



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Eau Claire County Farmland Preservation Plan Update**

Eau Claire County has begun the process of updating the [2015 County Farmland Preservation Plan](#), which helps farmers and local governments preserve farmland, protect soil and water, and minimize land use conflicts. The plan allows participating farmers whose property lies within Eau Claire County's certified Agricultural Preservation (A-P) zoning district or within the Golden Triangle Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) to claim state tax credits on their annual tax returns.

Agriculture is an important part of Eau Claire County's economic vitality, and the farmland preservation program has played an important role in preserving productive agricultural lands and conserving soil and natural resources. Since the adoption of the first Farmland Preservation Plan in 1983, more than \$10 million in tax credits have been claimed by Eau Claire County Farmers and over 50,000 acres of productive farmland have been preserved.

The plan update will be led by Eau Claire County Planning & Development and Land Conservation Division Staff, with extensive input from a steering committee composed of farmers, stakeholders, and various subject matter experts. Additional input will be solicited through public open house events and a farmland preservation survey to be developed and administered next year. The plan update is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2024.

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