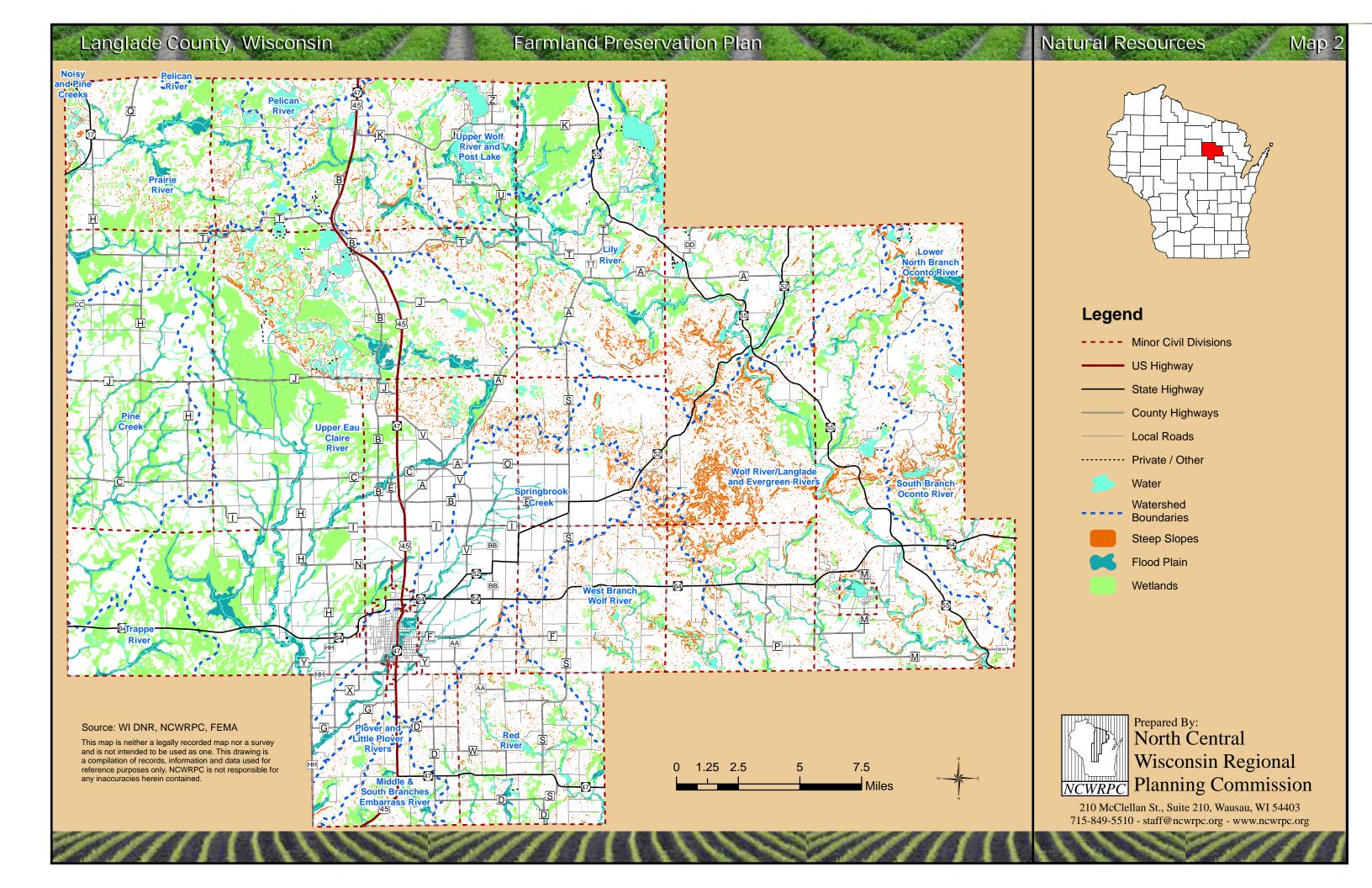
Now that the Farmland Preservation Plan is part of the Comprehensive Plan, Wisconsin Statute §66.1001 requires that an adopted plan be reviewed and updated at least once every ten years. This is not a static plan, but one that may change over time. Changing land uses, policy changes, regulatory changes,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

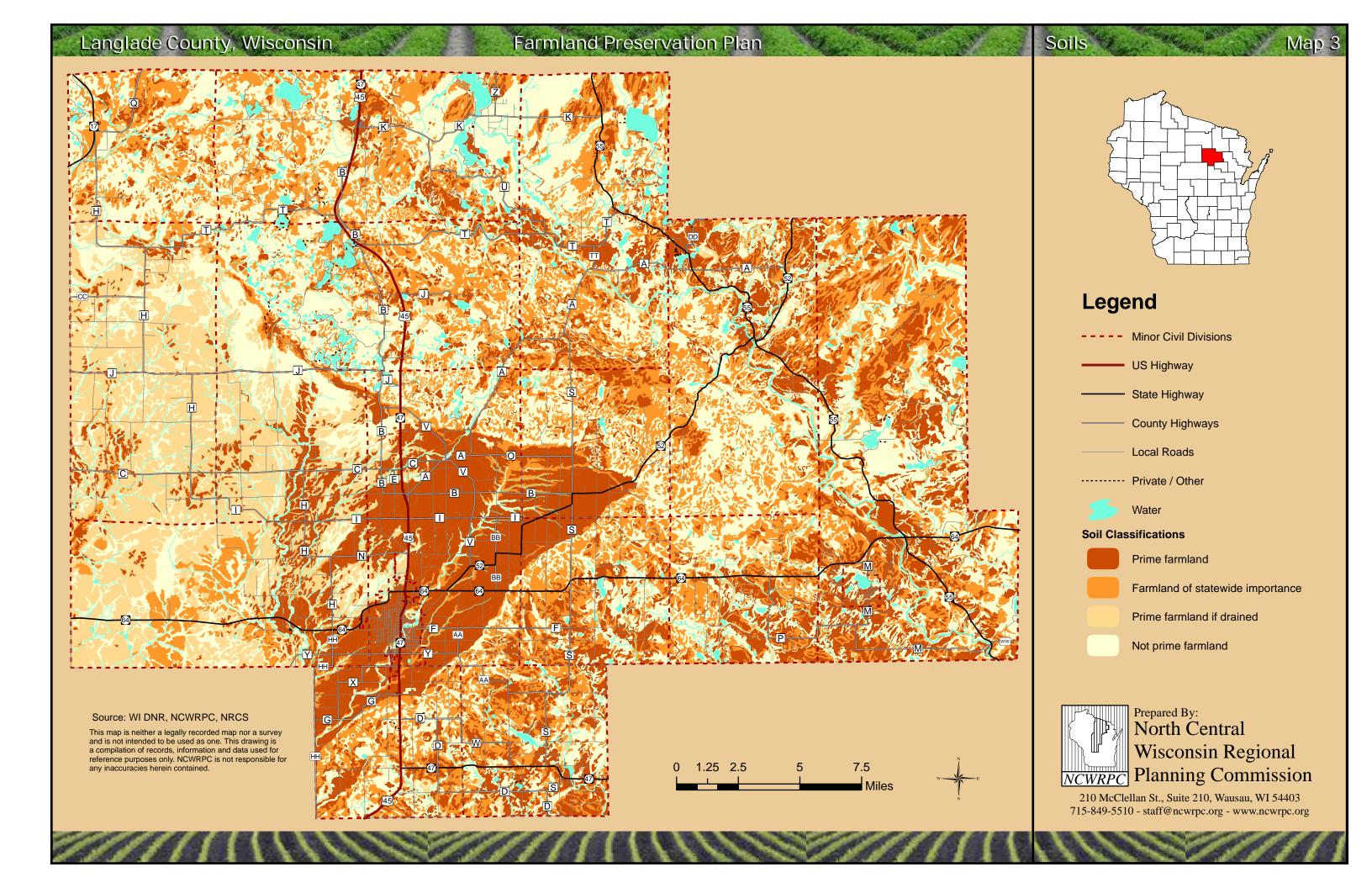
The plan has a long-term outlook, one that may need to be readjusted as policy or trends become irrelevant or contradictory or errors/omissions have been identified. The plan has been written with some flexibility incorporated so future amendments should be limited in scope.

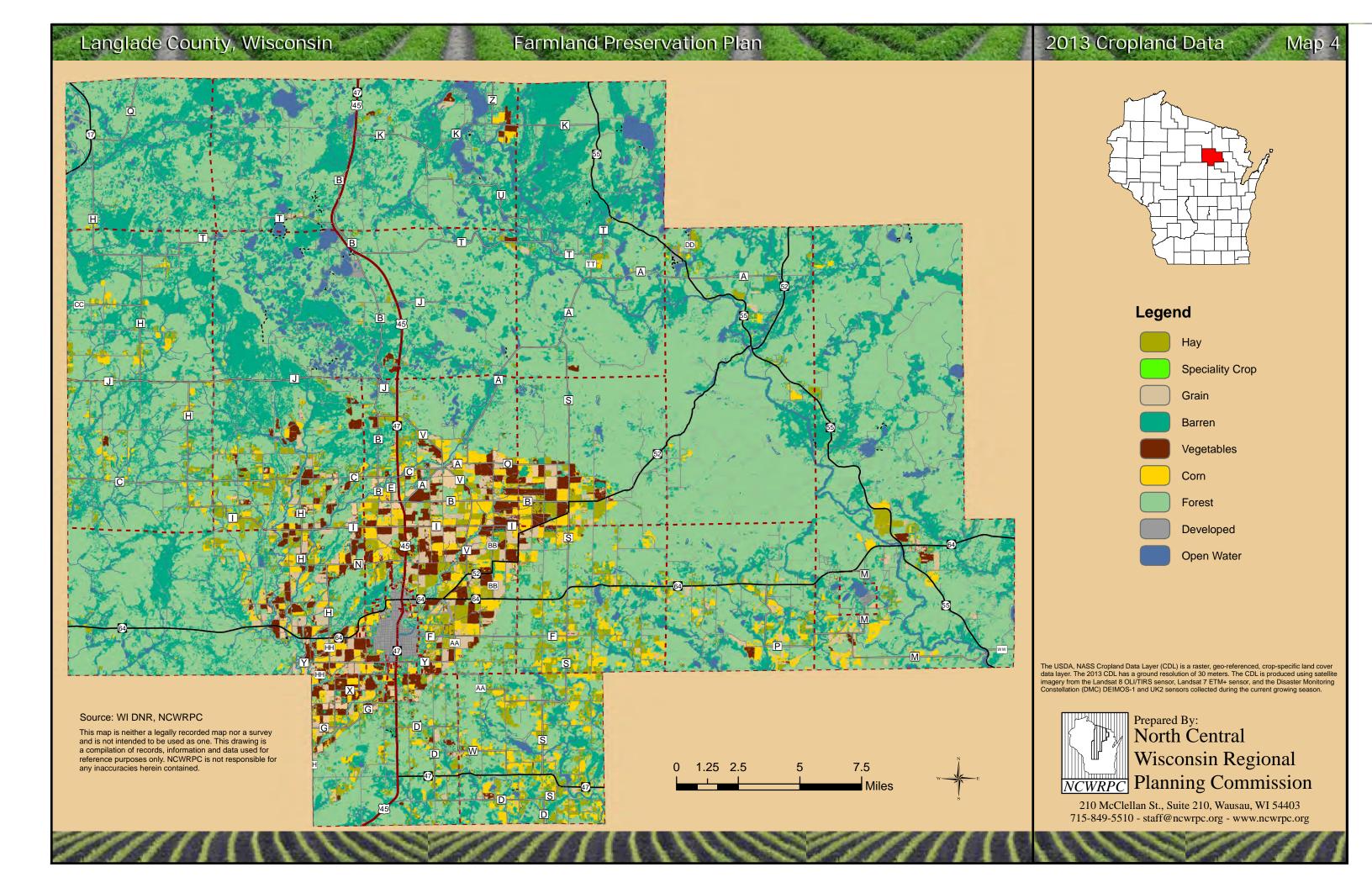
The process to amend the Plan is similar to that of writing this initial document. The steps to amend any part of the Plan will be as follows:

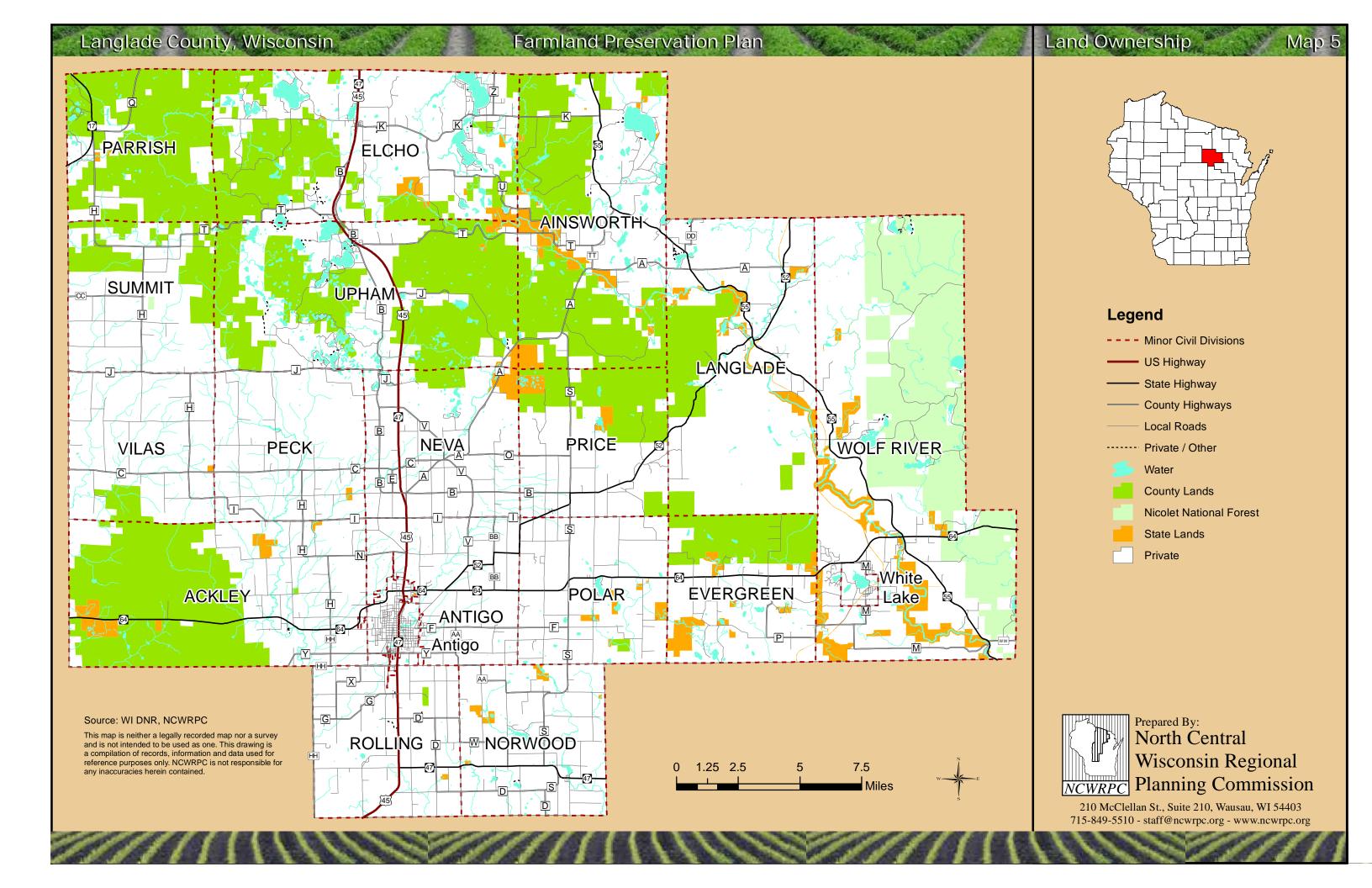
- 1. As a result of the request of a local government, a property owner, or a developer, the County staff and Committee will evaluate the proposed amendment to see if its meets the goals and objectives of the Plan, the State requirements, and any other laws or standards that may be in effect at the time 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.

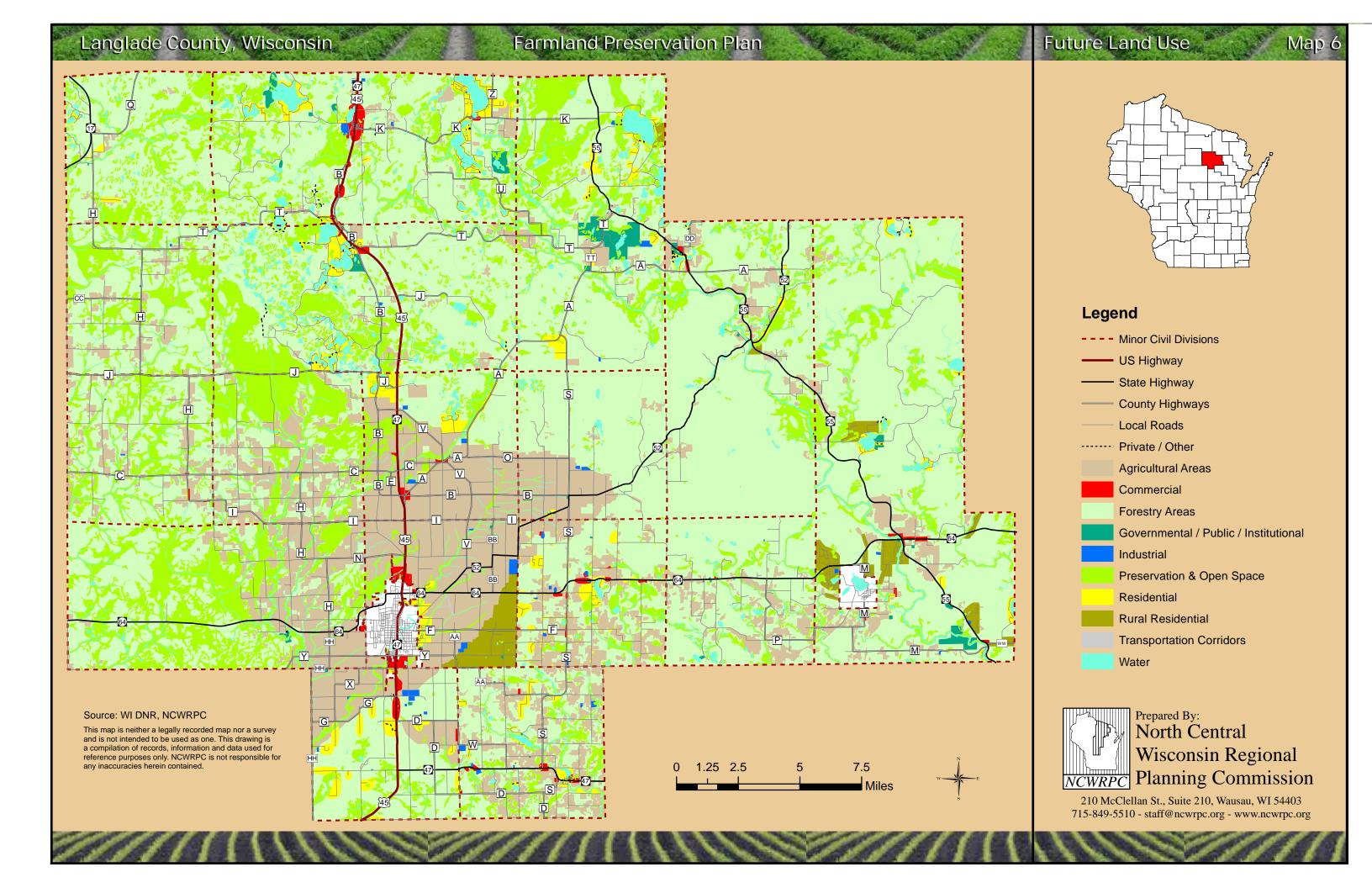


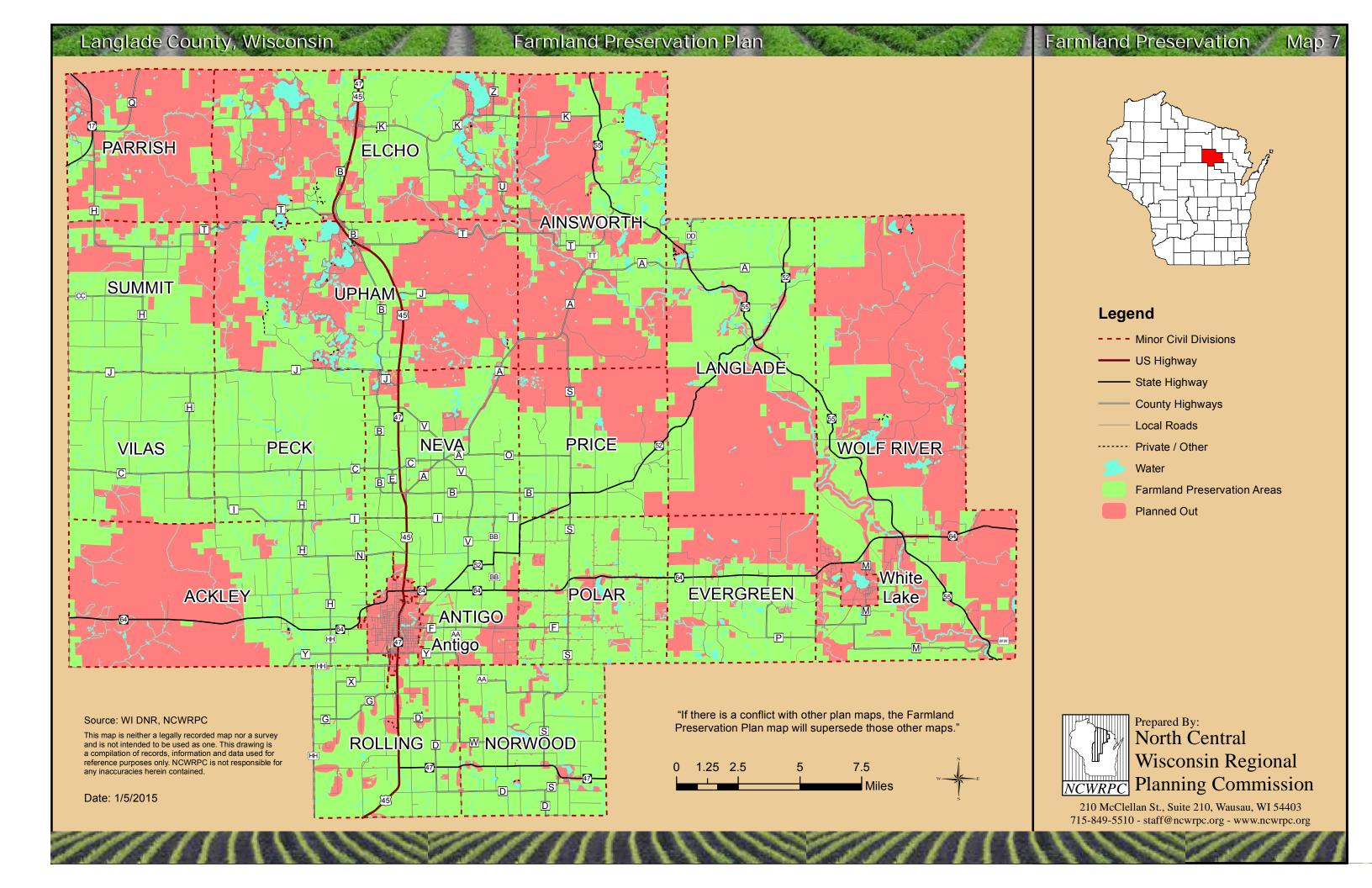


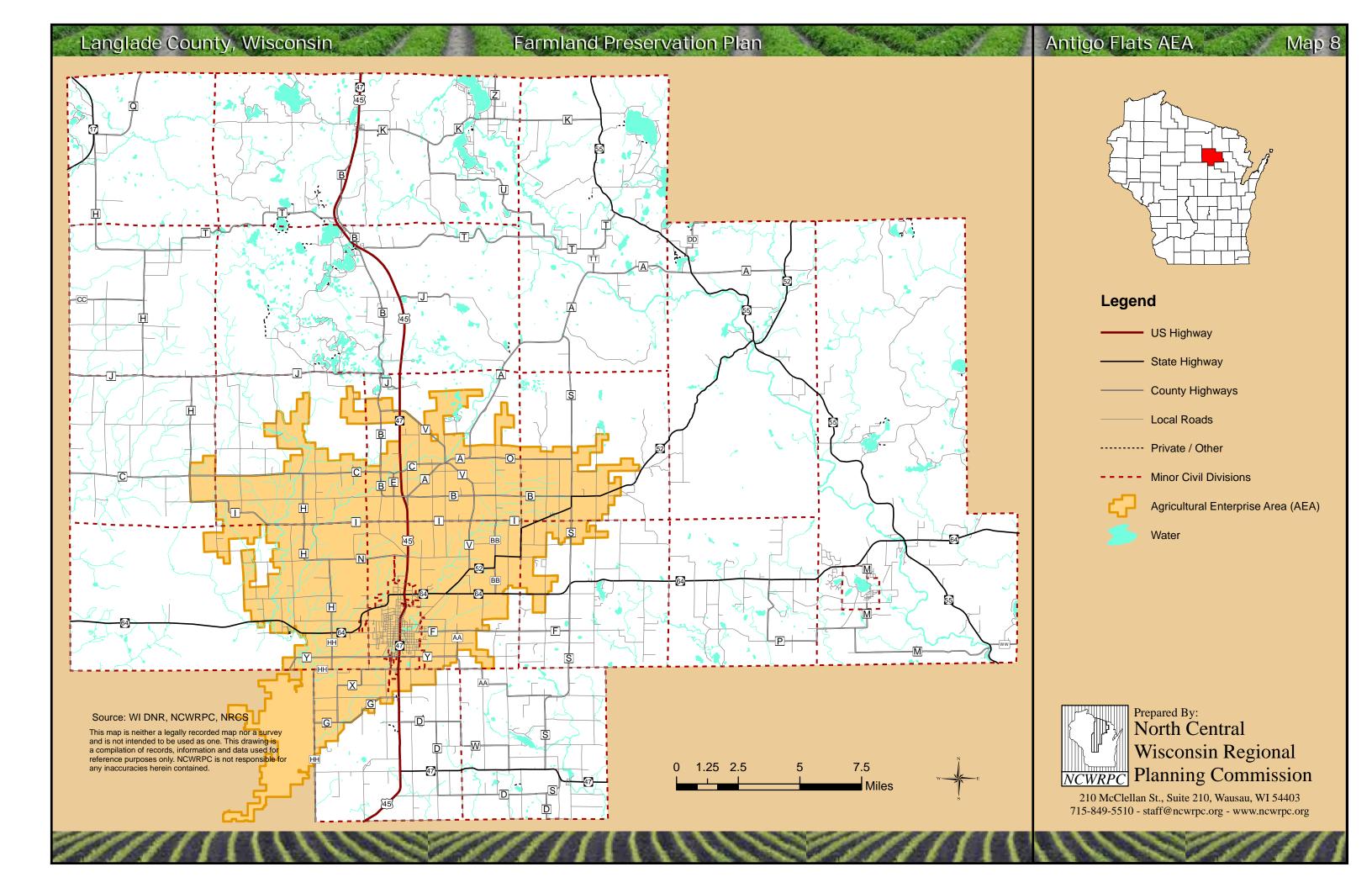






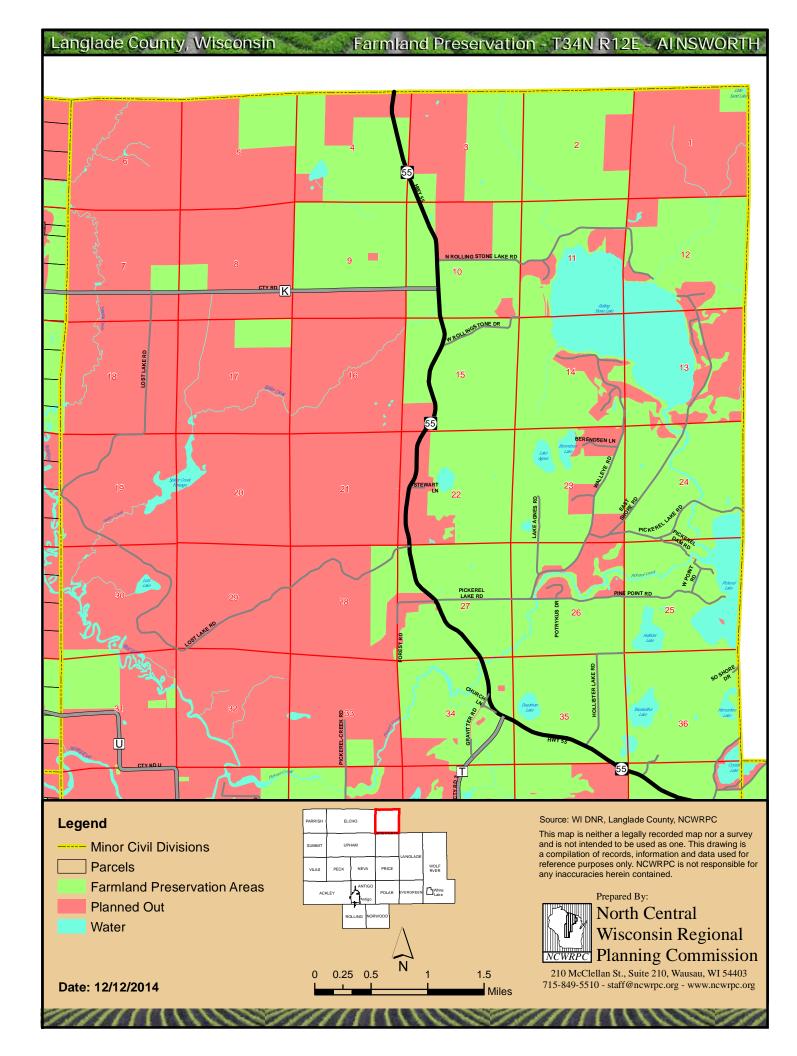


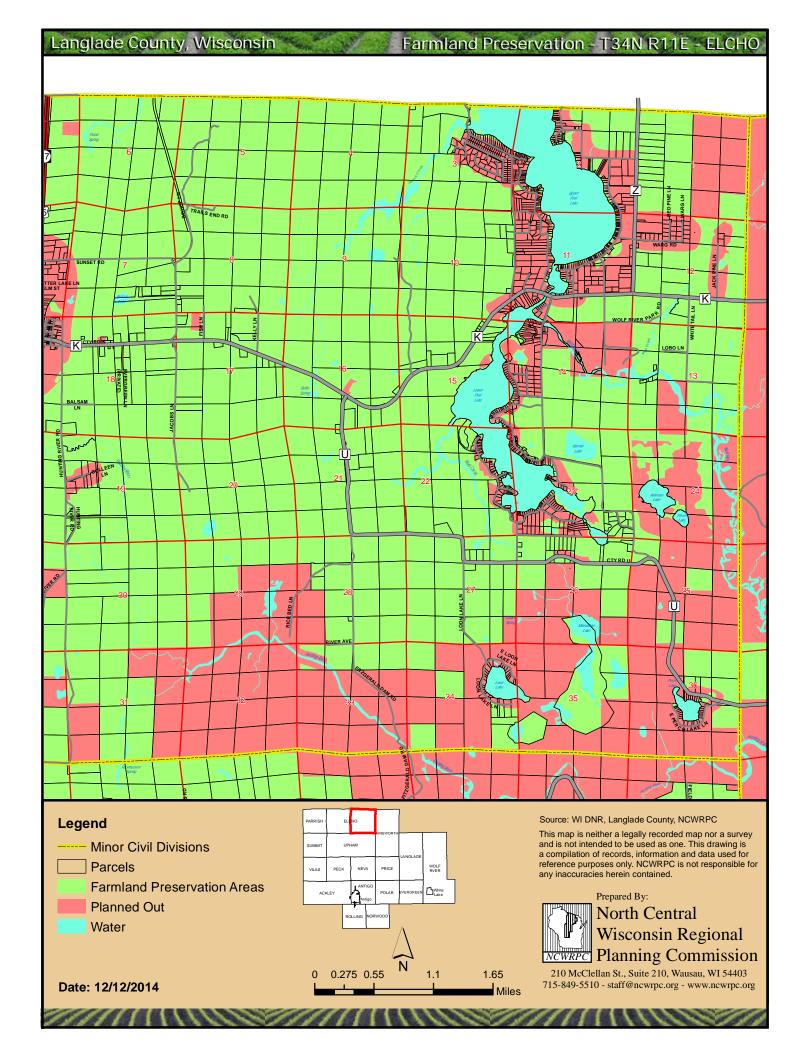


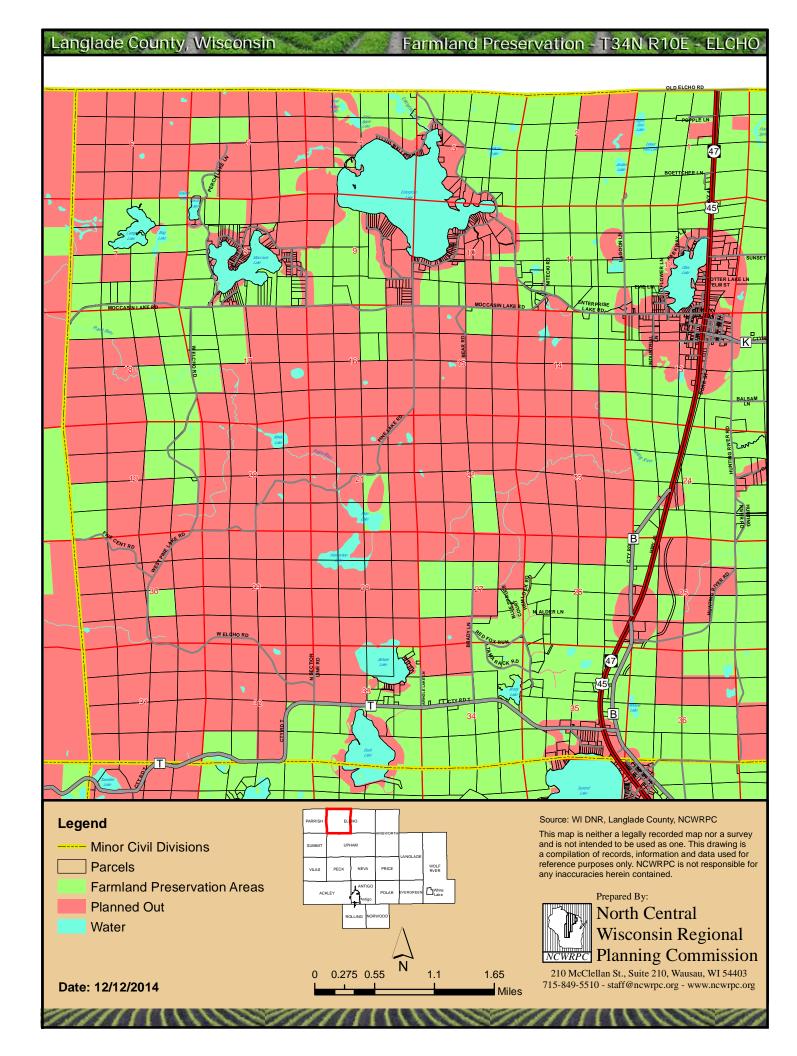


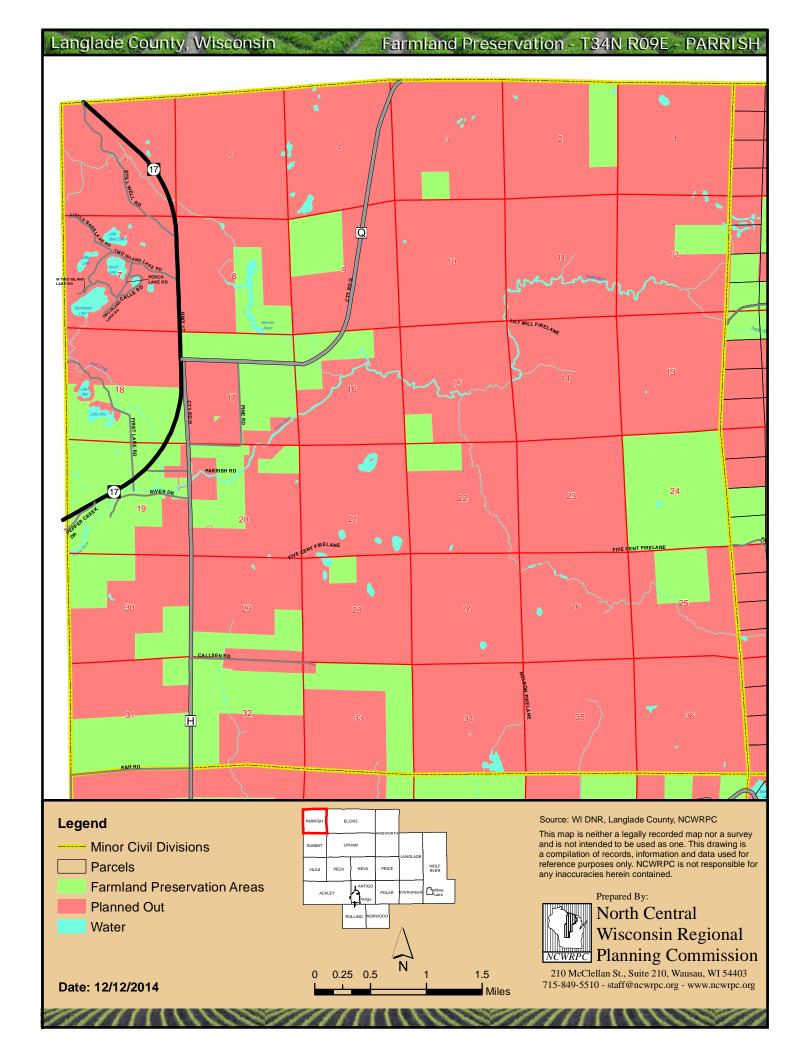
ATTACHMENT A

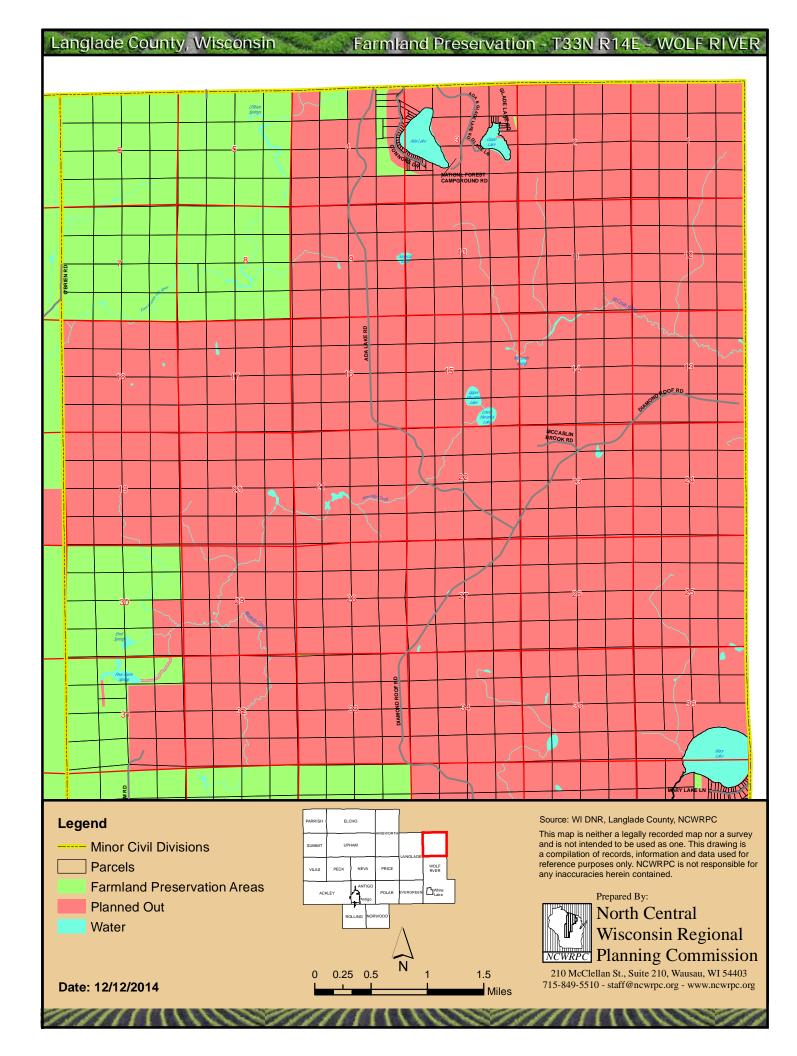
Town Farmland Preservation Maps

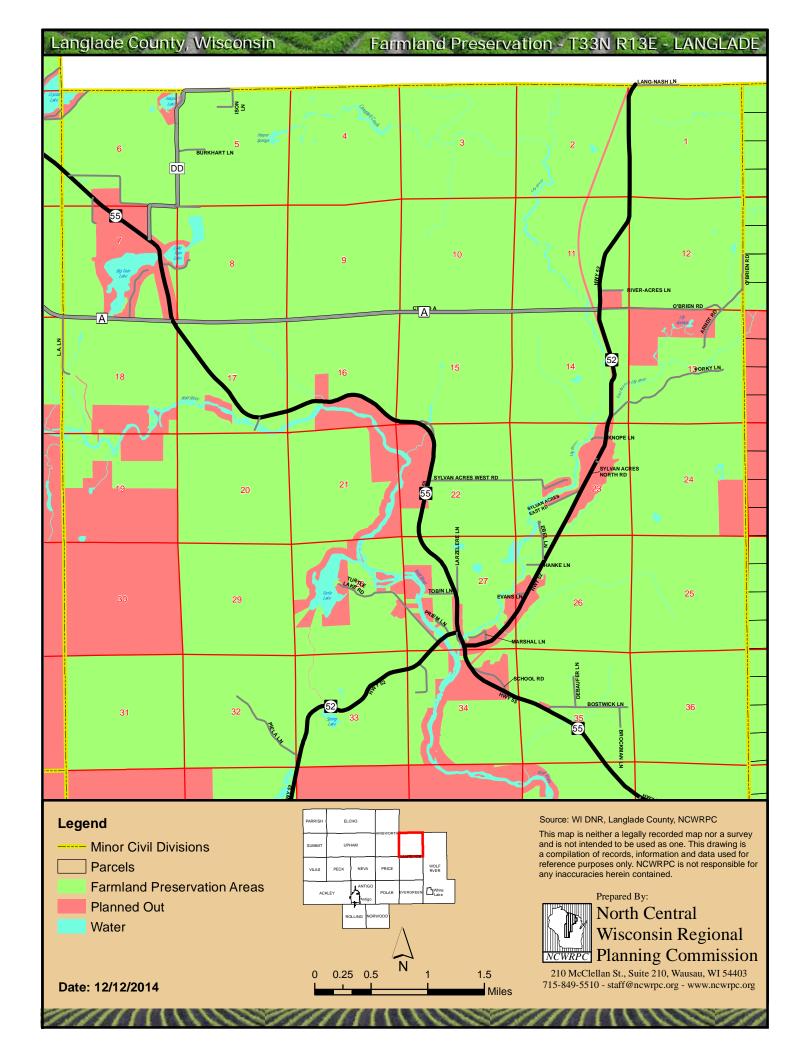


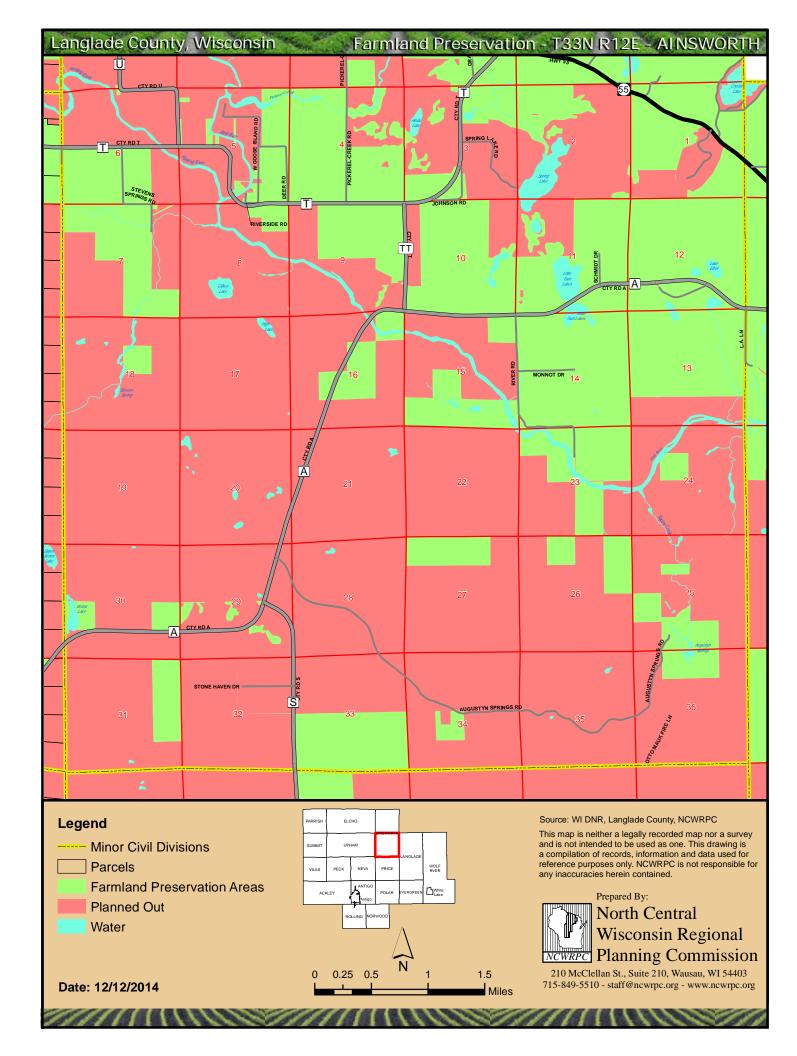


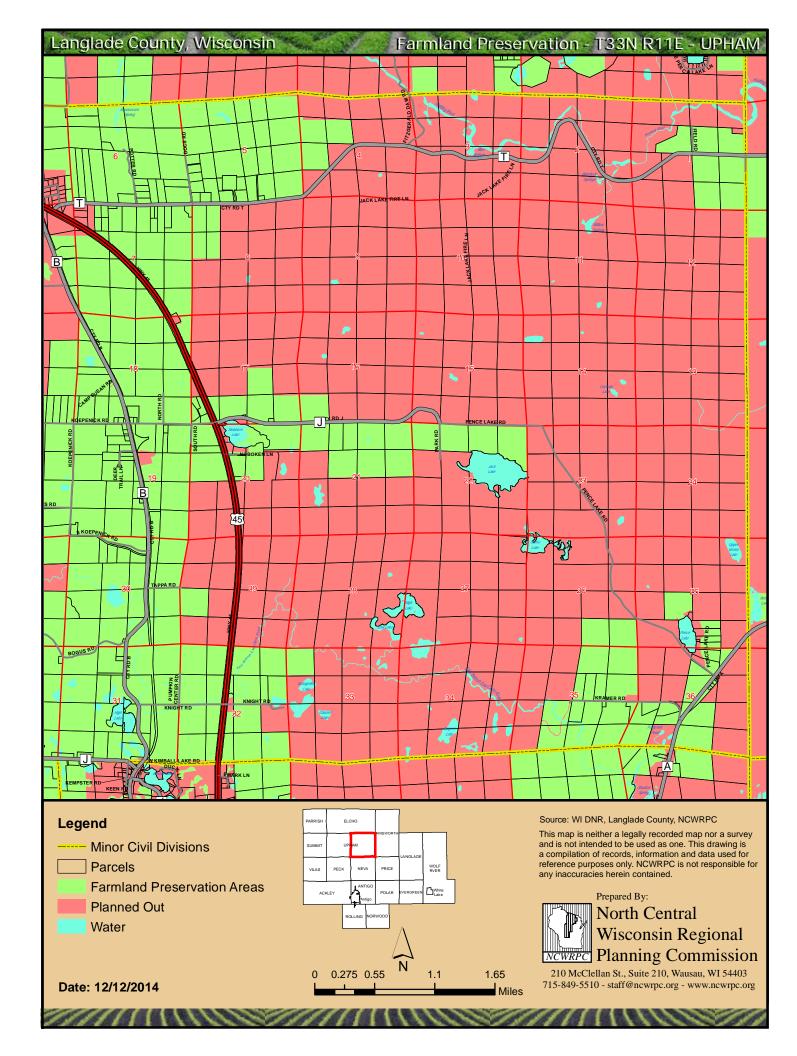


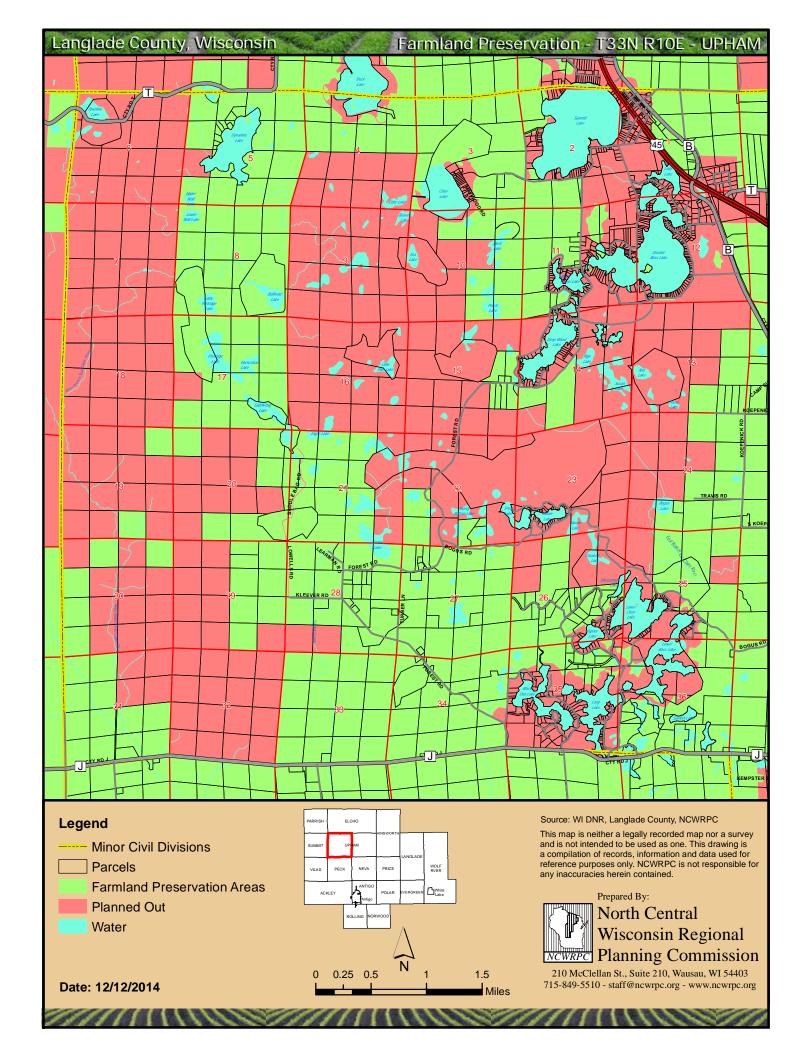


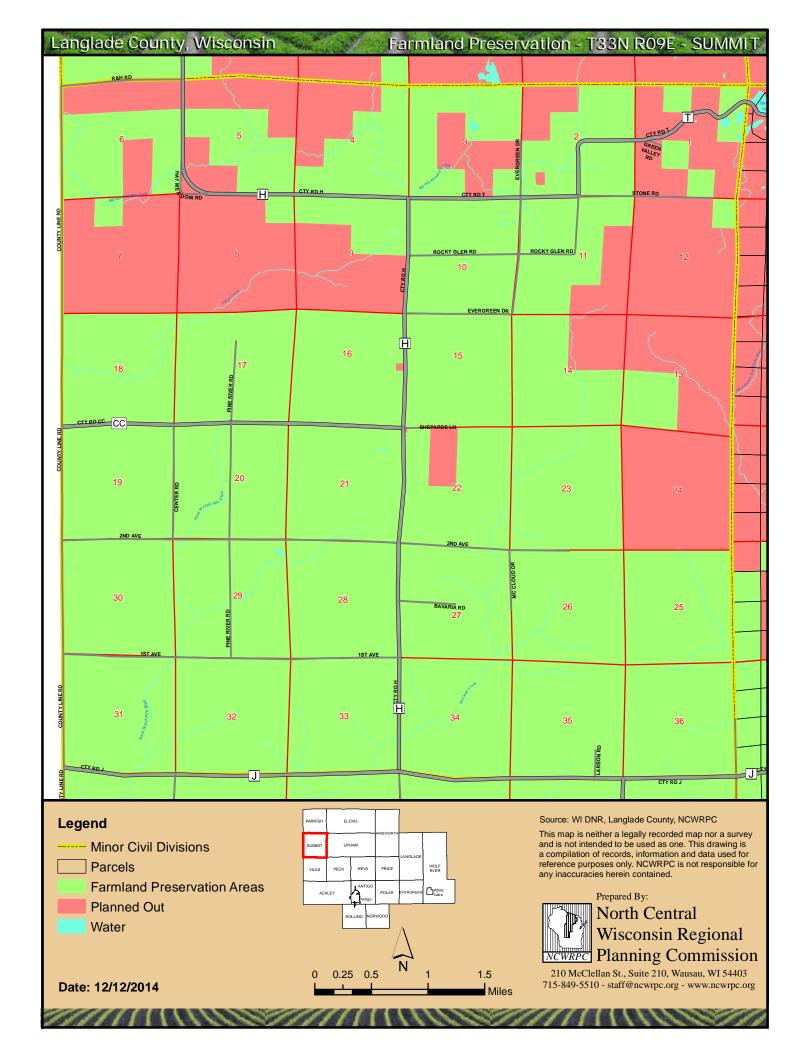


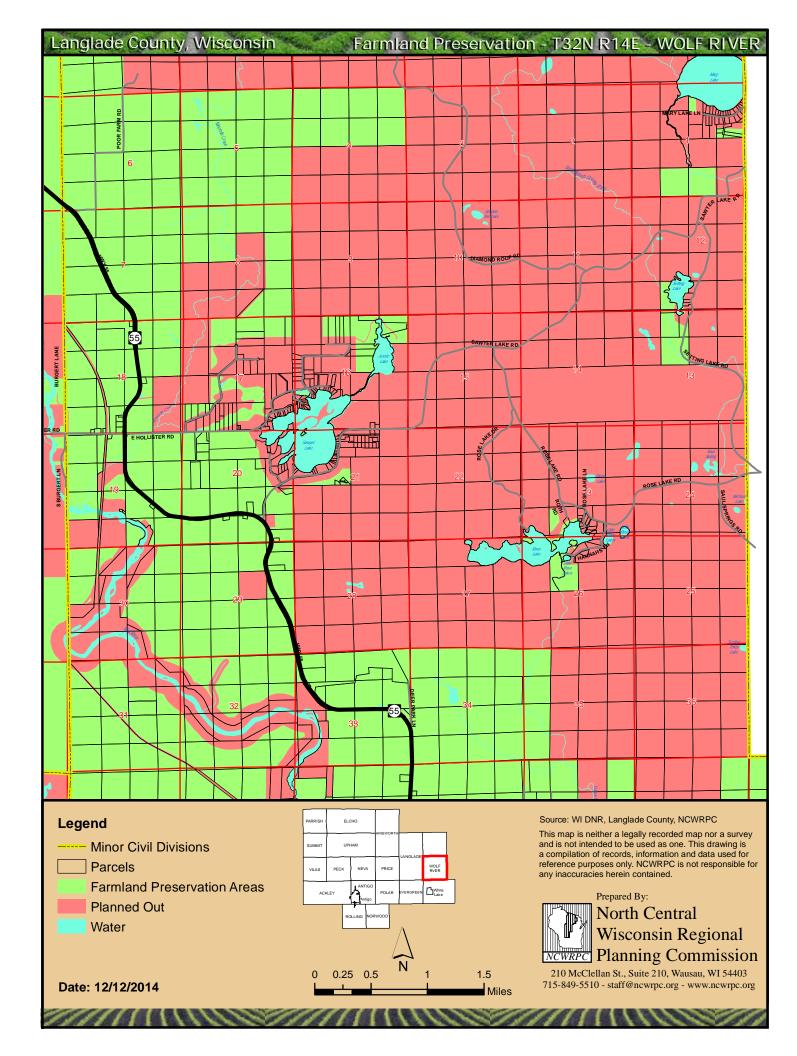


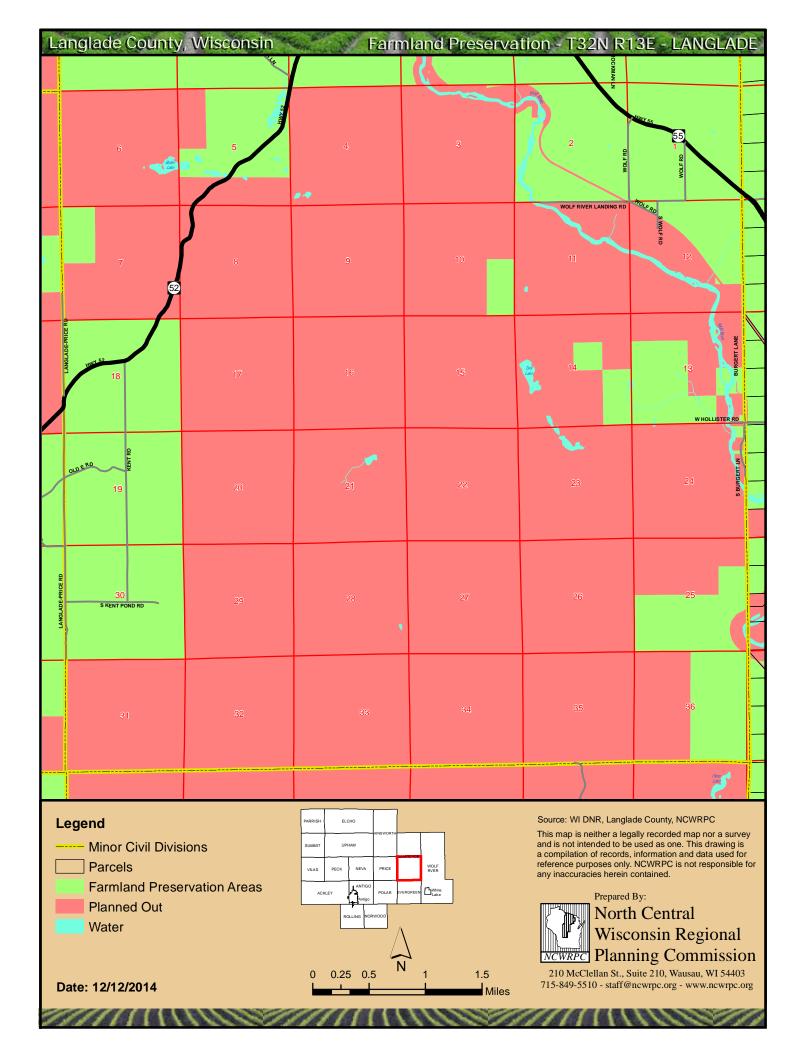


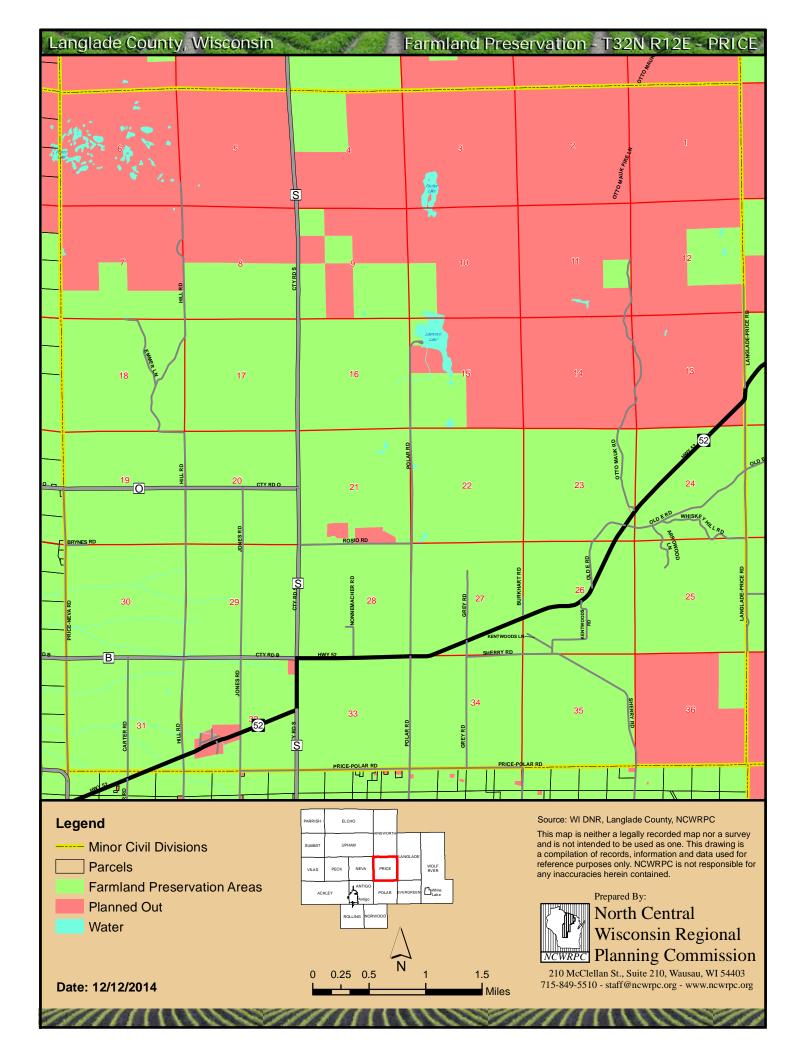


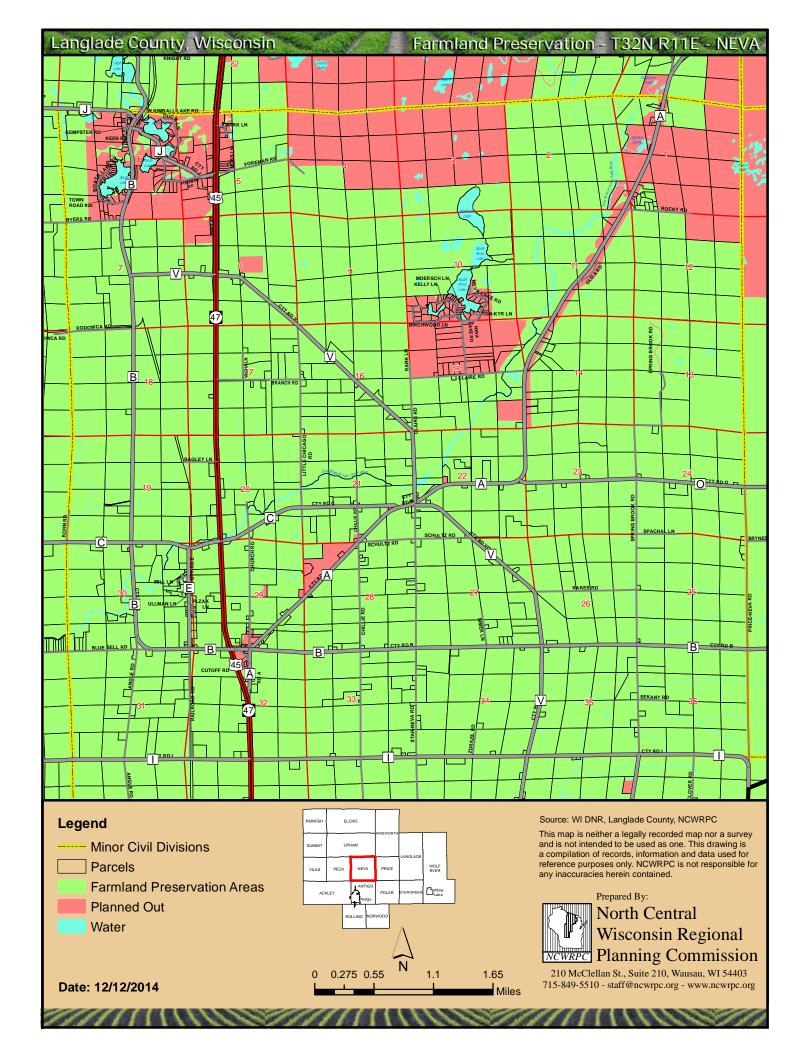


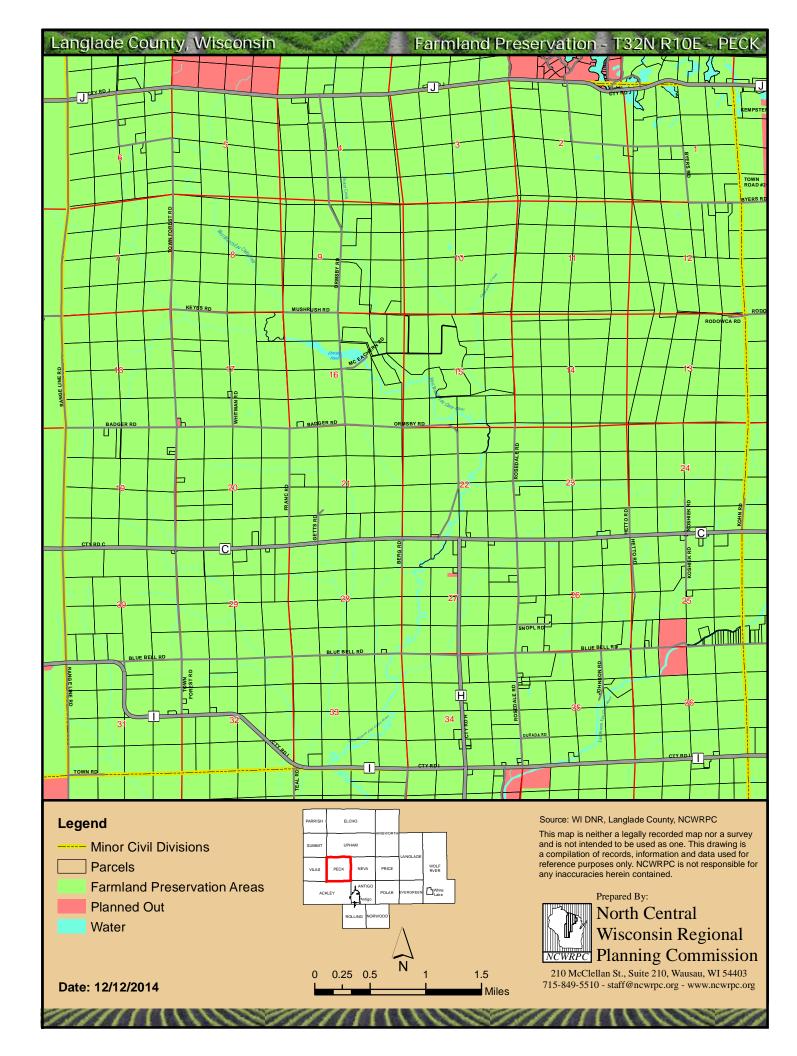


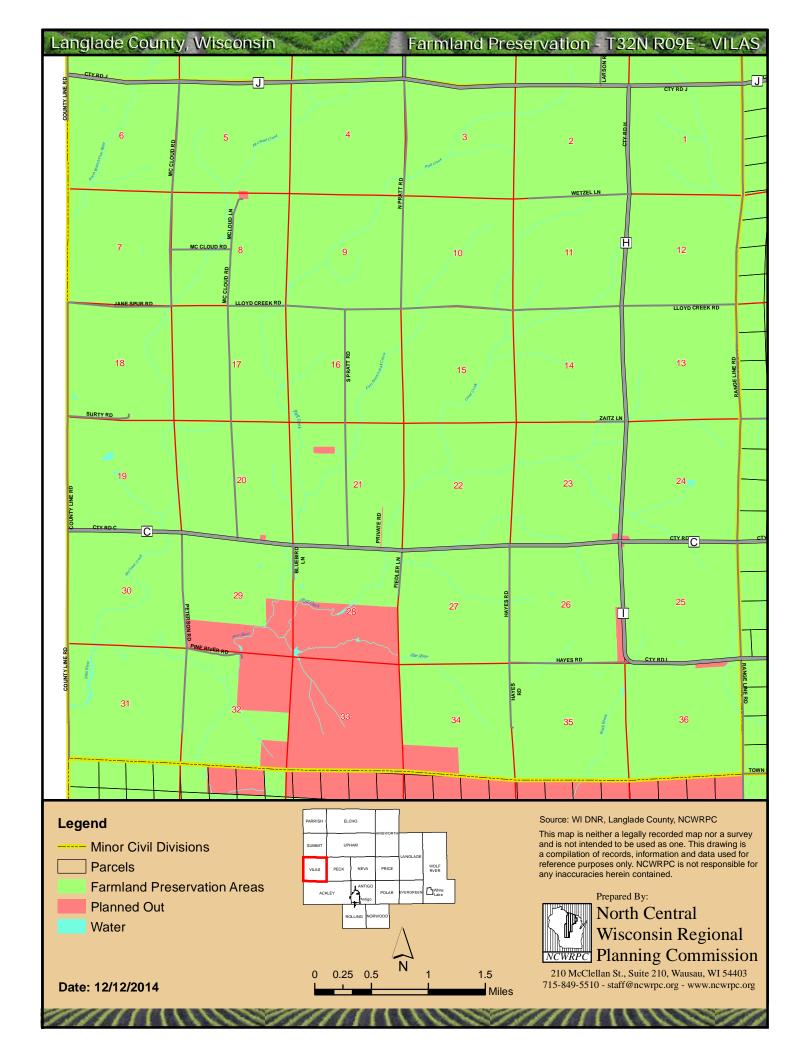


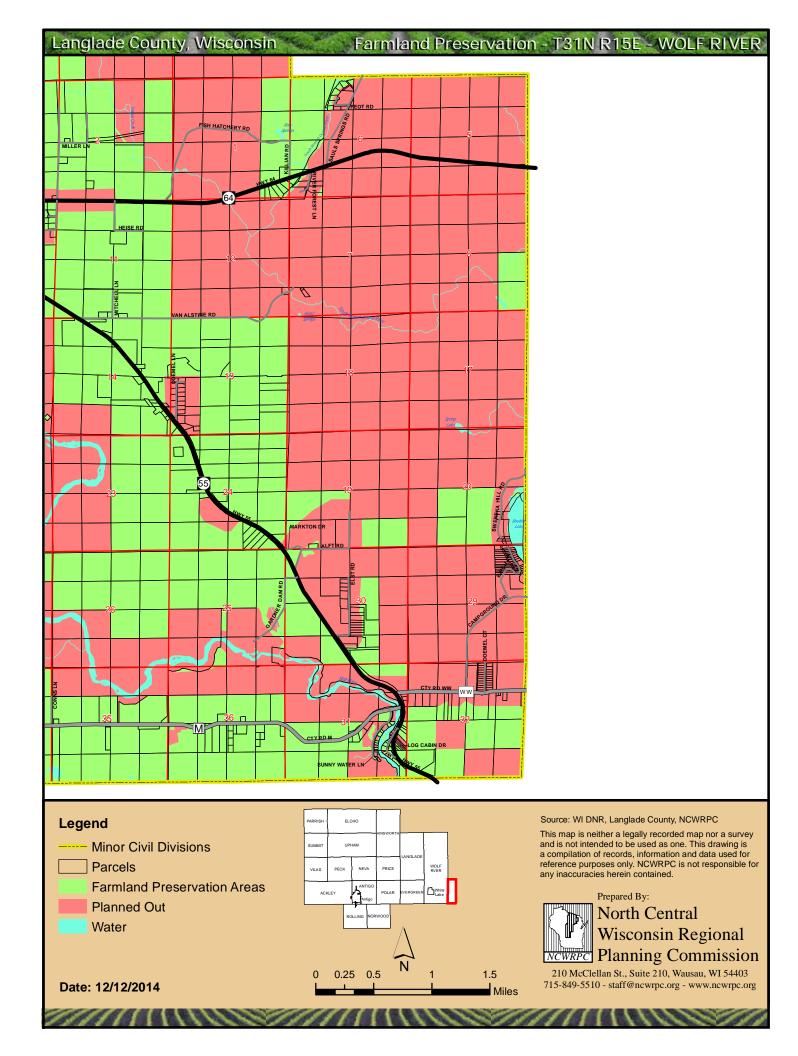


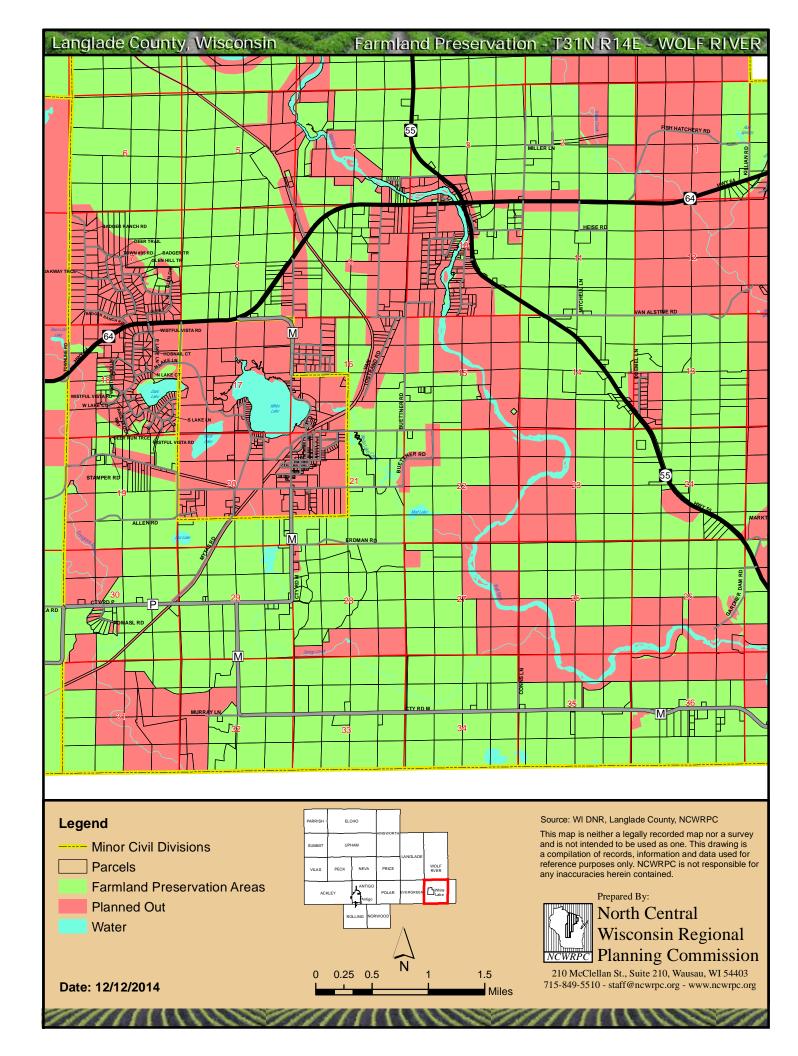


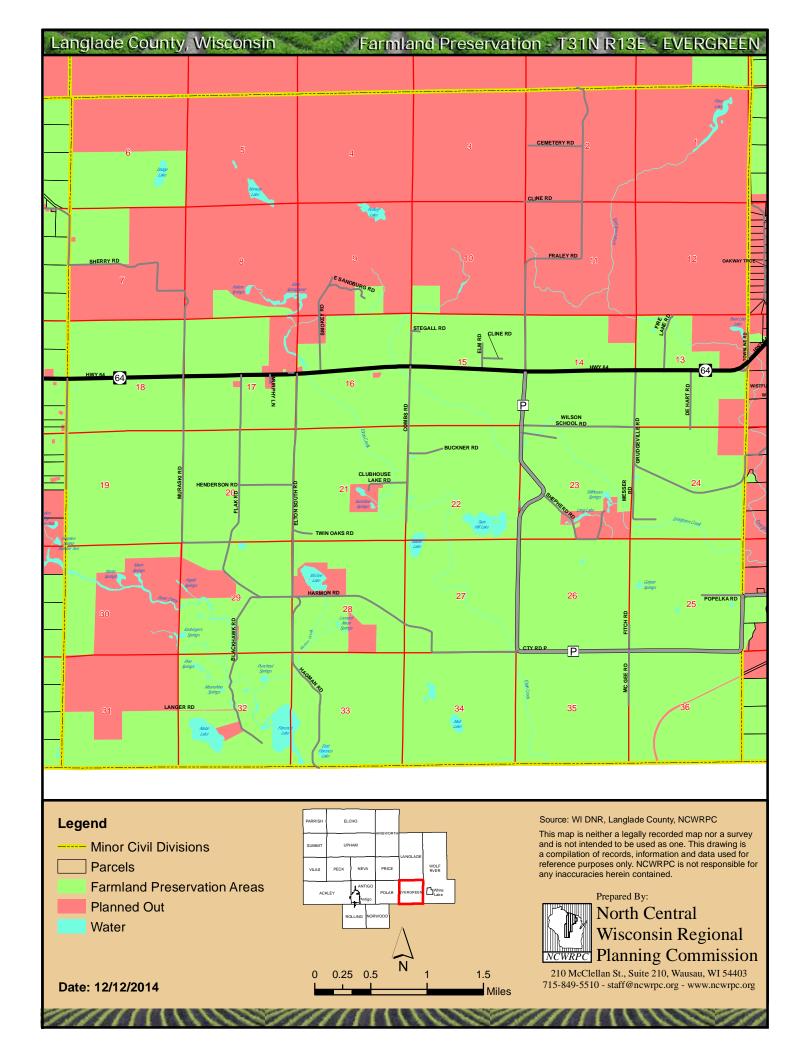


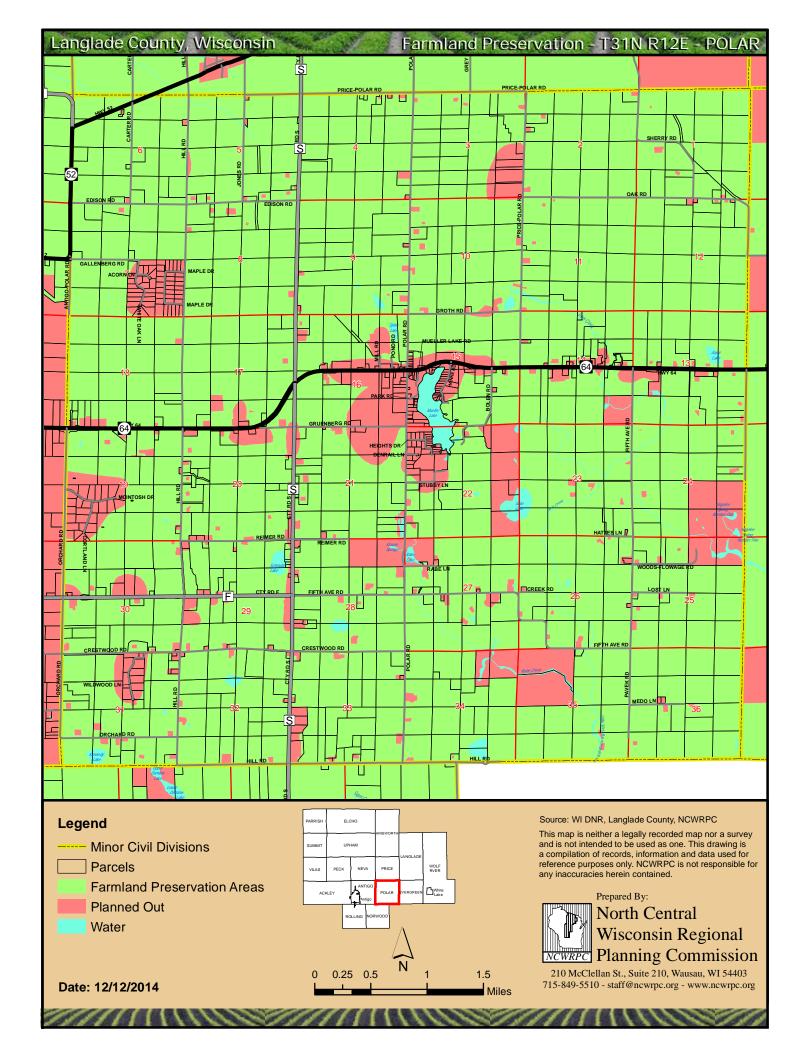


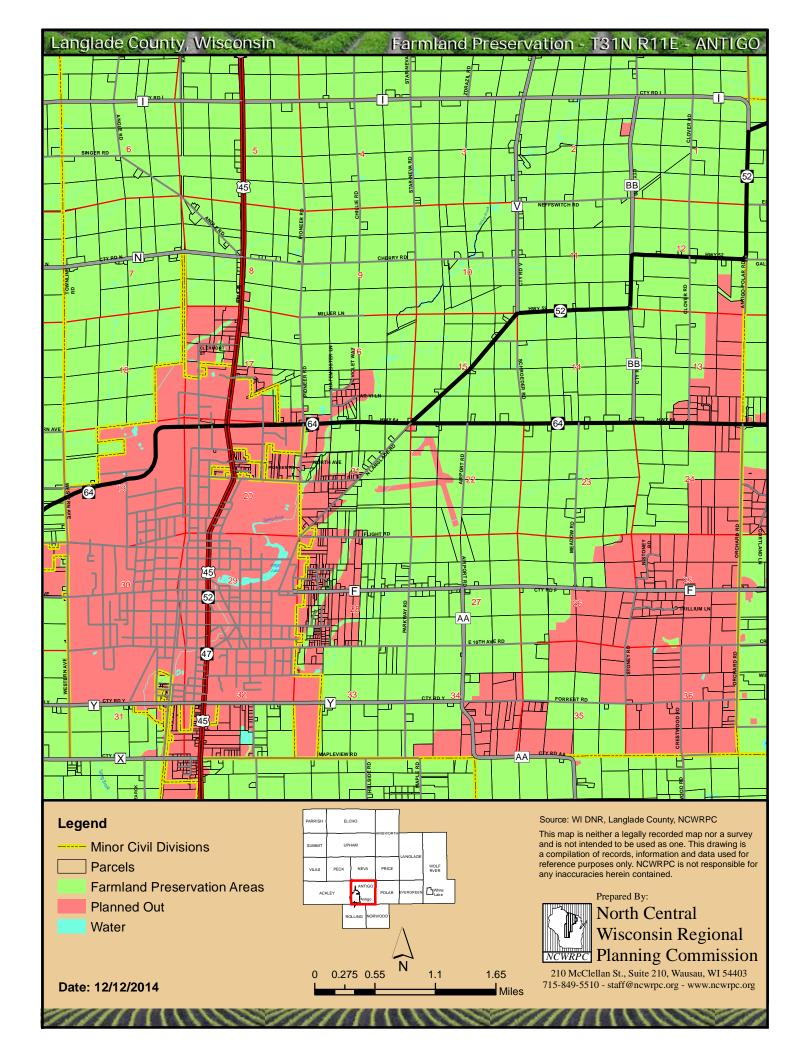


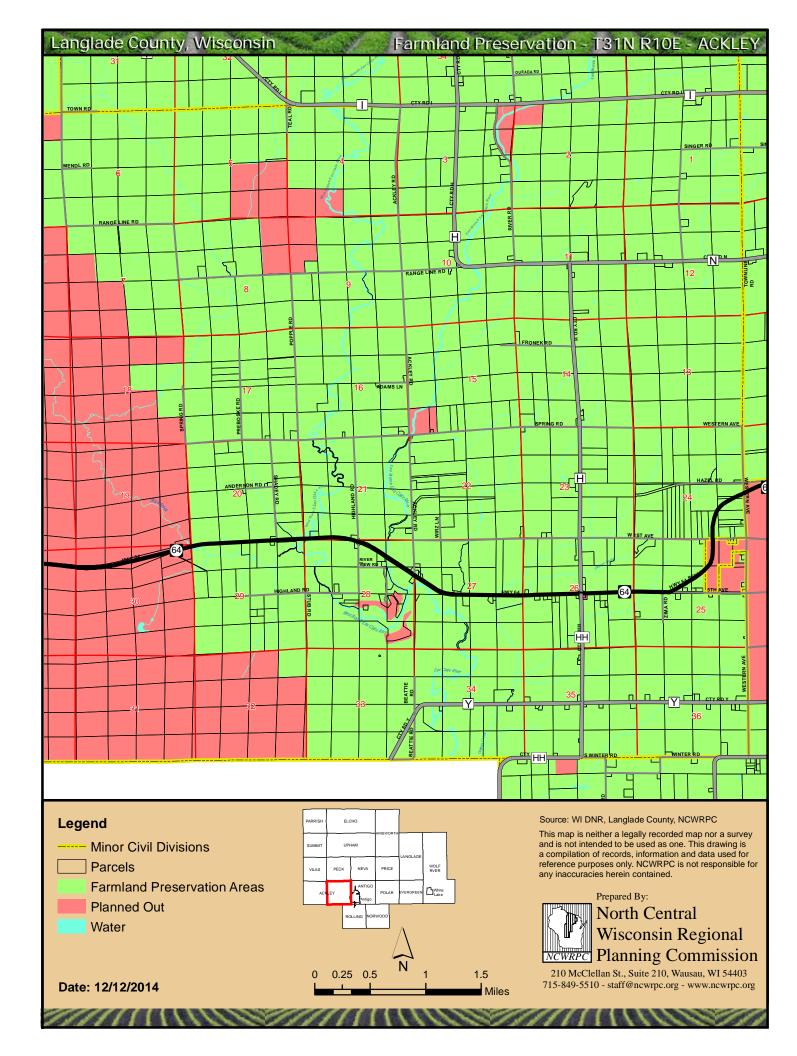


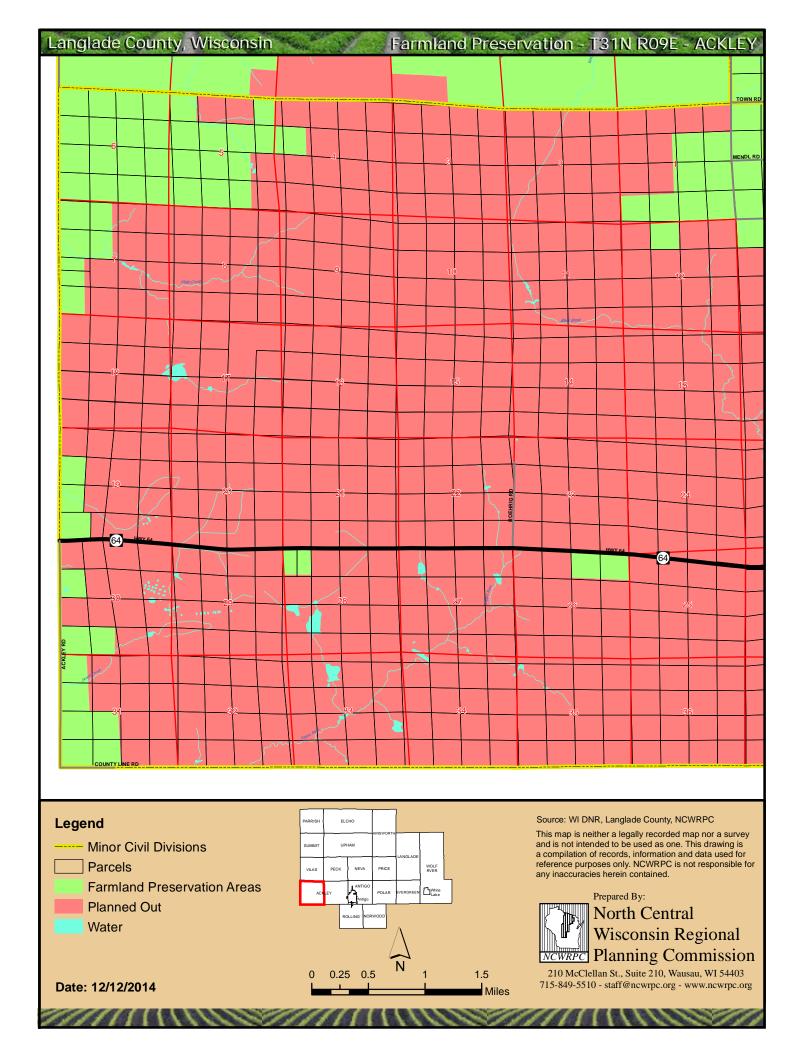


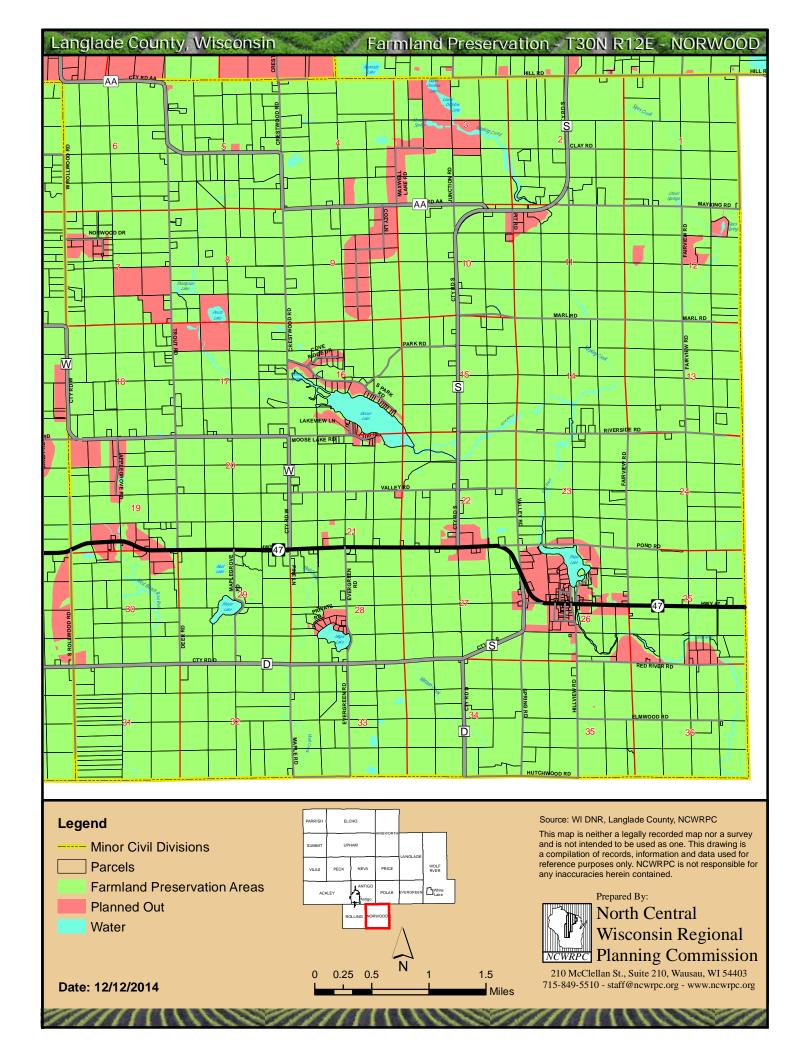


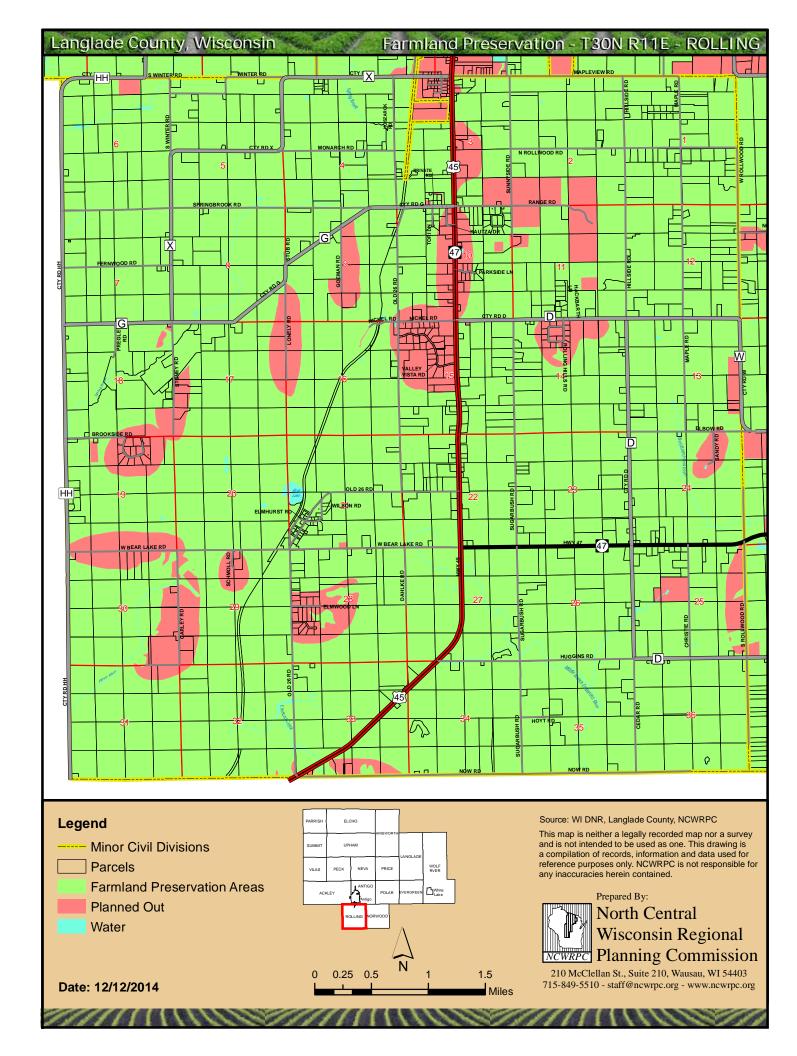












Agricultural Enterprise Area DATCP Fact Sheet

Understanding Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) and the Petition Process

Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative

An "agricultural enterprise area" (AEA) is a tool that can help communities meet locally identified goals for preserving agricultural land and encouraging agricultural economic development.

An AEA is an area of contiguous land primarily in agricultural use that has been designated by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in response to a locally developed petition.

Benefits of AEA Designation

Eligible farmers in a designated area can enter into *voluntary* farmland preservation agreements with DATCP. Farmers with an agreement receive income tax credits in return for keeping their land in agricultural use for 15 years. Tax credits available to farmers in an AEA are:

- \$5 per acre for land that is covered by a farmland preservation agreement, <u>or</u>
- \$10 per acre for land that is covered by a farmland preservation agreement and located in a certified farmland preservation zoning district.

Overall, the designation is a tool that can be used to support local policies and initiatives designed to protect the agricultural land base for continued production. In addition, the designation can help to promote investment in agriculture, agricultural infrastructure and agricultural-related businesses.

What AEA Designation Does Not Do

The designation of an AEA does not, by itself, control or limit land use within the designated area. Designation of an AEA also does not specifically protect areas from encroaching development or land use conflicts Local designation of an AEA, however, can be used as part of a local land use and development strategy designed to preserve, protect and promote agricultural enterprises. This local strategy may include a variety of local initiatives including farmland preservation planning and zoning, voluntary farmland preservation agreements, agricultural and conservation easements, private land use covenants and donations, economic development grants, cooperative agreements, financial incentives and more.

It is up to local initiative to design a strategy that adequately addresses local conditions and the community's vision for the area. All components should work together to contribute to the success of any designated AEA.

DEFINITIONS

AEA: a designated area of contiguous land primarily in agricultural land use targeted for agricultural preservation and agricultural development

Contiguous: Parcels that meet at more than one point and are only separated by a lake, stream, or transportation or utility right-of-way.

Eligible farms: Must have at least \$6,000 in "gross farm revenues" in the past year, or \$18,000 over the past 3 years.

Farmland preservation agreement:

A voluntary agreement between the state and the landowner that enables farmers in a designated AEA to claim income tax credits by agreeing to keep their land in agricultural use for 15 years.

Gross farm revenue: Gross receipts from agricultural use of a farm, excluding rent receipts, less the cost or other basis of livestock or other agricultural items purchased for resale which are sold or otherwise disposed of during the taxable year.

Primarily in agricultural use: The amount of land that is in actual agricultural use as defined by ch. 91.01(2).

Agricultural Enterprise Areas

Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition Process

To have an area designated as an agricultural enterprise area, farm owners and local governments must work together to submit a petition to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). By working together and by drawing in other local stakeholders including ag-related businesses, economic development experts and other interested individuals, the community can ensure adequate support for an AEA selected for designation.

1. Request for Petitions Released

DATCP will release a request for petitions to begin the process of designating AEAs. Once the petition period is open, petitioners may submit a petition, using a form developed by the department, to request designation of an AEA. The petition provides information that will be evaluated during the selection process. To view the prior year's petition form, visit: http://workinglands.wi.gov.

2. Developing the Petition

The designation of an AEA will be based on selection of a local petition that demonstrates a cooperative local commitment to both agricultural preservation <u>and</u> agricultural development in the designated area. Farm owners and local governments play the leading role in planning and designing agricultural enterprise areas. The petition process may be initiated by either the landowners or by a local government. DATCP expects and welcomes a variety of local approaches to petition development.

A petition must be signed by at least 5 eligible farm owners and all political subdivisions located within the proposed AEA. Additionally, the political subdivisions located in a proposed AEA must pass a resolution in support of the designation of the AEA. Other stakeholders may sign the petition as cooperators or submit a letter in support of the designation.

In developing the petition, petitioners are asked to state the goals of the proposed area for the preservation of agricultural land use <u>and</u> agricultural development. Petitioners must identify activities that will aid in achieving these goals including adopting appropriate land use controls, development of a strategy to encourage farmland preservation agreements, and identifying activities to promote agricultural economic development.

Another important component of the petition process is determining the boundary of the proposed area. The proposed boundary must:

- Contain land owned by all interested farm owner petitioners.
- Be located within a certified farmland preservation area.
- Consist of contiguous land area (land owned by petitioning farm owners need <u>not</u> be contiguous).
- Be primarily in agricultural use.
- Consider other relevant factors such as agricultural infrastructure and soil and water resources

Public outreach activities are an important aspect of petition development. Public meetings, open houses, and newsletter articles during petition development can inform the community about the program and help to identify interested farm owner petitioners. This outreach will also help to identify the appropriate boundary for the proposed AEA and ensure there is adequate support for the designation.

Agricultural Enterprise Areas

3. Submitting the Petition

Once the petition is developed, petitioners must submit a hard copy of the completed petition form, including supporting documentation and maps, signature pages and resolutions. The petition materials must also be submitted electronically, along with the proposed AEA map and the spatial location data for the AEA boundary. Submission instructions and the submission deadline can be found in the department's request for petitions.

4. Selection and Designation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas

DATCP works with an evaluation team to review the submitted petitions. The evaluation process is competitive and the team provides designation recommendations. Once a petition is recommended by the evaluation team and selected for designation, the AEA is designated by order of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and a notice of the order is published in the official state newspaper. The designation takes effect on January 1 of the following year.

Petition Assistance

Communities interested in pursuing designation have found it valuable to identify someone to coordinate the petition development process and related public outreach activities. Help for past petitions has come from town and county government officials, county land conservation or planning staff, county extension agents and staff at regional planning commissions. Establishing a network of other diverse stakeholders, including local and regional economic development experts, can also help to develop AEA goals and a strategy to achieve the stated goals.

For additional assistance, petitioners may contact the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at <u>DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov</u>, or at (608) 224-4625.

A guidance document used during the prior year petition cycle is available for review at http://workinglands.wi.gov.

Next Steps for a Designated Agricultural Enterprise Area

The designation of an AEA remains in effect unless terminated by order of the department. Once an AEA is designated, the eligible farm owners within the area should consider signing a farmland preservation agreement with the state to protect the land for agriculture and collect state tax credits.

In addition, following designation, the local farm owners, local governments and other partners should work together to promote the stated agricultural preservation and agricultural development goals. These goals can be furthered through implementation of the activities and land use controls identified as part of the petition process.

For additional information or assistance, the landowners and local governments may contact the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov, or at (608) 224-4625.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who initiates the AEA petition?

Submission of a petition for designation of an Agricultural Enterprise Area is initiated at the local level. Past petitions were initiated by interested landowners or an interested local government.

Since the AEA must be contiguous, does that mean the farm owner petitioner's must own contiguous land?

No. Although the AEA boundary must be contiguous, the land owned by the farm owner petitioners need <u>not</u> be contiguous with each other. As a result, it is likely that the boundary will also include land owned by others who are not petitioners.

Does the entire area have to be used for agriculture?

No. The statute requires that the area be "primarily" for agriculture. Therefore, it is acceptable, and likely, that the proposed area will include some non-agricultural land-uses. As long as the primary use of the proposed area is agriculture, the petition may be considered for designation.

If my land is included within the AEA boundary, is my land use restricted?

No. Designation of an AEA does not restrict land use. It is important to note that local regulations and restrictions within the designated area, such as a zoning ordinance, are still applicable.

Once the area is designated, are we automatically eligible to collect the \$5/acre (or \$10/acre if also zoned for farmland preservation) tax credit?

No. In order to be eligible for the farmland preservation tax credit available to landowners within a designated AEA, the landowner must enter into a farmland preservation agreement with the state. This agreement requires the land to be in agricultural use for the next 15 years. It is not required that a landowner enter into this agreement unless they wish to claim the tax credit.

How long is the designation in effect for?

The designation of an AEA remains in effect unless the designation is terminated by order of the department.



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

Phone: (608) 224-4500

E-mail: <u>DATĆPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov</u>

Web: http://workinglands.wi.gov

ARM-Pub-203 August 2013

ATTACHMENT C

Public Participation Plan and Resolution

LANGLADE COUNTY Public Participation Plan for Farmland Preservation Planning

I. Background

The County recognizes the need to engage the public in the planning process. Therefore, this Public Participation Plan sets forth the techniques Langlade County will use to provide an interactive dialogue opportunity between citizens, local decision makers, staff, and the NCWRPC.

The creation of the Public Participation Plan is a task required under Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Plan development legislation (§91.10(3) Wis. Stats.).

The Farmland Preservation Plan must be adopted under the same procedures required for adopting Comprehensive Plans (§66.1001(4) Wis. Stats.).

II. Objectives

The following is a list of objectives for the Public Participation Plan:

- Inform residents and landowners of the importance of creating the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan.
- Request input from residents and land owners to represent the agricultural and forestry interests in Langlade County.
- Provide the public with a variety of opportunities to share their input with the Langlade County Land Conservation Committee, so that it may be carefully considered and incorporated into the farmland preservation planning process.
- Provide public access to all Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan chapters and maps created throughout the planning process.

III. Techniques

The public participation plan for the Langlade County Farmland Preservation planning process will incorporate the following techniques:

- 1. All meetings for the farmland preservation planning process will be posted, open to the public, and will include time for public comment.
- 2. NCWRPC will create and maintain a web page on the Internet for the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan. The chapters and maps created will be posted to this web page throughout the planning process.
- 3. Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan meeting handouts will be maintained by Land Conservation Department staff, and available for review by the public in the Land Conservation Department offices in the Resource Center.
- 4. Langlade County will distribute digital copies of the draft Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan to all Langlade County towns, and provide a notice of where to find the draft plan to all governments adjacent to Langlade County.
- 5. The adopted Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan will be available in the Land Conservation Department, the Langlade County Public Library, and on the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan web page.
- 6. The Land Conservation Department will provide regular reports to the Land Conservation Committee.
- 7. The Land Conservation Committee will hold a public hearing on the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan after the Land Conservation Committee adopts a resolution recommending adoption of the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan by the Langlade County Board.



RESOLUTION # 56 -2014

INTRODUCED BY: Land Conservation Committee

INTENT: TO ADOPT THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4) and 91.10(30 establish the required procedure for a local government to adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Land Conservation Committee has the authority to recommend that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors adopt the County's Farmland Preservation Plan under Section 66.1001(4) (b); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing held on October 27, 2014, at which time the public had the opportunity to attend and be heard on the Farmland Preservation Plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Conservation Committee hereby recommends the adoption of the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Langlade County Land and Water Use Planning Committee for incorporation into the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan Ordinance, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to every entity listed in Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4)(b).

Land Conservation Committee

David Solin, Chairman

William Bostwick

Samuel Hardin

Joseph Novak

Angie Schreiber

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE COUNTY

THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014.

Kathryn Jacob Langlade County Clerk

rgin

ATTACHMENT D

Farmland Preservation Plan Resolution and Ordinance



RESOLUTION # 56 -2014

INTRODUCED BY: Land Conservation Committee

INTENT: TO ADOPT THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4) and 91.10(30 establish the required procedure for a local government to adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Land Conservation Committee has the authority to recommend that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors adopt the County's Farmland Preservation Plan under Section 66.1001(4) (b); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing held on October 27, 2014, at which time the public had the opportunity to attend and be heard on the Farmland Preservation Plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Conservation Committee hereby recommends the adoption of the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Langlade County Land and Water Use Planning Committee for incorporation into the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan Ordinance, pursuant to the procedures set forth in Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to every entity listed in Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001(4)(b).

Land Conservation Committee

David Solin, Chairman

William Bostwick

Samuel Hardin

Joseph Novak

Angie Schreiber

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE COUNTY

THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014.

Kathryn Jacobi Langlade County Clerk

my ~



RESOLUTION # 57 -2014

INTRODUCED BY: Water and Land Use Planning Committee,

INTENT: TO AMEND THE LANGLADE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO INCLUDE THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Langlade County's current Farmland Preservation Plan was written in 1982, and

WHEREAS, Section 91.10(3), Wisconsin Statutes, establishes the required procedure for a county to create a farmland preservation plan, and Section 91.10(1) identifies the required parts of a farmland preservation plan; and

WHEREAS, the farmland preservation plan must be adopted under the same procedures required for adopting a comprehensive plan (Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes); and

WHEREAS, the Land Conservation Committee and Water and Land Use Planning Committee has been given the authority by the County Board (resolution 71-2013 and resolution 41-2014) to create the farmland preservation plan, and recommend that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors adopt a "Farmland Preservation Plan;" and

WHEREAS, the Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Group has prepared the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan, containing all maps and other descriptive materials, to be the farmland preservation plan for the County under Section 91.10(3), Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Water and Land Use Planning Committee has the authority to recommend that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors adopt or amend a "comprehensive plan" under Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the farmland preservation plan must be amended to the comprehensive plan; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that both the Land Conservation Committee, and the Water and Land Use Planning Committee hereby recommend that, following a public hearing held on October 27, 2014, the Langlade County Board adopt an ordinance to constitute official approval of the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan as the County's farmland preservation plan under Section 66.1001(4), Wisconsin Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that both the Land Conservation Committee and the Water and Land Use Planning Committee hereby recommend that the County Board adopt an ordinance to amend the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan to the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan.

Water and Land Use Planning Committee

Michael P. Klimoski, Chairman

David Solin

Ronald Nye

Don Scupien

Richard Schuh

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE COUNTY

THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014.

Kathryn Jacob, Manglade County Clerk

mg~



ORDINANCE NO. 1-2014

Intent: Approve the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan and amend the

Comprehensive Plan to include the Farmland Preservation Plan

Whereas, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and consumer Protection (DATCP) is an agency responsible for administering Wisconsin's farmland preservation law pursuant to WIS Stat. ch. 91; and

WHEREAS, in order for a county and its residents to participate in the farmland preservation program, a county must have a state-certified farmland preservation plan pursuant to Wis. Stat. Chapter 91.10 which clearly identifies farmland preservation goals, objectives and policies and areas that the county intends to preserve for agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan has had considerable input from persons representing various aspects of the agriculture community; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a significant economic driver in Langlade County with over 113,000 acres under production or reserved for future production and results in the sale of farm products and valued-added production of over \$103 million annually; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors and subsequent certification by DATCP will allow Langlade County farms and agricultural property owners in towns zoned Exclusive Agriculture or part of an Agriculture Enterprise Area, to continue to qualify for farmland preservation tax credits; and

WHERAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Chapter 91.10(2) the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan must be included, and be made part of the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors that the Langlade County Farmland Preservation Plan, be made part of the Langlade County Comprehensive Plan, is hereby formally and officially adopted as required by Wis. Stat. Chapter 91.10 and 66.1001.

Water & Land Use Planning Committee

Michael P. Klimoski, Chairman

David Solin

Bonald Nye

Don Scupien

Richard Schuh

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF LANGLADE COUNTY

THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014

Kathryn Jacob, Langlade County Clerk

my