

# Agricultural Enterprise Areas

## Program Overview

**Agricultural enterprise areas**, or AEAs, are community led efforts establishing designated areas important to Wisconsin's agricultural future. More specifically, an AEA is an area of productive agriculture that has received designation from the state at the request of landowners and local governments. As a part of the state's Farmland Preservation Program, AEAs strive to support local farmland protection goals.



Image Source: Brian Sadler, Fairfield AEA

## How an AEA can add value in your community

AEAs can help communities preserve agricultural land for the future while promoting the local agro-economy and investing in local land and water resources. An AEA enables landowners to sign a farmland preservation agreement. By signing a farmland preservation agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, a landowner agrees to keep land in agricultural use for 15 years and to meet state soil and water conservation standards. In return, the landowner may claim the farmland preservation tax credit annually.

## Contact Us

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

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ARM-PUB-287a 01/19

## Farmland Preservation Tax Credit

Landowners who own land within an AEA, and who sign a farmland preservation agreement are eligible for either:

**\$5/acre** for landowners with a farmland preservation agreement signed or modified after July 1, 2009

**\$10/acre** for landowners with lands located in a certified farmland preservation zoning district and in an AEA with a farmland preservation agreement signed or modified after July 1, 2009

## Submitting a Petition for Designation

Farmland owners, agribusinesses and local governments work together to file a petition for AEA designation. A proposed AEA petition will include the following requirements:

- Include a boundary that is contiguous, primarily in agricultural use and falls within the county certified farmland preservation plan area.
- At least 5 eligible landowners within the boundary must sign the petition in support of the request.
- All political jurisdictions with land that falls within the proposed AEA boundary, as well as all county conservationists, must sign the petition in support of the AEA.
- The proposed AEA is consistent with other local planning efforts, including the county farmland preservation plan and any comprehensive plans.

You can find instructions and other petition materials online at [farmlandpreservation.wi.gov](http://farmlandpreservation.wi.gov). Our staff is always available to answer questions.



Image Source: Nate Olson, Dodge County