

Benefits of Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs)

What is an Agricultural Enterprise Area?

- One option for landowners to participate in the farmland preservation program
- AEAs are locally identified important agricultural lands that are designated by the state in response to a locally created petition.
- This tool is one route for landowners to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program.
- AEAs can be modified to adapt to the community's needs and desires to participate.



The Basics of an AEA

- The boundary is a contiguous block of land primarily in agricultural use
 - Examples of Ag Use: Crops, Livestock, Forest Management, Nurseries, Beekeeping, Federal and State conservation programs.
- Petitions are a collaborative effort to create
 - AEAs are identified and developed locally by landowners, supported by local governments, designated by the state
- Not a land use control by itself or automatic enrollment in a Farmland Preservation Agreement
- Lands do not need to be in a FP Zoning district to be in an AEA Farm

Creating a New AEA

- Requires an AEA Petition
- Must have 5 petitioning landowners
 - Community members who do not own farmland can also support the AEA petition by signing a non-petitioning cooperator page
- The additions should be consistent with original goals and plans
- Requires a signature page from each political subdivision including those already in the AEA and those that would like to be added
- New boundary is contiguous and all lands are in the farmland preservation plan
- Petition should be a collaboration between landowners, county staff, and local government



Benefits of an AEA

- Provides opportunity to claim Farmland Preservation Tax Credit
 - **\$10.00/acre** if land has a signed Farmland Preservation Agreement in an AEA or a Modified Pre-2009 Farmland Preservation Agreement AND if lands are located in an certified farmland preservation zoning district
- Creates economic incentive for best management practices on the farm
- Provides framework for new economic investment in agriculture in the area
- Can be used to apply for community based grants, encourage local agribusiness investment
- Provides the opportunity to protect and preserve agricultural lands through Farmland Preservation Agreements
- The average Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Claim in 2018 was \$1,488.19*
- There were 179* claims from across the state

*These numbers include participants from both FP Zoning and FP Agreements in the AEA across the state of Wisconsin

Contact Kara Homan with Outagamie County Development and Land Services at (920) 832-6034 or by email at kara.homan@outagamie.org with questions or sign on to the proposed AEA Petition TODAY!