

# 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.



Farm in Columbia County in West Point AEA

## 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 a 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](mailto:kara.homan@outagamie.org) with questions or sign on to the proposed AEA Petition TODAY!**