

# BUFFALO COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Agriculture is vital to Wisconsin's economy and cultural identity. In Buffalo County, agriculture continues to be the predominant land use and accounts for 69.7% of its total acres. The goal of Buffalo County's Farmland Preservation Plan is to ensure the preservation and sustainability of the county's agricultural lands, waters, and undeveloped natural resource areas. With the input of the townships, Buffalo County developed Farmland Preservation zoning districts, allowing landowners that are following soil and water conservation standards to become eligible to claim a Wisconsin state income tax credit.

## How to Participate

- ✓ Must be a Wisconsin resident.
- ✓ Own land that is in one of the following townships zoned in a Farmland Preservation District: **Alma, Belvidere, Cross, Dover, Glencoe, Modena, Mondovi, Naples, and Nelson.**
- ✓ Land must produce at least \$6,000 in gross farm revenue during the previous year or \$18,000 in gross farm revenues during the previous three years.
- ✓ Property taxes for the previous year must have been paid.
- ✓ Claimant must obtain a certificate of compliance from the Buffalo County Land Conservation Department to show that the farm meets the state soil and water standards.

## The Tax Credit

Landowners who participate in the Farmland Preservation Program are eligible for a state income tax credit. The tax credit varies depending on the location of the land:

**Zoning:** \$7.50 per acre

**Zoning + Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA):**  
\$10 per acre

## NR151 Agricultural Performance Standards & Prohibitions

### **Cropland Practices**

- ✓ Farmers must annually develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) for cropland and pastures.
- ✓ Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields and pastures.
- ✓ Use the Phosphorus index (PI) standard to ensure that their NMP adequately controls phosphorus runoff.

### **Livestock Practices**

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

### **Manure Storage Practices**

- ✓ Maintain structures to prevent overflow and maintain contents at or below the specified margin of safety.
- ✓ Close idle structures according to accepted standards.
- ✓ Meet the technical standards for newly constructed or significantly altered structures.

### **Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs)**

- ✓ Avoid stacking manure in WQMAs.
- ✓ Follow a 5-foot tillage setback from surface water. This may be extended to 20 feet to ensure streambank integrity.
- ✓ Manage livestock access along water bodies to maintain vegetative cover and prevent erosion.

**For more information, contact Tim Wucherer at:**

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