

ORDINANCE

SUBJECT: Farmland Preservation Plan

COMMITTEE: Planning, Resources & Development Committee

FIRST CONSIDERATION: August 16, 2012

SECOND CONSIDERATION: September 20, 2012

ORDINANCE # 106 – 9/12 **PUBLICATION DATE** 10/1/12

The County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County does ordain as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE S. 31.06 ENTITLED "FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN"
AS PART OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, 2007-2027
OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

ANALYSIS

The Farmland Preservation Plan makes significant changes to the way La Crosse County accomplishes farmland preservation for the next five to twenty years. La Crosse County has used the Working Lands Initiative and the tools that were made available by that effort. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has certified La Crosse County's Farmland Preservation Plan under Wis. Stat. s. 91.16, effective on the date the County adopts the Farmland Preservation Plan. Wis. Stat. s. 91.10(2) also requires that the Farmland Preservation Plan be consistent with and included in the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan.

The Farmland Preservation Plan is not intended to prevent non-agricultural development, but rather the planning and farmland preservation tools are used to limit non-agricultural development in areas with favorable conditions for agricultural enterprises and target other areas as suitable for non-agricultural development. The planning for long-term farmland preservation and the economic development of agricultural areas can help identify and preserve sufficient land and infrastructure base needed to support agriculture. A plan that understands and addresses the needs of farm-related business owners can help insure predictability and security for those owners. The plan helps minimize conflict arising from incompatible land uses while at the same time protecting the rural heritage that has long defined Wisconsin. Planning for agriculture can also contribute to other goals, such as preserving wildlife habitat areas and maintaining groundwater recharge areas.

The Farmland Preservation Plan addresses the following areas:

1. Introduction
 2. Background Conditions
 3. Agricultural Context
 4. Local Food System
 5. Farmland Protection Tools
 6. Implementation
 7. Appendix
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INFORMATION:

County Board Rules: Governing Body s. 2.02(8) states, in part: Ordinances are drafted by the Corporation Counsel. After the ordinance has been reviewed by a standing committee, each Supervisor will be given a copy of the ordinance showing the deleted language (grayed) and the new language (underlined) and an analysis of the intent of the ordinance. After introduction to the County Board, the ordinance shall be referred to the next monthly meeting unless waived by a 2/3 vote of the Supervisors present and a public hearing may be held if requested by a Supervisor. An amendment may be introduced and debated at either the original or the referred meeting. Copies of the ordinances of the County of La Crosse in their entirety are available with Corporation Counsel, County Clerk, or www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/code/. (rev. 3/03)