



DANE COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Room 116, City-County Building, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Fax (608) 267-1540

*Housing &
Economic Development*
(608)266-4270, Rm. 362

Planning
(608)266-4251, Rm. 116

Records & Support
(608)266-4251, Rm. 116

Zoning
(608)266-4266, Rm. 116

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Todd A. Violante, AICP, Director

SUBJECT: Agricultural Enterprise Area Applications to DATCP

DATE: January 28, 2010

In 2009, the State amended Chapter 91 of Wisconsin Statutes to overhaul the state Farmland Preservation Program. The State Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has established a deadline of February 26, 2010 for the first round of petitions for Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA). Dane County has adopted a Farmland Preservation Plan that is currently certified under s.91.16, Wis. Stats., through December 31, 2011. This means that if you own land that is in the County's A-1 Exclusive Agriculture zoning district, you are eligible to petition the state for AEA designation. Applications must meet state technical mapping standards and must be signed by authorized representatives from all affected political subdivisions, including Dane County.

The Dane County Planning & Development Department can offer the following assistance to farmers applying for AEA designation:

1. Mapping Assistance: Our office can help produce maps that meet state technical requirements for AEA mapping. We will need a list of properties, preferably by Parcel Identification Number, or a sketch map of the parcels to be included in the application. You can find Parcel Identification Numbers from your tax bill or Access Dane (<http://accessdane.co.dane.wi.us/html/public.asp>). Online mapping information is available at DCIMap (<http://dcimap.co.dane.wi.us/dcimap/>).
2. Timely Application Review, Comment, and Signature of Support: Planning staff can review and offer constructive comments on your application regarding consistency with the adopted *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan* and the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*. Given the newness of the AEA program and our unfamiliarity with the nature and range of possible applications, we cannot at this point guarantee County support for every application. We will do our best to complete our review and get the necessary County signature(s) on supported applications back to you as quickly as possible. We anticipate that most applications will be supported, but each one must be independently and objectively evaluated on its own merits. You will also need to get the appropriate signatures from the town(s) or city where the property is located.

We very much want to support Dane County AEA applicants, and the timeframe in which we are working is very short: If you are thinking of applying for AEA designation, and you feel that we may be of assistance, please contact the planner for your area (see map, attached) as soon as possible, but no later than February 19, 2010.

Over the next two years, Dane County will be working to amend the *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan* to meet the state recertification deadline of 12/31/2011. As part of that effort, we hope to develop new programs to benefit farmers in Agricultural Enterprise Areas. We look forward to helping Dane County farmers and local jurisdictions take advantage of this exciting opportunity.