

Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Program

Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program helps farmers and local governments preserve farmland, protect soil and water, and minimize land use conflicts. Through participation in the program:

- ▶ Eau Claire County has developed a county-wide farmland preservation plan
- ▶ With input from townships, Eau Claire County developed Farmland Preservation zoning districts
- ▶ Landowners have developed the Golden Triangle Agricultural Enterprise Area
- ▶ Landowners follow soil and water conservation standards to become eligible to claim a Wisconsin state income tax credit

How to Participate

- ▶ Be a state of Wisconsin resident
- ▶ Own land that is zoned Agricultural Preservation (AP)
OR
- ▶ Own land that is located in the Golden Triangle Ag Enterprise Area
- ▶ Land must have produced at least \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the previous year or \$18,000 in the previous three years
- ▶ Have property taxes for the previous year paid
- ▶ Obtain a Certificate of Compliance from Eau Claire County, verifying the farm meets NR 151 Ag Performance Standards & Prohibitions (below)

The Tax Credit

Landowners who participate in the Farmland Preservation Program are eligible for a refundable state income tax credit. The tax credit varies, depending on where the land is located:

Agreement: \$5 per acre

Zoning: \$7.50 per acre

Zoning+Agreement: \$10 per acre

NR 151 Agricultural Performance Standards & Prohibitions

Cropland Practices

- ▶ Develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) for cropland and pastures
- ▶ Meet Tolerable Soil Loss (T) on cropland and pastures
- ▶ Follow the WI Phosphorus Index to adequately control phosphorus runoff

Livestock Practices

- ▶ Prevent direct runoff from feedlots, barnyards, and stored manure into waters of the state
- ▶ Prevent discharge of process wastewater (milkhouse waste, feed leachate, etc.) into lakes, streams, wetlands, or groundwater

Manure Storage Practices

- ▶ Maintain manure storage structures to prevent leaking, overflow, and failing of structures
- ▶ Close idle structures
- ▶ Meet technical standards for newly constructed or significantly altered structures

Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAS)

- ▶ Avoid stacking manure in WQMAS
- ▶ Divert clean water away from feedlots, barnyards, and stored manure located in WQMAS
- ▶ Follow a 20 foot tillage setback from surface waters
- ▶ Manage livestock access along water bodies to maintain vegetative cover and prevent erosion

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