TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

Farmland Preservation Plan

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Prepared by the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and Trempealeau County Department of Land Management

Abstract

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1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture historically and today continues to be a vital component of Trempealeau County's economy, rural landscape, and social framework. Preserving agriculture continues to be a priority in Trempealeau County. Trempealeau County's Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted in 1981 and has not been updated in over 34 years. Over those years Trempealeau County has faced many challenges to agriculture including residential development, increased encroachment from neighboring urban areas and more recently impacts of frac sand mining on the rural landscape. Through the challenges agriculture and the rural lifestyle have continued to prevail and are cited by residents as vital components to the County's future when the challenges arise. The County's Comprehensive Plan created through extensive input from local town governments and residents over the past decade cite agriculture and the rural lifestyle as vitally important to Trempealeau County. Trempealeau County recognizes that updating the County's Farmland Preservation Plan is another step that will help ensure the future of agriculture in the County. Therefore, the Farmland Preservation Plan has been prepared per Wisconsin State Statutes (ch. 91, Wis. Stats.) pertaining to farmland preservation plans. It is hoped that Trempealeau County landowners/farmers will be able to benefit from some of the tax incentives/programs that the completed plan will provide access to further assisting Trempealeau County in maintaining its agricultural landscape.

History and Status of Farmland Preservation in Trempealeau County

In 1981, Trempealeau County approved the "Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 1981" after an extensive planning process in which County Staff worked with Town Boards to designate the first agricultural preservation areas in the county. Trempealeau County adopted comprehensive zoning in 1972 and all towns accepted the ordinance. After the County adopted the Farmland Preservation Plan in 1981 the county chose not to amend its comprehensive zoning ordinance to create an "Exclusive Agriculture District" which would have implemented the 1981 Farmland Preservation Plan through comprehensive zoning and provide landowners the maximum amount of tax credits available for preserving farmland. Instead the County began to implement the plan through farmland preservation landowner contracts. Under this process landowners entered into individual farmland preservation contracts with the state (county staff administers the contracts). Once contracts were signed, landowners could receive approximately 75% of the tax credits available for preserving farmland. Many individual land owner contracts continue to be in effect but with the changes to Farmland Preservation through the "Working Lands Initiative" contracts will no longer be available.



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2. FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

Requirements for participation in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program are identified in Chapter 91, Wis. State Statutes and farmland preservation plans must address specified elements. Farmland Preservation Plan elements are mandatory for counties intending to make farmland preservation benefits available to eligible landowners, some flexibility exists in how counties prepare their farmland preservation plans.

The Trempealeau County Department of Land Management received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to update the counties Farmland Preservation Plan. Trempealeau County contracted with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to assist with updating the Farmland Preservation Plan to meet the requirements identified in Chapter 91.

The planning process was overseen by the Trempealeau County Environment and Land Use Committee with input from Town Boards, residents and landowners in Trempealeau County. The Trempealeau County Environment and Land Use Committee has representation from the county Farmland Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and technical assistance from Land Conservation Department staff, Planning and Zoning Department staff, and University of Wisconsin-Extension staff.

The update process included reviewing and updating agriculture statistical information, develop or reaffirm farmland preservation goals, identifying farmland preservation areas, and meetings with Town Boards and applicable County Committees to gather information on farmland preservation. Specifically, MRRPC and county staff met with town's to draft, review, and finalize each town's Farmland Preservation Map. The town maps are what compose the Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Map.

Public Input Opportunities

Trempealeau County Environment and Land Use Committee approved the "Trempealeau County Public Participation Process" which formed the framework for discussion between local decision makers, County staff, the planning consultant, and the citizens of Trempealeau County during the Farmland Preservation Plan update (attached as Appendix A). Consistent with the public participation process, public input was solicited throughout the planning process as each agenda of the monthly Trempealeau County Environment and Land Use Committee meetings provided the opportunity for public input or questions regarding the Farmland Preservation Plan Update. Town Board meetings during the planning process also provided another opportunity for landowners to provide input in the farmland preservation plan update process. In addition, a public hearing was held on the revised plan on December 7, 2016.

Farmland Preservation Plan Consistency

The planning process for updating the Farmland Preservation Plan utilized information (public input, goals, objectives, etc.) from the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan to ensure the documents are consistent. Consistency will further be assured as once the Farmland Preservation Plan update is complete the Farmland Preservation Plan will be adopted as part of the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan.

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3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION – EXISTING CONDITIONS

Trempealeau County is located in west central Wisconsin and is in the unglaciated (driftless) region of the State. Its boundaries are partially formed by three rivers: the Mississippi River on the south, the Trempealeau River on the West and the Black River on the southeast. The County is approximately 42 miles long, from 18-23 miles wide, with a land area of about 476,800 acres.



Well Drained Valley Terrace

Trempealeau County's landscape is defined by narrow tree-covered ridges and broad rolling valleys. The bottoms of main stream valleys are rather broad, and well drained terraces are conspicuous features along many of the larger streams. The Mississippi River Valley is from three-fourths to one mile wide and the Buffalo and Trempealeau River Valleys are one-half to three-fourths mile wide. Most of the smaller streams have definite valley floors ranging from one-quarter to one-half mile in width. The average elevation above sea level, of the main streams, other than the Mississippi River, is about 720 feet in the southern portion of the county and about 900 feet in the northern portion of the county.

Trempealeau County has considerable area with slopes of 12% or greater, a result of being in the unglaciated region of the State (Table 1). Approximately 48% of the county has slopes of 12% or greater. Historically this has impacted agriculture type, production, and environmental concerns.

Table 1. Trempealeau County Acreage by Steepness of Slope

Percent Slope	Total Acres	Percentage
0 - 2	115,363	24.3
2 - 6	70,170	14.7
6 - 12	65,632	13.5
12 - 20	94,530	20.1
20 - 30	85,880	17.9
20 - 45	45,225	9.5
Total	**476,800**	**100**

Source: Trempealeau Co. Land and Water Resource Mgt Plan, Dec. 2011

The County is situated half way between the expanding urban areas of Eau Claire and La Crosse. While agriculture continues to be the primary land use and vital component of the local economy continued trends towards conversion of farm land to other uses (housing, frac sand mining, etc.) incrementally reduce agricultural land and create land use conflicts all of which continue to be a critical concern for Trempealeau County.



Diverse County Landscape

Trempealeau County Existing Land Uses

Table 2 approximates the amount of land in each of the major classifications for Trempealeau County based on 2013 Tax Assessment data. Agriculture and Agriculture Forest land account for 328,968 acres or 69.3% of the county's land use. Un-developed and Forest lands account for 7.1% and 4.7% of land area respectively. The general definitions of the land use classifications follow:

Table 2. TREMPEALEAU COUNTY LAND USE
By Acres Per Tax Assessment - 2013

Trempealeau Co.	Residential (1)	Commercial (1)	Mfg (1)	Agriculture (1)	Undeveloped (1)	Agriculture Forest(1)	Forest Lands (1)	Subtotal	Other	County Total (2)
Acres	12,684	1,653	1,430	255,047	33,637	73,921	22,330	400,702	73,922	**474,624**
% of County	2.67	0.35	0.30	53.74	7.09	15.57	4.70	84.43	15.57	**100.00**
R.E. Eq. Value(3)	1,133,124,000	174,228,600	87,193,100	31,832,600	20,125,000	103,312,100	60,351,300	1,610,166,700	NA	**1,610,166,700**
% of County	70.37	10.82	5.42	1.98	1.25	6.42	3.75	100.00	NA	**100.00**

Source: (1) Acreages: Wis. Dep. of Revenue (WIDOR) 2013 Final Statement of Assessment; 2) WISCLAND, 3) R.E. Value: Wis. Dept. of Revenue Statement of Changes in Equalized Value by Class and Item

Residential **-** Residential land includes any land with a residential home that does not fall into the agricultural land classification.

Commercial- Commercial land refers to any parcel that has a retail business or professional business establishment on it, but does not include industrial properties. This may be a convenience store, car wash, bank, grocery store, tavern, etc.

Manufacturing - Manufacturing land refers to business and industry that is engages in processing, manufacturing, packaging, treatment, or fabrication of materials and products.

Agricultural- Agricultural land includes land producing a crop (including Christmas trees, etc.), agricultural forest (forested land contiguous with agricultural lands), supports livestock, or is eligible for enrollment in specific federal agricultural programs.

Undeveloped - This land classification refers to areas that were formerly classified as swamp/waste. It includes bogs, marshes, lowlands brush land, and uncultivated land zoned as shore land and shown to be wetland.

Agriculture - means land, exclusive of buildings and improvements and the land necessary for their location and convenience, which is devoted primarily to agricultural use as defined by rule.

Forest Lands- means land that is producing or is capable of producing commercial forest products including WDNR-MFL lands.

Agricultural Forest Land- means land that is producing or is capable of producing commercial forest products, if the land satisfies any of the following conditions:

a. It is contiguous to a parcel that has been classified in whole as agricultural land under this subsection, if the contiguous parcel is owned by the same person that owns the land that is producing or is capable of producing commercial forest products. In this subdivision, “contiguous” includes separated only by a road.
b. It is located on a parcel that contains land that is classified as agricultural land in the property tax assessment on 1/1/2004, and on January 1 of the year of assessment.
c. It is located on a parcel at least 50 percent of which, by acreage, was converted to land that is classified as agricultural land in the property tax assessment on 1/1/2005, or thereafter.

Other - Remaining land types that do not fall into the above categories, including federal, state, and county lands, school property, and cemeteries.

Natural Resources

Trempealeau County has an abundance of natural resources as well as opportunities to utilize and enjoy them. From rivers and streams to forests the resources are distributed throughout the county. To properly evaluated farmland preservation it is important to review and evaluate all natural resources. Natural areas within active agriculture areas provide wildlife habitat, stream buffers and provide link to larger open space areas. These areas also help protect the County's water supply and provide year-round recreation opportunities.



Trout Streams Offer Recreation Opportunities

Surface Waters

Streams and wetlands are valuable natural features in Trempealeau County, providing a water supply, wildlife and aquatic habitat and buffers. Within Trempealeau County are three major drainage basins. The Buffalo River drains the northern part of the county, the Black River drains the southeastern portion of the county, and the Trempealeau River drains the remainder of the county. All three rivers eventually drain to the Mississippi River.

Total internal surface water area in Trempealeau County is 1600 acres (excluding the Mississippi River). Artificial millponds account for approximately 410 acres with streams and rivers accounting for approximately 1,190 surface acres. The majority of Trempealeau County's streams are considered cold water streams and are categorized as either cold water forage streams or cold water trout streams. Seventy-two streams totaling nearly 224 miles are classified trout streams. The source of water for most Trempealeau County streams is a combination of springs and groundwater discharge. There are 25 streams in the county which are Exceptional Resource Waters (NR102) totaling approximately 59 miles.

Sedimentation and habitat degradation from eroding stream banks is a common problem in the county. The county has six streams, totaling 26.5 miles, that are on the Wisconsin 303d impaired waters list. The Black River, the Mississippi River and Lake Marinuka within Trempealeau County are also listed as impaired for atmospheric deposition of mercury which has accumulated in fish in amounts great enough to justify fish consumption advisories.



Habitat Restoration

Nonpoint source pollutants are the primary cause of surface water quality problems in the county. Pollutants such as sediment, bacteria, organic material, and animal wastes contribute to the existing surface water quality problems associated with all the surface water resources of the county. In addition to the pollutants that flow into surface water resources, degradation and erosion of stream banks is a major source of sedimentation to the streambeds as well as the impoundments located at the downstream end of many of the county watersheds. Table 3 illustrates conservation practices applied throughout the county from 2010-2013 to preserve water resources.

Table 3. Conservation Practices Applied on Land

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Contracts	18	18	17	21
Cropland Soil Erosion Control Plans (Acres)	13,587	13,587	13,587	17,554
Manure Management Plans (Acres)	49,430	49,430	49,430	53,397
Barnyard Runoff Control Systems	3	3	2	1
Roofed Barnyard Runoff Control	1	2	1	1
Manure Storage	4	5	-	-
Manure Storage Closure	-	-	1	-
Livestock Fencing, Stream Fencing (Feet)	1,000	1,500	-	-
Stream Crossings	1	1	1	1
Access Road (Feet)	1,800	600	860	200
Critical Area Stabilization (Acres)	3	4	2	1
Grade Stabilization Structures	2	0		1
Grassed Waterways (Acres)	2	2	-	-
Well Decommissioning	-	-	-	1
Stream RipRap (Feet)	900	850	1,075	1,075

Source: Trempealeau County Dept. of Land Management, Annual Reports - 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013

Agriculture and to a lesser extent, urban land disturbing activities are the primary sources of pollutants to the county's surface water resources. Sources of surface water pollutants include: barnyard runoff, nutrient and sediment runoff from cropped fields, manure runoff from improperly stacked/stored animal waste, concentrated flow erosion from cropped fields and logging trails, ephemeral erosion from cropped fields, and runoff from construction projects.

Groundwater Resources

Water resources contributing to groundwater consist of rainfall and snow melt in Trempealeau County. Water movement from the land surface to deeper geology passes through several different kinds of soil and rock material. Although alluvial deposits contain quantities of groundwater the sandstone aquifer is the most common source of well water.

Results of well water tests over the past twenty-five years demonstrate increases of nitrate levels and detects of triazine. These results strongly suggest that the ground water quality of Trempealeau County has been affected by land use activities. There are many human activities that are sources of nitrate contamination. These sources include the following: runoff or seepage from fertilized (septage, whey, chemical fertilizer and animal waste) agricultural lands, municipal and industrial wastewater, refuse dumps, animal feedlots, improper manure storage, septic tanks, urban drainage, improperly abandoned wells, and decaying plant debris.

Non Metallic Mining (Source: Trempealeau County Land Mgt Annual Reports)

Non-metallic Mining in the last several years has become a significant land use issue affecting Trempealeau County. The use of frac (silica) sand in the oil and gas industry and the demand created for the sand has significantly impacted the County. The silica sands utilized for fracing are unique to this region. In 2010 Trempealeau County held the 1st public hearing to permit a large scale industrial sand mining operation. As of 2011 eleven mining permits for the frac sand industry had been issued and in 2012 annexation of mining sites from towns into cities became an issue. Two sites, one in the Town of Arcadia and the other in the Town of Preston were annexed to the City of Arcadia and the City of Blair. In 2012 the

County permitted 1,309 acres for frac sand mining and at the end of 2012 the County had 2,670 acres permitted for frac sand. In 2013 a one year moratorium on the issuance of any new industrial sand mining permits or any permits to expand current sites was enacted. The moratorium, however only applied to towns and not to cities and villages. As of 2014, total industrial sand mining acres permitted in the county totaled 5,156 acres. Table 4 shows active mining acreage and reclamation activity in the county from 2010-2013.

Table 4. Non-Metallic Mining & Reclamation Program

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Permitted Mines	58	63	73	81
New Mines (Conditional Use Permit)	2	8	10	6
Total Active Acres	364.99	495.32	590.5	409.21
Acres Reclaimed	11	23.3	9	8
Mines Inspected and Plans Reviewed	58	63	73	81
Mines Certified as Reclaimed/Closed	0	2	2	2

Source: Trempealeau County Dept. of Land Management, Annual Reports - 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013

Forested Lands

Maintaining productive forest lands is an increasing challenge due to land values. The ability of forest land to be productive is in part affected by the size of the forest blocks. As ownership size decreases, the ability to efficiently manage also decreases. These lands provide economic, environmental, and social benefits, and provide farm income and jobs to the rural areas in both forest products and tourism. Table 5 and Table 6 illustrate the forest acres in Trempealeau County and the total forest acres by species.

Table 5. Total Forest Acres

	(1) All Forest	(2)Total Forest
Trempealeau	156,600	47,413
State	16,037,200	NA

Source: (1) USDA Resource Bulletin NRS-24 "Wis. Forests, 2004: Statistics and Quality Assurance"; (2) Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Line Summary for 2012 Final Statement of Assessment

Table 6. Total Forest Acres (By Species)

	All Forest Land	White-Red Jack Pine	Spruce-Fir	Pinyon-Juniper	Exotic Soft-woods	Oak-Pine	Oak-Hickory	Elm-Ash-Cotton-wood	Maple_ Beech-Birch	Aspen-Birch	Exotic Hard-woods	Non-Stocked
Trempealeau	156,600	8,700					98,300	21,000	13,100	10,700	2,700	2,200
State Total	**16,037,200**	**1,461,600**	**1,342,100**	**18,300**	**22,200**	**543,800**	**3,428,600**	**1,347,500**	**4,448,600**	**3,265,600**	**4,600**	**153,100**

Source: USDA Resource Bulletin NRS-24 "Wis. Forests, 2004: Statistics and Quality Assurance"

With the abundance of natural resources the county has numerous county, state and federal lands open to the public providing access to natural resources. The park and recreation facilities aid in preserving environmentally significant areas. Table 7 lists the names and locations of county, state and federal lands/facilities.



Brady's Bluff, Perrot State Park

Table 7. Park and Recreation Facilities

Name of Facility	Location	Comments
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge	Mississippi River flyway	Migratory birds and other wildlife.
Corps of Engineers Lock & Dam 6	Located near Trempealeau	
Perrot State Park	Sullivan Rd, Trempealeau.	Picnicking, camping, hiking, biking, canoeing, scenic views.
Brady's Bluff Prairie SNA	Located in Perrot Park	
Trempealeau Mountain SNA	Located in Perrot Park	
Borst Valley Wildlife Area	7 miles NW of Independence.	Borst Valley Sedge Meadow SNA (21 acres) located within.
Chimney Rock Wildlife Area	9 miles N Independence	
Lakes Coulee Wildlife Area	2 miles SW of Blair	
Tamarack Creek Wildlife Area	10 miles N of Trempealeau	
Tollefson Marsh Wildlife Area	4 miles south of Osseo	
Vosse Coulee Wildlife Area	2 miles SW of Blair	
Buffalo River Trail Prairies SNA	4 miles east of Osseo	Located in Jackson and Trempealeau Counties.
Pietrick County Park	STH 93, Trempealeau River.	Camping, picnicking, nature trails, playground, canoe landing. .
4-H Horse Arena	STH 93 between Independence & Arcadia	Adjacent to Pietrek County Park. Camping, horse trail, horse arena.

Population, Housing, and Municipal Growth

Population and Housing Forecasts

Trempealeau County's population has increased by 23.8% over the past four decades (Table 8). By 2040, Trempealeau County's population is expected to increase by 16.1% to approximately 33,450 people. The most growth is estimated to take place in the Arcadia, Trempealeau and Galesville areas.

TABLE 8. Trempealeau County Population And Population Projections

	Population					% Chg	% Chg	% Chg	% Chg							Prj
	1970[1]	1980[1]	1990[1]	2000[1]	2010[1]	70-80	80-90	90-00	00-10	2015[2]	2020[2]	2025[2]	2030[2]	2035[2]	2040[2]	% Chg 10-40
Trempealeau Co.	**23,344**	**26,158**	**25,263**	**27,010**	**28,816**	**12.1**	**-3.4**	**6.9**	**6.7**	**29,360**	**30,725**	**31,840**	**32,810**	**33,240**	**33,450**	**16.1**
T Albion	561	605	696	595	653	7.8	15.0	-14.5	9.7	660	685	705	720	720	720	10.3
T Arcadia	1,697	1,919	1,710	1,555	1,779	13.1	-10.9	-9.1	14.4	1,855	1,975	2,070	2,165	2,220	2,270	27.6
T Burnside	693	639	653	529	511	-7.8	2.2	-19.0	-3.4	505	510	505	500	485	465	-9.0
T Caledonia	341	507	555	759	920	48.7	9.5	36.8	21.2	945	1,020	1,085	1,145	1,185	1,220	32.6
T Chimney Rock	345	390	267	276	241	13.0	-31.5	3.4	-12.7	235	235	235	230	225	215	-10.8
T Dodge	432	399	397	414	389	-7.6	-0.5	4.3	-6.0	385	390	390	390	385	375	-3.6
T Ettrick	1,268	1,420	1,309	1,284	1,237	12.0	-7.8	-1.9	-3.7	1,220	1,230	1,225	1,215	1,185	1,150	-7.0
T Gale	1,255	1,553	1,563	1,426	1,695	23.7	0.6	-8.8	18.9	1,745	1,845	1,940	2,020	2,070	2,105	24.2
T Hale	1,041	983	971	988	1,037	-5.6	-1.2	1.8	5.0	1,045	1,085	1,115	1,135	1,140	1,140	9.9
T Lincoln	811	935	889	829	823	15.3	-4.9	-6.7	-0.7	860	905	940	970	985	990	20.3
T Pigeon	759	876	766	894	891	15.4	-12.6	16.7	-0.3	895	930	950	970	975	970	8.9
T Preston	1,027	1,112	963	951	953	8.3	-13.4	-1.2	0.2	970	1,005	1,035	1,055	1,060	1,060	11.2
T Sumner	594	785	711	806	810	32.2	-9.4	13.4	0.5	825	855	885	905	915	915	13.0
T Trempealeau	1,082	1,504	1,341	1,618	1,756	39.0	-10.8	20.7	8.5	1,815	1,935	2,030	2,125	2,180	2,230	27.0
T Unity	487	564	473	556	506	15.8	-16.1	17.5	-9.0	495	505	510	510	505	495	-2.2
V Eleva	574	593	491	635	670	3.3	-17.2	29.3	5.5	685	720	755	785	800	810	20.9
V Ettrick	463	462	491	521	524	-0.2	6.3	6.1	0.6	520	530	535	540	535	525	0.2
V Pigeon Falls	198	338	368	388	411	70.7	8.9	5.4	5.9	415	430	440	450	450	450	9.5
V Strum	738	944	949	1,001	1,114	27.9	0.5	5.5	11.3	1,130	1,175	1,215	1,250	1,265	1,270	14.0
V Trempealeau	743	956	1,039	1,319	1,529	28.7	8.7	26.9	15.9	1,630	1,750	1,865	1,970	2,040	2,095	37.0
C Arcadia	2,159	2,109	2,166	2,402	2,925	-2.3	2.7	10.9	21.8	2,990	3,185	3,350	3,510	3,605	3,680	25.8
C Blair	1,036	1,142	1,126	1,273	1,366	10.2	-1.4	13.1	7.3	1,390	1,460	1,515	1,565	1,590	1,600	17.1
C Galesville	1,162	1,239	1,278	1,427	1,481	6.6	3.1	11.7	3.8	1,525	1,600	1,665	1,720	1,750	1,765	19.2
C Independence	1,036	1,180	1,041	1,244	1,336	13.9	-11.8	19.5	7.4	1,365	1,435	1,500	1,555	1,585	1,600	19.8
C Osseo	1,356	1,474	1,551	1,669	1,701	8.7	5.2	7.6	1.9	1,705	1,760	1,800	1,830	1,830	1,815	6.7
C Whitehall	1,486	1,530	1,499	1,651	1,558	3.0	-2.0	10.1	-5.6	1,550	1,570	1,580	1,580	1,555	1,520	-2.4
State of Wis.	**4,417,821**	**4,705,642**	**4,891,769**	**5,363,715**	**5,686,986**	**6.5**	**4.0**	**9.6**	**6.0**	**5,783,015**	**6,005,080**	**6,203,850**	**6,375,910**	**6,476,270**	**6,491,635**	**14.1**
United States	**203,302,031**	**226,542,199**	**248,709,873**	**281,421,906**	**308,745,538**	**11.4**	**9.8**	**13.2**	**9.7**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**

(1) U.S. Dept. of Commerce-Bureau of the Census; (2) Population Prj.-WI Dept. of Admin.-Demographic Services Ctr.

Household projections for the County forecast approximately 2,500 new households by the year 2040 in the County (Table 9). Historically, residential development pressure has occurred in the northerly tier of towns and southerly tier of towns because of their proximity to the urban areas of Eau Claire, La Crosse and Winona MN. Residential uses generally utilize between .5 acre and 1.5 acres in land area. Based on those acreages forecasted future land area needed to accommodate the projected population rise is approximately additional acreage on the low end of 1,250 acres and on the high end of 3,750 acres. It is anticipated some of this acreage will come from agricultural lands, while growth will also be absorbed by existing, vacant platted lots, marginal lands (slopes, poor agricultural soils) and in-fill development in cities and villages.

Table 9. Trempealeau County Household Projections

		Household Projections								Persons Per Household Projection					
MCD Type & Name	2010 Census	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	% Chg 10-40	2010 Census	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
T Albion	240	246	257	265	274	276	279	16.3	2.72	2.68	2.67	2.66	2.63	2.61	2.58
T Arcadia	665	703	752	792	837	866	895	34.6	2.68	2.64	2.63	2.61	2.59	2.56	2.54
T Burnside	194	194	197	196	196	192	186	-4.1	2.63	2.60	2.59	2.58	2.55	2.53	2.50
T Caledonia	342	356	386	413	440	460	479	40.1	2.69	2.65	2.64	2.63	2.60	2.58	2.55
T Chimney Rock	98	97	97	98	97	96	92	-6.1	2.46	2.42	2.42	2.40	2.37	2.34	2.34
T Dodge	175	176	179	180	181	181	178	1.7	2.22	2.19	2.18	2.17	2.15	2.13	2.11
T Ettrick	509	509	516	516	517	509	499	-2.0	2.43	2.40	2.38	2.37	2.35	2.33	2.30
T Gale	648	677	719	759	798	825	848	30.9	2.61	2.57	2.56	2.55	2.52	2.50	2.47
T Hale	394	403	420	434	446	452	457	16.0	2.63	2.59	2.58	2.57	2.54	2.52	2.49
T Lincoln	254	270	285	294	301	301	298	17.3	2.69	2.65	2.64	2.63	2.60	2.58	2.55
T Pigeon	307	313	327	335	346	351	353	15.0	2.90	2.86	2.84	2.84	2.80	2.78	2.75
T Preston	342	353	368	380	391	397	401	17.3	2.77	2.74	2.72	2.71	2.69	2.65	2.63
T Sumner	307	317	330	343	355	362	366	19.2	2.64	2.60	2.59	2.58	2.55	2.53	2.50
T Trempealeau	689	722	774	816	863	893	923	34.0	2.55	2.51	2.50	2.49	2.46	2.44	2.42
T Unity	193	192	196	199	201	201	199	3.1	2.62	2.58	2.58	2.56	2.54	2.51	2.49
V Eleva	292	303	320	337	354	364	372	27.4	2.29	2.26	2.25	2.24	2.22	2.20	2.18
V Ettrick	231	233	238	242	246	246	244	5.6	2.27	2.23	2.23	2.21	2.20	2.17	2.15
V Pigeon Falls	172	176	183	188	192	192	191	11.0	2.17	2.15	2.14	2.12	2.10	2.08	2.06
V Strum	440	453	473	490	508	516	520	18.2	2.42	2.39	2.38	2.37	2.34	2.32	2.30
V Trempealeau	704	761	821	879	938	980	1,018	44.6	2.17	2.14	2.13	2.12	2.10	2.08	2.06
C Arcadia	1,114	1,156	1,236	1,305	1,378	1,423	1,463	31.3	2.55	2.52	2.51	2.49	2.47	2.45	2.42
C Blair	571	590	622	647	672	684	691	21.0	2.27	2.23	2.22	2.21	2.19	2.17	2.15
C Galesville	635	664	699	730	759	776	788	24.1	2.25	2.22	2.21	2.20	2.18	2.16	2.14
C Independence	606	628	663	697	729	750	765	26.2	2.20	2.17	2.16	2.14	2.13	2.11	2.08
C Osseo	737	749	777	799	820	828	830	12.6	2.31	2.28	2.27	2.25	2.23	2.21	2.19
C Whitehall	665	672	683	689	693	685	672	1.1	2.24	2.20	2.20	2.19	2.16	2.14	2.12
Trempealeau Co.	**11,524**	**11,913**	**12,518**	**13,023**	**13,532**	**13,806**	**14,007**	**21.5**							

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center, Household Projections

Economic Growth and Business Development

The most recent projections for economic/business development for Trempealeau County were completed by the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and included in the organization's regional comprehensive plan "Rising As A Region – A Regional Comprehensive Plan for the Mississippi River Region 2014-2034". Within the document manufacturing and commercial development acreage demands were projected for Trempealeau County through 2034 and the plan estimated that 617 acres of land will be needed to accommodate the future manufacturing and commercial growth. It is anticipated that in most cases agricultural land will be converted to manufacturing and commercial properties.

Municipal Growth Strategies

In an effort to preserve farmland and reduce the number of converted agricultural lands, the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan recommends a number of goals, objectives and action to manage the location of future housing growth. Excerpts from the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan Housing Element.

> **"Goal:** Housing that meets the needs of existing and future community residents, while maintaining a predominantly rural atmosphere."
>
> **Objective:** Encourage siting homes in areas that will not cause property or environmental damage or impair rural character or agricultural operations in the town.
>
> **Action:** Consider clustering houses in rural areas or creating subdivisions near cities and villages.
>
> **Milestone Date:** Continuous"

As discussed previously, residential development pressure has occurred in the northerly tier of towns and southerly tier of towns because of their proximity to the urban areas of Eau Claire, La Crosse and Winona MN. Critical to implementing the housing policies is for the county, villages, cities, and towns follow their respective comprehensive plans regarding expansion of growth boundaries.

Transportation

There are 1,357 miles of public roads in Trempealeau County. 1,073 miles of the public roads are under the jurisdiction of the County and the Towns. The County and Town public roads make up the primary transportation network for agriculture throughout Trempealeau County. Essentially every public road in the county supports agricultural production and is used by agricultural uses. The county recognizes the importance of maintaining the public road infrastructure into the future.

Infrastructure, Utilities, and Community Facilities

Adequate infrastructure, utilities, and community facilities are important to support all forms of growth throughout the County. Trempealeau County is adequately suited to meet future needs.

Meeting future energy needs is critical. Electricity is provided to county residents by Xcel Energy, Riverland, Arcadia Municipal, or Whitehall Municipal. A new form of utilities that has come to Trempealeau County in 2016 is a solar energy farm that has been developed near Arcadia. It is anticipated that solar energy will continue to gain popularity, which could eventually take up small amounts of farmland throughout Trempealeau County in the future, as solar energy fields in western Wisconsin are typically being developed in existing farmland.

Telecommunication services are provided to County residents by either CenturyLink or Tri-County Communications.

All cities and villages and one unincorporated area in the county have public sewer and water facilities (Table 10 and Table 11). The cities of Blair and Whitehall have a shared wastewater treatment facility. The public sewer and water facilities provide potential growth areas for future residential development. Concentrating residential development to these areas preserves agricultural land and is more sensitive to the environment.

Table 10. Wastewater Treatment Plants

Name of Facility	Location
Arcadia WWTF	C. Arcadia
Dodge Sanitary District No 1	Dodge
Eleva WWTF	V. Eleva
Ettrick WWTF	V. Ettrick
Galesville WWTF	C. Galesville
Independence WWTF	C. Independence
Osseo WWTF	C. Osseo
Pigeon Falls WWTF	V. Pigeon Falls
Strum WWTF	V. Strum
Trempealeau WWTF	V. Trempealeau
WhitehallWWTF	C. Whitehall

Table 11. Public Water Supply Systems

Name of Facility	Location
Arcadia Electric And Water Utility	C. Arcadia
Blair Municipal Water Utility	C. Blair
Dodge Sanitary District No. 1	Dodge
Eleva Municipal Water Utility	V. Eleva
Ettrick Municipal Water Utility	V. Ettrick
Galesville Municipal Water Utility	C. Galesville
Independence Water Utility	C. Independence
Osseo Municipal Water Utility	C. Osseo
Pigeon Falls Municipal Water Utility	V. Pigeon Falls
Strum Municipal Utilities	V. Strum
Trempealeau Municipal Elec. & Water	V. Trempealeau
Whitehall Municipal Water Utility	C. Whitehall

All cities and villages except for the Village of Pigeon Falls maintain a police department, (Table 12). The Trempealeau County Sheriff's office provides coverage to unincorporated areas of the county and the Village of Pigeon. Thirteen volunteer fire/rescue departments (Table 13) provide fire protection and emergency services for county residents.

Table 12. Law Enforcement

Name of Facility	Location
Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office	C. Whitehall
Arcadia Police Department	C. Arcadia
Blair Police Department	C. Blair
Eleva Police Department	V. Eleva
Ettrick Police Department	V. Ettrick
Galesville Police Department	C. Galesville
Independence Police Department	C. Independence
Osseo Police Department	C. Osseo
Strum Police Department	V. Strum
Trempealeau Police Department	V. Trempealeau
Whitehall Police Department	C. Whitehall

Table 13. Fire and Rescue

Name of Facility	Location
Arcadia/Glencoe Fire Dept.	C. Arcadia
Blair/Preston Volunteer Fire Department	C. Blair
Dodge Volunteer Fire Department	Dodge
Eleva Volunteer Fire Department	V. Eleva
Ettrick Volunteer Fire Department	V. Ettrick
Hale Township Fire Department	C. Whitehall
Galesville Area Fire Department	C. Galesville
Independence Volunteer Fire Department	C. Independence
Osseo Rural Fire Department	C. Osseo
Pigeon Falls Volunteer Fire Department	V. Pigeon Falls
Strum /Unity Volunteer Fire Department	V. Strum
Trempealeau Volunteer Fire Department	V. Trempealeau
Whitehall Volunteer Fire Department	C. Whitehall

Health Care services are provided throughout the county (Table 14). There are two hospitals in Trempealeau County located Osseo and Whitehall. Nine clinics are also located in six cities in the county.

Table 14. Health Care – Hospitals and Clinics

Name of Facility	Location
Luther Midlefort Oakridge-Osseo Hospital	C. Osseo
Tri-County Memorial Hospital, Inc.	C. Whitehall
Mayo Clinic Health System	C. Arcadia
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Ctr - Blair	C. Blair
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Ctr -	C. Independence
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Ctr -Galesville	C. Galesville
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Ctr - Whitehall	C. Whitehall
Prevea - Arcadia	C. Arcadia
Marshfield Clinic - Osseo	C. Osseo
Buffalo River Clinic	C. Osseo
Ashley Wellness Center	C. Arcadia

Educational facilities are important for future development and growth of a population. Trempealeau County is served by seven school districts which have school facilities in nine cities and villages in the county (Table 15). Western Technical College maintains a facility in Independence which provides advanced educational opportunities for county residents.

Table 15. Schools

Arcadia School District	C. Arcadia	Arcadia Elementary, Middle & High School
Blair-Taylor School District	C. Blair	Soset Chart School-Elementary School, Blair-Taylor Elementary and Middle-High School
Eleva-Strum School District	V. Strum	Eleva Elementary, Strum Elementary, Eleva Strum Middle-High School
Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau District	C. Galesville	Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau Middle/High School; Ettrick, Galesville, and Trempealeau Elementary
Independence School District	C. Independence	Independence Elementary, Middle and High Schools
Osseo-Fairchild School District	C. Osseo	Fairchild Elementary, Osseo Elementary, Osseo Middle School, Osseo-Fairchild High School
Whitehall School District	C. Whitehall	Whitehall Memorial Elementary, Whitehall Memorial Jr./Sr. High

Residents Opinions on Agriculture - Trempealeau County Conservation Survey

Trempealeau County's UW-Extension Office worked with University of Wisconsin-River Falls Survey Research Center and mailed a surveyed to 1,567 farmland owners in Trempealeau County in December 2013. The purpose of this study was to gather information and opinions about conservation issues from Trempealeau County farmland owners. The response rate was 43% (672 usable returns). The survey provides some valuable insight into farmland owners' opinions in the County as well as some trends in agriculture.

With regard to cropping and crops grown, corn accounted for a third of the acreage in 2013 among respondents. Hay, woodland, or soybeans comprised about 15% each. Permanent pasture, conservation practices, non-agricultural uses, idle cropland, small grains, and fruit/greenhouse/nursery comprised relatively small percentages of the total acreage. As far as tillage systems used, no till was the most frequent (77%) practice. About half of respondents said they use reduced till. A third of respondents said

they use either mulch till or conventional tillage systems. Only one in four respondents said they use vertical tillage such as Turbo Till.

The results of the survey also indicated that Trempealeau County farmland owners have a substantial conservation ethic with respect to farming practices and conservation. As survey respondents most strongly agreed that farmers have a responsibility to protect soil (53% strongly agree and 45% agree) and that conservation is an important part of farm practice (49% strongly agree and 48% agree).

4. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL LAND USES

Trempealeau County today is a result of its rich agricultural history and abundance of agricultural resources and land uses. Agriculture as an industry continues to contribute significantly to the economic, environmental, and social vitality of the county, and its communities. Preserving the agricultural resources remains a challenge as it was in 1981 when Trempealeau County adopted its first Farmland Preservation Plan as demonstrated from the following excerpt from the 1981 plan.

"During the past 10 year period, fully 52% of all new housing constructed within Trempealeau County, has occurred in the rural unincorporated areas. Without the goals and policies contained within this plan, this pattern of development would be expected to continue. Although some towns may not have experienced the developmental pressures exerted on the more industrialized towns or towns situated near the rapidly expanding population and· industrial centers of La Crosse and Eau Claire, considerable residential development has occurred in most (if not all) townships within the county. It is because of the conversion of agricultural land to other land uses as well as the substantial potential for urban vs. rural land use conflicts that the preservation of agricultural land for future crop production has become of critical concern for Trempealeau County. "

Many of the same agriculture conversion pressures exist today as residential (urban) development continues to threaten farmland and the farming lifestyle. New pressures such as frac sand mining that will potentially take land out of agricultural production and an increase of recreational landowners both of whom see the value of the land differently from traditional agricultural landowners. These changes often lead to farmers reconsidering investments into their farm operations as these patterns of development occur. Agricultural producers fear these uses as they may interfere with their operations as new residents may view farm practices such as manure spreading and nighttime harvesting as nuisances. It is important to recognize potential threats to agriculture and evaluate existing agricultural land uses and resources when making farmland preservation decisions. The following tables will assist in reviewing agricultural trends in land use and land value in Trempealeau County.

Trends in agricultural resources and agricultural land were evaluated by reviewing Agricultural Census findings over the last ten years. Table 16 illustrates changes in the number of farms and land in farms between 2002, 2007 and 2012. In the past ten years the number of farms decreased 17.7% from 1,744 farms in 2002 to 1,436 farms in 2012. Though the number of farms decreased the size of farms (acreage) increased from 211 acres in 2002 to 225 acres in 2012. Interesting to note is that the total farm acreage in Trempealeau County dropped slightly over the ten-year period from 469,813 acres in 2002 to 469,098 acres in 2012. For the five-year period 2007 to 2012 total farm acreage only dropped 2 acres according to Agricultural Census data.



A Trempealeau County Dairy Farm

Table 16. Land in Farms – 2002, 2007, and 2012

	2002		2007		2012		2002-2012	
Trempealeau County	**No. of farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of farms**	**No. of Acres**	**% Chge No. of Farms**	**% Chge No. of Acres**
Number of Farms	1,744		1,721		1,436		-17.7	
Land in Farms	-	367,830		341,370		323,157		-12.1
Average Size of Farm	-	211		198		225		6.6
Approx. Total Land Area	-	469,813		469,100		469,098		-0.2
Percent of Land in Farms	78.3%		72.8%		68.9%			
Size of Farm:								
1 to 9 acres	59	304	53	209	55	260	-6.8	-14.5
10 to 49 acres	248	7,913	312	9,628	326	9,603	31.5	21.4
50 to 69 acres	108	6,636	128	7,792	104	6,156	-3.7	-7.2
70 to 99 acres	240	19,663	227	18,718	142	11,808	-40.8	-39.9
100 to 139 acres	226	26,934	244	28,955	166	19,626	-26.5	-27.1
140 to 179 acres	217	34,486	190	30,351	137	21,760	-36.9	-36.9
180 to 219 acres	138	27,420	136	27,016	95	19,016	-31.2	-30.6
220 to 259 acres	107	25,502	101	23,984	79	18,662	-26.2	-26.8
260 to 499 acres	258	91,527	203	70,567	195	68,147	-24.4	-25.5
500 to 999 acres	106	71,285	86	57,142	84	56,684	-20.8	-20.5
1,000 to 1999 acres	29	35,345	32	41,504	37	48,723	27.6	37.8
2,000 acres or more	8	20,815	9	25,504	16	42,712	100.0	105.2

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php; USDA – 2002, 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture

Table 17 illustrates farm land uses in the County between 2002 and 2012. The amount of pastureland and cropland used for pastureland had the largest reductions at 31.9% and 77.1% respectively. Total cropland acreage declined by 10% while harvested cropland increased by 7.7% in the county. The total amount of woodland also decreased by 22.2% or 22,213 acres. Land used for vegetables and vegetables harvested for sale increased from 976 acres to 2,328 acres.



Pastureland

Table 17. Farm Land Uses – 2002, 2007 and 2012

	2002		2007		2012		2002-2012	2002-2012
Trempealeau County	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**% Chge No. of Farms**	**% Chge No. of Acres**
Total Cropland	1,530	219,785	1,482	192,304	1,248	197,816	-18.4	-10.0
Harvested Cropland	997	162,850	910	149,821	964	175,392	-3.3	7.7
Cropland Used Only for Pasture or Grazing	524	20,055	304	9,744	161	4,472	-69.3	-77.7
Total Woodland	1,260	100,219	1,309	94,576	1,003	78,006	-20.4	-22.2
Permanent pasture (other than cropland or wooded pasture)	610	23,178	772	28,392	663	25,883	8.7	11.7
Land in farmsteads (bldgs, livestock, facilities, ponds, roads, etc.)	1,215	24,648	1,291	26,098	1,101	21,452	-9.4	-13.0
Pastureland, all types	1,018	62,820	939	52,107	772	42,758	-24.2	-31.9
Land used for vegetables and vegetables harvested for sale(1)	19	976	32	2,410	21	2,328	10.5	138.5
Land in orchards	23	491	16	494	25	425	8.7	-13.4

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php; USDA – 2002, 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture

(1) 2002 data do not include potatoes, sweet potatoes, or ginseng.

Land Values According to a WASS report, agricultural land values in Trempealeau County have risen dramatically from 2000 to 2012. Table 18 shows the value of agricultural land with farm buildings and the value of agricultural land without buildings. Over the 12 year period, agricultural land without buildings increased by 113% from $1,318 per acre in 2000 to $2,807 per acre in 2012. Agricultural land with buildings increased at a greater percentage (161%) over the twelve year period from $1,719 per acre to $4,487.

Table 18: Trempealeau County Farmland Average Price Per Acre, 2000-2012

Year	Ag Land Without Buildings	Ag Land with Buildings
2000	$1,318	$1,719
2001	$1,230	$1,428
2002	$1,248	$1,850
2003	$1,323	$2,004
2004	$1,514	$2,161
2005	$1,534	$2,490
2006	$2,033	$3,046
2007	$1,971	$2,485
2008	$2,422	$2,982
2009	$2,181	$3,487
2010	$2,788	$3,400
2011	$3,179	$3,265
2012	$2,807	$4,487
% Chge 2000-2012	**113%**	**161%**

Source:http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Land_Sales/, USDA Nat'l Ag. Statistics Service

Table19 illustrates whether agricultural land sold remained in agriculture or was diverted to another use. After 2004 and continuing through 2012 the amount of agricultural land sold diverted to other uses decreased. The price of land also significantly increased from $1,828 per acre in 2004 to $3,876 per acre in 2012. Much of this can be attributed to rising commodity prices.

Table 19: Trempealeau County Agricultural Land Sales

Year	Agricultural Land Continuing in Agricultural Use		Agricultural Land Being Diverted to Other Uses		Total of all Ag Land	
	No. Acres Sold	$ per Acre	No. Acres Sold	$ per Acre	No. Acres Sold	$ per Acre
2000	2,740	1,577	954	1,465	3,694	1,548
2001	2,398	1,255	2,284	1,486	4,682	1,368
2002	2,647	1,514	664	1,571	3,311	1,525
2003	2,140	1,725	1,519	1,688	3,659	1,710
2004	3,809	1,840	911	1,778	4,720	1,828
2005	3,312	2,030	229	3,856	3,541	2,148
2006	2,114	2,177	130	5,647	2,244	2,378
2007	2,911	2,297	8	2,463	2,919	2,297
2008	2,418	2,700	126	2,692	2,544	2,700
2009	1,441	2,773	24	3,188	1,465	2,779
2010	2,817	3,092	38	3,503	2,855	3,097
2011	2,754	3,181	39	4,650	2,793	3,202
2012	1,638	3,876	0	0	1,638	3,876
% Chge 2000-2012		**145.8**				**150.4**

Source: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Land_Sales/, USDA Nat'l Ag. Statistics Service

The total average market value per farm grew 87% in a ten year time period (Table 20). This further illustrates a strong agricultural economy in Trempealeau County.

Table 20. Farms Market Value

	2002		2007		2012	
	No. of Farms	$ Amt	No. of Farms	$ Amt	No. of Farms	$ Amt
Est. Market value of land & bldgs	1,744	668,768,000	1,721	892,303,000	1,436	1,033,131,000
Average market value per farm	-	383,248	-	518,480	-	719,451
Average market value per acre	-	1,794	-	2,614	-	3,197

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA, Census of Agriculture

Table 21 highlights the number of farms in selected value ranges. The greatest number of farms (465) have a market value of land and buildings between $200,000 and $499,999 in 2012.

Table 21. Farm Values

Trempealeau County	2002 Number of Farms	2007 Number of Farms	2012 Number of Farms	% Difference 2002-2007	% Difference 2007-2012	% Difference 2002-2012
Market value of farm land and bldgs						
$1 to $49,999	137	91	96	-33.6	5.5	-29.9
$50,000 to $99,999	267	173	104	-35.2	-39.9	-61.0
$100,000 to $199,999	585	344	264	-41.2	-23.3	-54.9
$200,000 to $499,999	473	587	465	24.1	-20.8	-1.7
$500,000 to $999,999	111	326	244	193.7	-25.2	119.8
$1,000,000 to $1,999,999	114	133	159	16.7	19.5	39.5
$2,000,000 to $4,999,999	50	55	73	10.0	32.7	46.0
$5,000,000 to $9,999,999	7	10	27	42.9	170.0	285.7
$10,000,000 or more	1	2	4	100.0	100.0	300.0

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

5. AGRICULTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

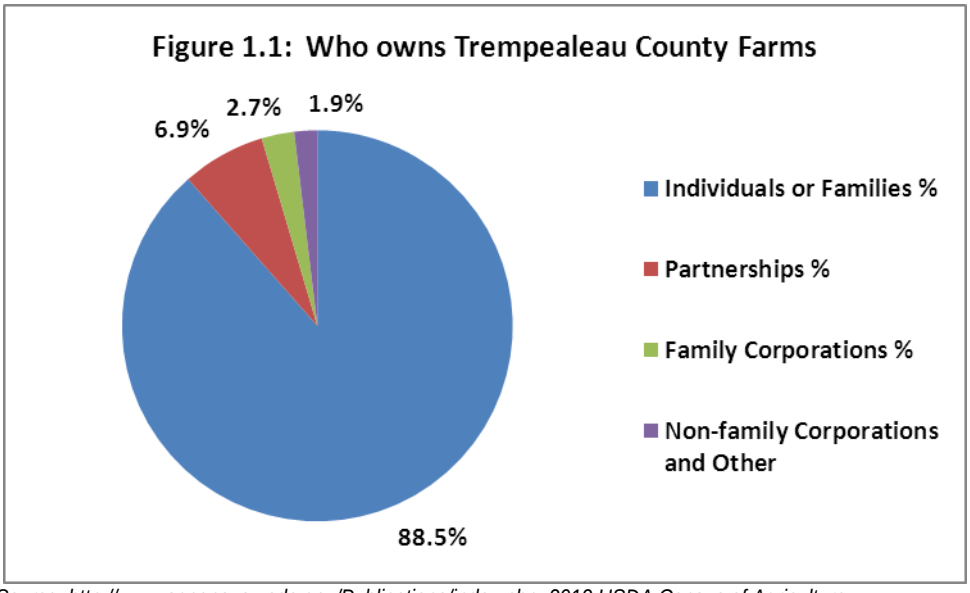
Agriculture remains vital to Trempealeau County's economic well-being. Agriculture provides economic growth, jobs and opportunities for business development. From a UW-Extension "Trempealeau County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact, 2011 Report" agriculture provides 4,778 jobs in the county and accounts for $782 million in business sales. Agriculture also contributes $207 million to county income and accounts for about $17 million in taxes. The following tables and charts will help define in greater detail the economic influences and impacts that agriculture has on Trempealeau County. Defining the economic and business impacts of agriculture on the county will help in determining the best ways to secure agriculture's future through farmland preservation planning.

Table 22 and Figure 1 illustrate how farm ownership is organized. The number of family or individual owned farms has decreased by 17.8% from 2002 to 2012. Over same time period the number of Corporation: family held farms as increased by 22.6%. However, the vast majority of farms in the county are still family or individually owned (1,271 farms).

Table 22. Type of Farm Organization

	2002		2007		2012		% Chg 2002-2007		% Chg 2007-2012		% Chg 2002-2012	
Trempealeau County	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Acres**
Family or Individual	1,567	300,626	1,513	269,054	1,271	246,986	-3.4	-10.5	-16.0	-8.2	-18.9	-17.8
Partnership	133	43,475	148	48,423	99	48,625	11.3	11.4	-33.1	0.4	-25.6	11.8
Corporation: family held	31	18,931	39	20,443	38	20,947	25.8	8.0	-2.6	2.5	22.6	10.6
Corporation: other than family held	4	(D)	5	662	2	(D)	25.0	N/A	-60.0	N/A	-50.0	N/A
Other-cooperative, estate or trust, instit.etc.	9	(D)	16	2,788	26	(D)	77.8	N/A	62.5	N/A	188.9	N/A
Total Farms	**1,744**	**-**	**1,721**	**-**	**1,436**	**0**	-1.3	N/A	-16.6	-8.2	-17.7	N/A

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture



Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture

Tables 23 and 24 indicate number of farms by livestock, poultry, and crops in the County. The information illustrates the changes in farming as the number of farms with milk cows in the county dropped by 37.1% from 2002-2012 but the number of milk cows only dropped by 3.1%. The number of beef cattle increased by 27.1% from 2002-2012 while the number of farms with beef cattle only increased by 1.1% over the same time period. Hogs and pigs both in number and farms dropped by 27.3% and 33.9% respectively over the 10 year period. The poultry industry in the county continues to increase as both the number of farms and animals increased from 2002-2012.

Table 23: Livestock and Poultry

	2002		2007		2012		No Chge 2002-2012	% Chg 2002-2012
Trempealeau County	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Animals**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Animals**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Animals**	**No. of Farms**	**No. of Animals**
Cattle & calves inventory	741	62,976	668	61,576	553	60,944	-25.4	-3.2
Beef cattle	275	5,086	314	5,566	278	6,466	1.1	27.1
Milk cows	310	22,046	257	21,811	195	21,373	-37.1	-3.1
Cattle & calves sold	652	25,499	576	24,237	501	24,096	-23.2	-5.5
Hogs & pigs inventory	44	6,100	52	7,443	32	4,032	-27.3	-33.9
Hogs & pigs sold	57	13,454	58	18,944	25	(D)	-56.1	N/A
Sheep & lamb inventory	42	1,279	55	1,863	25	924	-40.5	-27.8
Layers inventory	68	70,442	94	98,781	94	88,548	38.2	25.7
Broilers & other meat-type chickens sold	58	19,126,486	68	23,547,301	76	23,779,098	31.0	24.3

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Dairy farming is a large part of Trempealeau County's agricultural economy as there are 6 plants that process dairy products in Trempealeau County according to Wis. DATCP Wisconsin Dairy Plant Directory. On-farm milk production accounts for 987 jobs, and dairy processing accounted for 1,142 jobs at the County level, each dairy cow generated $3,615 in on-farm sales to producers, while at the state level each dairy cow generated $21,000 in total sales (Source: UW Extension – Trempealeau County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact, 2011).

Corn is the largest crop by acreage (82,920) grown in the County. Forage land used for hay, grass silage & green chop is second at 42,756 acres followed by soybeans at 32,118 acres. Interesting to note is that corn and soybean acreage increased from 2007 to 2012 by 25.5% and 44.8% respectively, while acreage for hay, grass silage & green chop decreased by 10.8%.



Trempealeau County Cropland

Table 24. Crops

Trempealeau County	2007			2012			% Chg 2007-2012	% Chg 2007-2012	% Chg 2007-2012
	No. of Farms	No. of Acres	No. of bushels/ tons	No. of Farms	No. of Acres	No. of bushels/ tons	No. of Farms	No. of Acres	No. of bushels/ tons
Corn for grain	565	66,061	8,996,880	683	82,920	10,192,359	20.9	25.5	13.3
Corn for silage or greenchop (1)	247	8,463	138,196	229	11,677	196,101	-7.3	38.0	41.9
Winter wheat for grain	14	529	29,264	9	(D)	(D)	-35.7	N/A	N/A
Oats for grain	149	2,576	149,318	99	1,976	98,878	-33.6	-23.3	-33.8
Barley for grain	12	177	8,375	14	324	14,891	16.7	83.1	77.8
Soybeans for beans	275	22,182	802,971	321	32,118	1,216,047	16.7	44.8	51.4
Forage–land used for all hay & all haylage, grass silage, & greenchop (1)	721	47,930	171,735	649	42,756	152,068	-10.0	-10.8	-11.5
Vegetables harvested for sale	32	3,126	-	21	2,329	-	-34.4	-25.5	-
Potatoes	3	6	-	5	2		66.7	-66.7	-
Land in orchards	16	494	-	25	425	-	56.3	-14.0	-

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture (1) = crops shown are in tons

Specialty Crops, Nurseries, Etc.

Specialty crop farming may provide additional agricultural production opportunities within developing commercial and residential areas where large tracts of agricultural lands are not available. Unlike traditional crops such as corn or soybeans, the profitability of farming nontraditional crops is not closely tied to large acreage requirements. Specialty crops can provide substantial revenues to the County's economy while diversifying and stabilizing the agricultural industry in the face of increased development pressures. They can provide supplemental income opportunities for traditional farm operations as well as opportunities for hobby farms and recreational landowners. Having a local market for specialty crops is also important to enhance the growth of the sector.

Farming operations, other than dairying, corn, and soybean, include those identified in Tables 25 and 26. The information illustrates that floriculture has grown slightly in the county from 2002 to 2012 while the amount of maple syrup produced increased from 2002 to 2007 to 285 gallons then production decreased in 2012 to 233 gallons.

Table 25. Floriculture Crops - Bedding/Garden Plants, Cut Flowers and Cut Florist Greens, Foliage Plants, Potted Flowering Plants, and Other Floriculture And Bedding Crops

Trempealeau County	2002	2007	2012
Number of Farms	6	8	7
Sq. Ft. Under Glass or Other Protection	19,094	20,160	22,804
Acres in the Open	-	3	(D)
Value of Sales	NA	$232,590	(D)

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Table 26. Maple Syrup

Trempealeau County	2002	2007	2012
Number of Farms	8	10	6
Number of Taps	1,394	2,385	2,000
Syrup Produced (Gallons)	159	285	233

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Organic Farming in Trempealeau County

The 2012 Census of Agriculture did not report organic farm acreage, see Table 27. The "2010 Directory of Organic Farms and Business" that was compiled by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection reported that as of 2010 there were 20 certified organic farming operations in Trempealeau County totaling 4,723 acres.

Table 27. Organic Agriculture

	2007		2012	
Trempealeau County	**No. of farms**	**No. of acres**	**No. of farms**	**No. of acres**
Farms & acres used for organic production	37	6,084	36	N/A
Farms & acres from which organic crops were harvested	33	4,028	N/A	N/A
Farms & acres of organic pastureland	28	1,915	N/A	N/A
Farms & acres being converted to organic production	15	962	2	N/A

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Federal support for organic production systems, including financial assistance for farmers completing the certification process and funding for organic research, has increased in each of the last three farm acts. The continued support for organic farming will provide growth opportunities for organic farming in Trempealeau County. The Agricultural Act of 2014 states:

- Expands funding to assist organic producers and handlers with the cost of organic certification. Mandatory funding more than doubles from the 2008 Farm Act's mandate to $57.5 million over the lifespan of the 2014 Act.
- Continues mandatory funding to improve economic data on the organic sector at $5 million over the lifespan of the Act; another $5 million is added to upgrade the database and technology systems of USDA's National Organic Program.
- Expands total mandatory organic research funding to $100 million. Authorized funding for the National Organic Program expands to $15 million annually.
- Exempts certified organic producers from having to pay for conventional commodity promotion programs on their organic production, and establishes the option for an organic promotion program.
- Requires improvements in crop insurance for organic producers and strengthens enforcement of organic regulations.

Table 28 identifies Trempealeau County farm operations by NAICS classification. Grain farming (450), crop farming (370), beef cattle (207) and dairy (167) farming compose 83% percent of the farming operations in Trempealeau County. From 2002-2012 the number of grain farms in the county increased by 51.1% while dairy farms decreased by 41.4%

Table 28. Farms by North American Industrial Classification System

	2002	2007	2012			
Trempealeau County	**No. of farms**	**No. of farms**	**No. of farms**	**% Chge 2002-2007**	**% Chge 2007-2012**	**% Chge 2002-2012**
Total farms	**1,744**	**1,721**	**1,436**	**-1.3**	**-16.6**	**-17.7**
Oilseed and grain farming (1111)	297	271	450	-8.8	66.1	51.5
Vegetable and melon farming (1112)	5	13	6	160.0	-53.8	20.0
Fruit and tree nut farming (1113)	14	15	20	7.1	33.3	42.9
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	14	18	13	28.6	-27.8	-7.1
Other crop farming (1119)	649	668	370	2.9	-44.6	-43.0
Beef cattle ranching and farming (112111)	202	243	207	20.3	-14.8	2.5
Cattle feedlots (112112)	85	43	20	-49.4	-53.5	-76.5
Dairy cattle and milk production (11212)	285	233	167	-18.2	-28.3	-41.4
Hog and pig farming (1122)	12	15	7	25.0	-53.3	-41.7
Poultry and egg production (1123)	55	89	77	61.8	-13.5	40.0
Sheep and goat farming (1124)	18	20	21	11.1	5.0	16.7
Other animal production (1129)	108	93	78	-13.9	-16.1	-27.8

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Table 29 illustrates selected farm practices in Trempealeau County in 2012. The table shows that numerous farms produced and sold value added commodities, market directly to retail outlets, or have on farm packing facilities and demonstrate the different business practices used by agricultural producers.

Table 29. Selected Practices in Trempealeau County – 2012

Practiced alley cropping or silvopasture (farms)	Harvested biomass for use in renewable energy (farms)	Practiced rotational or management-intensive grazing (farms)	Marketed products directly to retail outlets (farms)	Produced and sold value-added commodities (farms)	Marketed products through community supported agriculture (CSA) (farms)	Raised or sold veal calves (farms)	On-farm packing facility (farms)
14	23	454	94	98	33	22	79

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

The market value of agricultural products sold on Trempealeau County farms increased by 124.5% during a 10 year span (2002-2012) (Table 30). The average sales per farm increased 172.7% over the period.

Table 30. Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (1000's) – 2002, 2007, and 2012

	2002		2007		2012		2002-2007		2007-2012		2002-2012	
	No. of farms	Amount ($1,000s)/ dollars	No. of farms	Amount ($1,000s)/ dollars	No. of farms	Amount ($1,000s)/ dollars	% Chge No. of Farms	% Chge Market Value	% Chge No. of Farms	% Chge Market Value	% Chge No. of Farms	% Chge Market Value
Total sales	1,744	119,743	1,721	192,439	1,436	268,881	-1.3	60.7	-16.6	39.7	-17.7	124.5
Average sales per farm (1)		68,660		111,818		187,243		63		67		172.7
Value of sales:												
Less than $1,000	690	33	719	52	397	25	4.2	57.6	-44.8	-51.9	-42.5	-24.2
$1,000 to $2,499	91	148	84	141	84	145	-7.7	-4.7	0.0	2.8	-7.7	-2.0
$2,500 to $4,999	120	444	109	403	96	352	-9.2	-9.2	-11.9	-12.7	-20.0	-20.7
$5,000 to $9,999	107	783	125	885	108	728	16.8	13.0	-13.6	-17.7	0.9	-7.0
$10,000 to $19,999	134	1,899	107	1,573	108	1,569	-20.1	-17.2	0.9	-0.3	-19.4	-17.4
$20,000 to $24,999	41	918	32	726	36	810	-22.0	-20.9	12.5	11.6	-12.2	-11.8
$25,000 to $39,999	82	2,668	78	2,383	66	2,117	-4.9	-10.7	-15.4	-11.2	-19.5	-20.7
$40,000 to $49,999	54	2,400	33	1,487	59	2,648	-38.9	-38.0	78.8	78.1	9.3	10.3
$50,000 to $99,999	164	11,610	117	8,503	132	9,660	-28.7	-26.8	12.8	13.6	-19.5	-16.8
$100,000 to $249,999	155	24,857	139	22,263	129	21,062	-10.3	-10.4	-7.2	-5.4	-16.8	-15.3
$250,000 to $499,999	48	16,874	73	25,933	82	29,612	52.1	53.7	12.3	14.2	70.8	75.5
$500,000 or more	58	57,110	105	128,090	139	200,153	81.0	124.3	32.4	56.3	139.7	250.5

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture (2) Dollars

The market value of farm products sold in Trempealeau County from the 2012 Census of Agriculture are listed below:

- $78.2 million Milk
- $77.4 million Poultry & eggs
- $76.3 million Grains, Oilseeds, Dry Beans, and Dry Peas
- $21 million Cattle & Calves
- $59.4 million Corn
- $16.4 million Soybeans

Source: 2012 Census – Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold Including Direct Sales

The market value of livestock, dairy, and poultry products increased from 2002 to 2012 as cattle and calves increased by 40% while poultry and eggs increased by 109.4% (Table 31). During this same time period, farm production expense increased on average per farm by 174.1% (Table 32). Similarly, average farm-related income grew by 183.8% percent (Table 33).

Table 31: Market Value of Livestock & Poultry Products Sold – 2002, 2007, and 2012

	2002		2007		2012		% Chge 2002-2007		% Chge 2007-2012		% Chge 2002-2012	
Trempealeau County	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)
Total livestock, poultry, & their products	810	98,240	772	160,749	650	181,284	-4.69	63.63	-15.8	12.8	-19.8	84.5
Poultry and eggs	94	36,956	157	60,845	131	77,386	67.02	64.64	-16.6	27.2	39.36	109.4
Cattle and calves	652	15,048	576	17,963	501	21,068	-11.66	19.37	-13.0	17.3	-23.2	40.0
Milk & other dairy products from cows	312	44,069	249	78,098	188	78,190	-20.19	77.22	-24	0.1	-39.7	77.4
Hogs and pigs	57	957	58	2,191	25	NA	1.75	128.94	-56.9	NA	-56.1	NA
Sheep, goats and their products	43	130	66	282	38	NA	53.49	116.92	-42.4	NA	-11.6	NA

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Table 32. Farm Production Expenses - 2002, 2007 and 2012

	2002		2007		2012		Percent Chge 2002-2007		Percent Chge 2007-2012		Percent Chge 2002-2012	
Trempealeau County	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)
Total farm production expenses	1,745	96,809	1,721	144,756	1,436	218,348	-1.4	49.5	-16.6	50.8	-17.7	125.5
Average per farm	-	55,478	-	84,112	-	152,053	NA	51.6	NA	80.8	NA	174.1
Property taxes paid	1,645	6,251	1,651	7,591	1,380	6,964	0.4	21.4	-16.4	-8.3	-16.1	11.4

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Table 33. Income from Farm-related Sources - 2007 and 2012

	2002		2007		2012		Percent Chge 2002-2007		Percent Chge 2007-2012		Percent Chge 2002-2012	
Trempealeau County	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)
Total income from farm related sources, gross before taxes and expenses	874	3,517	936	6,173	885	10,109	7.1	75.5	-5.4	63.8	1.3	187.4
Average per farm		4,024		6,595		11,422	NA	63.9	NA	73.2	NA	183.8

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Agri-Tourism

Agri-tourism is another opportunity that can benefit small- and medium-sized farms and enhance the local economy. Agri-tourism can potentially be an economic development engine providing support to local businesses by creating demand for new services and providing supplemental income to agricultural operations. Sales made directly at a farm often result in greater returns to the grower than if agricultural commodities were sold at wholesale prices. The economic impact of agri-tourism is more immediate and provides a direct connection between locally owned and operated producer and the consumer.

Direct marketing sales added $125,000 annually to the county economy (Table 34) . Trempealeau County farmers sell directly to consumers through roadside stands, farmers' markets, auctions, pick-your-own operations, and community supported agriculture (CSA). In all, 23 farmers generate $125,000 annually in direct-marketing sales.

Table 34. Agri-tourism and Recreational Services - 2002, 2007, and 2012 FIX TABLE

	2002	2007			2012		Percent Chge 2002-2007		Percent Chge 2007-2012		Percent Chge 2002-2012	
Trempealeau County	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)	No. of farms	Amt ($1,000)
Agri-tourism & recreational services	22	57	18	304	23	125	-18.2	433.3	27.8	-58.9	4.5	119.3

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Agricultural Infrastructure (businesses and services)

Farming infrastructure includes businesses and services such as a feed mills, equipment vendors, farm supply businesses, and food processing facilities. Table 35 provides a small sampling of one aspect of infrastructure capacity available in Trempealeau County, showing the latest numbers for grain storage capacity in the County, with capability of over 9 million bushels of storage. Over the 10 year period the number farms with grain storage facilities decreased by 32.4% but the average bushels stored increased 73.4% from 16,672 bushels to 28,903 bushels.

Table 35. Grain Storage Capacity - 2012

Trempealeau County	2002	2007	2012	% Chge 2002-2007	% Chge 2007-2012	% Chge 2002-2012
Number of farms	411	357	278	-13.1	-22.1	-32.4
Number of bushels	6,852,036	7,827,210	8,035,152	14.2	2.7	17.3
Average bushels per farm	16,672	21,925	28,903	31.5	31.8	73.4

Source: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/index.php, USDA Census of Agriculture

Agriculture transportation and supply facilities in Trempealeau County are listed in Table 36. There are twenty-one agriculture transportation and supply facilities located in Trempealeau County. Historically (1950's, 1960's, etc.), there were more facilities throughout the county due to transportation limitations and smaller market areas. The more recent trend has been fewer but larger or expanding facilities. In recent years, several agriculture storage and supply facilities have expanded existing facilities in the county and this trend is anticipated to continue.

Table 36. Agriculture Transportation and Supply Facilities

Facilities in Trempealeau County	Location	Facilities in Trempealeau County	Location
Hoesley & Wagner Implement	Dodge	Kujak Livestock	Kujak Livestock
Peterson Implement Co	Whitehall	Kujak Transport	Kujak Tranksport
Value Implement	Arcadia	Gold N Plump	Arcadia
Value Implement	Osseo	Pleasantville Ag Service	Whitehall
Centerville Co-Op Creamery Assn	Trempealeau	River Valley Ag	Trempealeau
Andersen Feeds Inc	Galesville	Schlessers Greenhouse	Arcadia
Farmers' Co-operative Supply & Shipping Ass'n	Galesville	Simmons Poultry Farms Inc	Trempealeau
Galesville Grain Roasting Inc	Galesville	Tractor Central	Arcadia
Buck Country Grainery	Arcadia	Trempealeau County Farm Bureau	Ettrick
Larson Agri Svc	Arcadia	Volds Implement	Osseo
Bagniewski Greenhouse	Arcadia	Whitehall Ag Service	Whitehall
Arcadia Cooperative Assn	Arcadia	Pleasantville Ag Service	Whitehall
Countryside Cooperative	Osseo	Farmers Organic Foods	Blair
Hegg Mill, LLC	Ettrick	Countryside Coop	Independence
Larson Agri Service Inc	Whitehall	Crossroad Ag LLC	Strum
Countryside Cooperative	Blair	D&D Farm Supply	Ettrick
Countryside Cooperative	Osseo	D&D Farm Supply	Arcadia

Table 36. Agriculture Transportation and Supply Facilities

Facilities in Trempealeau County	Location	Facilities in Trempealeau County	Location
Paulson's Feed Service	Osseo	Ekern Dairy Supply	Blair
Smikrud Trucking	Galesville	Countryside Coop	Strum
Stawarz Trucking	Ettrick	Countryside Coop	Arcadia
Elk Creek Mill	Independence	Countryside Coop	Pigeon Falls
Nelson Grain Dryer/Storage	Osseo	Carharts Blue Top Seed Corn	Galesville
Grain Dryer/Storage (Dave Back)	Strum	Arcadia Farm and Home	Arcadia
Schaefer Grain Farms LLC	Osseo	Arcadia Livestock	Arcadia
LF George	Osseo	Associated Milk Producers	Blair
Lovette Dairy Equipment	Blair	Babson Brothers Co	Galesville
Midwest Farm Supply	Osseo	Blair Auto & Farm	Blair
Equity Livestock	Ettrick	Blair Grain	Blair
Mondovi Coop Equity Assoc	Independence	Bule Ribbon Farm and Seeds	Galesville
Mondovi Coop Mill	Eleva	Bohlinger Feed Service	Whitehall
LF George	Osseo	Brave Harvestore	Independence

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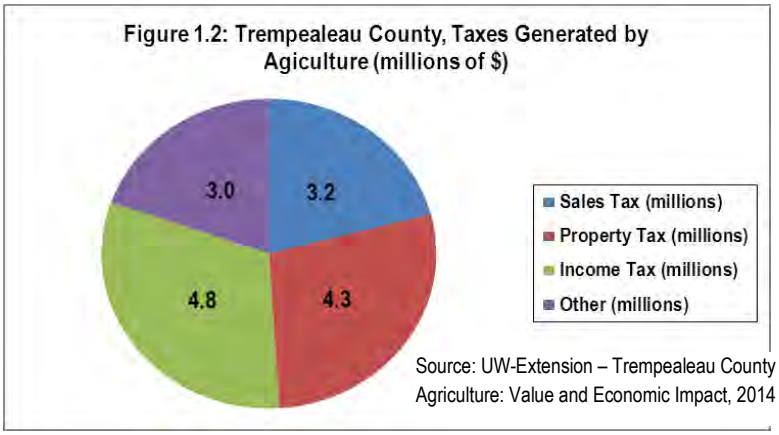
6. AGRICULTURE'S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

The economic contribution of agriculture through producers' purchases of seed, feed, fertilizer, fuel, agricultural chemicals, and equipment from suppliers, and the commodities produced that are subsequently sold at market are significant. In addition to farm operations, several agricultural businesses located within the County such as seed dealers; grain elevators; dairy product processors, sales, and distribution; equipment dealers; roadside farm stands; specialty crop sales; and farm chemical, fuel, and supply dealers contribute to the County's economy through property taxes, sales tax, and employment.

Information from the "UW Extension – Trempealeau County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact, 2014" best summarizes the impact of agriculture on Trempealeau County's economy. In 2014 agriculture generated $1.23 billion in business sales in Trempealeau County. Agriculture's direct effect equaled $824.3 million in the sale of farm products, processed and value added products. Purchases of agriculture and food processing along with services and equipment accounted for $339.8 million in business sales. $69.9 million in business sales was a result of business to business activity. Agriculture in Trempealeau County accounts for approximately $207 million of the County's total income.

As previously illustrated, the population in Trempealeau County is projected to increase by 16.1% by 2040 an increase of 4,634 people and with increased growth comes the need for added services and public infrastructure. Maintaining the agricultural based and preserving farmland is important to providing future services. Agricultural land and production generates tax dollars but little expenses for local governments. The Chart below shows that agriculture pays about $15 million in taxes. Economic activity associated with Trempealeau County farms and agriculture-related businesses generates $15 million in local and state taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to support local schools. If it did, the number would be much higher.

Taxes Generated by Agriculture
$3.2 million Sales Tax
$4.3 million Property Tax
4.8 million -Income Tax
$3 million Other
Total = $15.3 **million**
Source: UW Extension – Trempealeau County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact, 2014



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7. GOALS AND POLICIES/OBJECTIVES TO GUIDE FARMLAND PRESERVATION

A key element of the farmland preservation planning process was to establish Farmland Preservation Goals and develop plan objectives/policies that will enhance and preserve farmland in Trempealeau County. The Environment and Land Use Committee reviewed the goals from the 1981 Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan and determined the goals with minor modifications remain relevant and important to guiding farmland preservation planning in Trempealeau County.

An additional aspect of Farmland Preservation Planning is to ensure that the Farmland Preservation goals and objectives/policies are consistent with County Comprehensive Plan goals. To accomplish this, the goals identified in the County Comprehensive Plan that relate to agricultural preservation have been incorporated into this Farmland Preservation Plan ensuring consistency between the two documents. Listed below is the general purpose of farmland preservation in the County followed by the Farmland Preseravation Plan goals and objectives/policies to aid in defining and implementing the general purpose and goals.

General Purpose Statement

The general purpose statement of the Farmland Preservation Plan in Trempealeau County is to identify all existing agricultural land as well as land that has the potential to be productive agricultural land, and to attempt to preserve those lands while at the same time providing for the future development, planning for future public improvements, preserving critical environmental corridors as well as geologically and socially significant areas, while addressing the concerns of the agricultural and non- agricultural landowners and residents of Trempealeau County. If not preserved, the county's farmland base could become threatened by competing or rural non-farm development. Trempealeau County's abundant farmland and rich agricultural heritage have helped make the county a top-ranking producer in the agricultural industry, and also continues to add to the rural lifestyle that many people seek when moving to the county.

Goals

Public Participation Goal

It is the goal of Trempealeau County to involve as many segments of the Trempealeau County population in the Farmland Preservation process to determine the needs and wishes of Trempealeau County land owners and residents concerning farmland preservation planning, and to utilize applicable local county plans and land management tools as is available to meet the desires and needs of the people of Trempealeau County.

Policies/Objectives

1. To increase public awareness and participation in decisions affecting the agricultural resources of Trempealeau County, and also educate nonfarm residents about the value of prime farmland.
2. To continue to work with Town's to establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) so that farmers can take advantage of the tax incentives offered through Working Lands Initiative.
3. To coordinate preservation activities among all levels of government.
4. To promote the utilization of lands in Trempealeau County in a manner which serves the needs of the county residents, businesses, and farmers, and is consistent with sound economic and environmental principals.

5. To effectively communicate and inform agriculture producers and decision makers in the county regarding the outcomes, plans, laws, implementation tools, and other appropriate information concerning the Farmland Preservation Plan.

Residential and Commercial Growth Goals

To encourage development in existing cities and villages and reduce scattered residential development in the rural unincorporated areas.

Policies/Objectives

1. To encourage future residential, commercial and industrial development within those areas of Trempealeau County that can provide the necessary public infrastructure services.
2. Rural land uses are recommended to be distributed in such a manner as to minimize service costs, facility needs and negative impacts on the local tax base and land valuations.
3. To support the use of subdivision regulations, building codes, zoning ordinances, sanitary codes, and other applicable ordinances which encourage quality residential development.
4. To encourage a broad range of housing types.
5. To support housing for both low and moderate income families living in Trempealeau County.
6. Only support rural residential development on lands having areas designated as non-prime agricultural within the county.
7. When evaluating approval of rural subdivisions determine if a need for additional residential development has been demonstrated.
8. Direct rural non-farm uses to those areas least suitable for agricultural production.
9. Discourage non-farm residential development in areas planned for agricultural preservation or open space use.
10. Discourage isolated non-agricultural commercial and industrial uses in agricultural areas.

Agriculture Goals

To preserve prime agricultural lands in Trempealeau County in order to strengthen, maintain, and encourage a sound agricultural economy.

Public and private actions in Trempealeau County should regard lands which have historically exhibited high agricultural yields as an irreplaceable resource whose value should not be impaired for future generations.

Policies/Objectives

1. Utilize the Trempealeau County Soil Survey to help guide land use decisions.
2. Develop land use regulations which will manage non-agricultural uses of agricultural land which historically exhibited high yields.
3. To prevent wherever possible, rural-urban land use conflicts which can eventually jeopardize farming operations in the county.
4. To encourage conservation practices that improve the quality of our land and provide cost-sharing services to farmers for these practices.
5. Guide rural non-farm uses to those areas least suitable for agricultural production.
6. Support the continuation of the family farm as the basic production farm unit and foundation of the rural Trempealeau County community.

7. Strive to preserve land currently or historically in productive farm use.
8. To encourage the proper handling of animal wastes and chemicals, so that they produce a minimum effect upon ground and surface waters.
9. Encourage agriculture and agriculture-related businesses as a major economic development force in the community.
10. Encourage the preservation of the family farm, cropland, and farmland in the community.
11. Preserve prime farmland for agricultural uses.
12. Preserve agricultural fields in the community from encroachment of incompatible development (limit fragmentation of crop fields).
13. Maintain the agricultural infrastructure to support agricultural operations.
14. Preserve and protect agriculturally productive soils.
15. Encourage the use of conservation easements by private landowners to keep prime agricultural land from being developed.
16. Maintain and improve the agriculture transportation network (public roads) in the county.

Provision for Commercial Uses Goals

Encourage commercial development to be located so that it will be economically feasible to operate a business and provide services to the county in a safe, attractive, and convenient manner.

Policies/Objectives

1. To provide adequate areas for business uses and encourage agriculture related business activity.
2. All developments be planned to effectively control erosion, prevent the ponding of surface waters and contain provisions for the drainage of surface waters in such a manner that they will not affect adjacent properties.
3. Discourage scattered commercial strip development along highways.
4. Encourage the development of commercial areas on non-prime agricultural soils.
5. Encourage the provision of open space in all commercial development.
6. To encourage all commercial activity within the areas that are so located as to provide safe, convenient access to customers and to plan commercial activities that are convenient yet sufficiently buffered from other land uses within the county.

Provisions for Industry Goals

Industry be encouraged to locate into Trempealeau County that will utilize raw materials which result from the proper use of the lands and be compatible with the existing residential, industrial, agricultural, and tourist areas.

To provide for attractive, accessible, and compatible industrial development which provides employment opportunities for the residents of Trempealeau County.

Policies/Objectives

1. To guide industrial development where it is determined that adequate land, transportation, public utility infrastructure exists.
2. To guide industrial development to those areas that are compatible with adjacent land uses.
3. Encourage and assist local groups in establishing and operating industrial/business parks within Trempealeau County.

4. Ensure industrial traffic does not encroach upon residential streets.
5. Encourage the diversification of industry within Trempealeau County.
6. Ensure ample commercial and industrial sites adequately served with public utilities and suitable areas for expansion.
7. Locate industrial areas so that they are readily accessible from residential areas but are visually and functionally compatible with them.

Provision for Public Facilities Goals

To provide an inventory of necessary public facilities and services which will serve the needs of the existing population and accommodate future growth.

Policies/Objectives

1. Encourage future development within existing communities where adequate public services exist, or can be reasonably made available.
2. Evaluate development based on the costs of providing public services versus the tax revenues to be derived from future growth.
3. Support development and the provision of public facilities and services when a sufficient tax base to support the development exists.
4. To encourage public, institutional, and utility facilities in accordance with long range need considerations.
5. Encourage the provision of public services and facilities in areas planned for development, versus in areas planned for agricultural and other open space areas.
6. Discourage the extension of public services and facilities over large undeveloped acreages to serve scattered existing or proposed development.

Provision for Open Space and Recreation Goals

Provide adequate and accessible recreation opportunities for all residents of the county.

To preserve, protect, and enhance the significant natural resources, open space, scenic, historic, and architectural areas of Trempealeau County.

Policies/Objectives

1. Natural resources within Trempealeau County are critically important to the County's future and future land uses should be managed to ensure compatibility.
2. Support the Trempealeau County Parks Committee and Associated Conservation Clubs Of Trempealeau County Inc. to assure the existence of adequate parks and public lands for future demands.
3. To encourage the preservation of scenic, architectural, and historic areas within the county.
4. To be always mindful of the county's abundance of good ground and surface water resources, and continue to protect the resources.
5. Work towards the preservation of areas that have special historical significance.
6. Preserve areas most suitable for future recreational development.
7. Encourage programs that inform local residents about the importance of natural and agricultural resources.

8. Preserve and protect environmental corridors for wildlife, water quality values, habitat protection, ecosystem, and ecology purposes.
9. Supplement open space by preserving large tracts of agricultural land when possible.

Soil and Water Conservation Goals

The Trempealeau County Department of Land Management will provide as much assistance as is available, but it remains the responsibility of the landowner to take the initiative in developing and carrying out a conservation farm plan/conservation practices within the guidelines and standards of the County.

Policies/Objectives

1. Where and when appropriate, utilize state and federal programs to *conserve,* maintain, and protect natural and agricultural resources.
2. Work with farmers to develop Nutrient Management Plans, to ensure off-farm fertilizer resources in a manner that protects the quality of nearby soil and water resources.
3. The Trempealeau County Department of Land Management will inform and assist farmers in addressing noncompliance with Wisconsin's Agricultural Performance Standards, to prevent soil and nutrient pollution and can also provide technical assistance and cost share to farmers to help meet the standards.
4. Continue to foster a healthy partnership between landowners and the Trempealeau County Department of Land Management that is working towards restoring streams and other natural resources to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.
5. To control erosion and sedimentation by advocating the use of best management practices through public education and outreach.

County Comprehensive Plan Goals

A key component of Farmland Preservation Planning is ensuring consistency with the existing Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan. County goals established in the County Comprehensive Plan that relate to agriculture preservation are listed below. Numerous goals of the County Comprehensive Plan are consistent and often times nearly identical to the Farmland Preservation Plan goals.

Selected County Comprehensive Plan Goals

▪Preservation of valuable and productive farmland for existing and future agricultural activity.
▪Support the ability of farm operations to use commonly accepted agricultural practices.
▪Preserve farmland.
▪Continue to support family farming and agricultural activities and discourage non-compatible land uses near farming.
▪Manage the location and density of future non-farm developments (commercial, industrial, residential).
▪Support community facilities and services, which contribute to the overall improvement of the community.
▪Preserve, protect, manage, and improve the county's natural resources.

▪Housing that meets the needs of existing and future community residents, while maintaining a predominantly rural atmosphere. (Previously discussed in the “Municipal Growth Strategies” section of this plan)
▪Reduce and minimize the potential for land use conflicts.
▪Economic development activities, which provide for a healthy, diversified, and sound economy.
▪A safe and efficient transportation system that meets the needs of multiple users.

8. DETERMINING FARMLAND PRESERVATION AREAS

Farmland Preservation areas were determined based on citizen and local elected officials input (town boards, county board and committees), review of existing farmland preservation lands (lands under existing farmland preservation contracts), historical farmland preservation areas (1981 Farmland Preservation Plan), and land use designations derived from the County's Comprehensive Planning process (County Land Use Map). Integrating citizen and local elected officials input with existing farmland preservation activities and current conditions resulted in criteria for designating farmland preservation in this farmland preservation plan update.

Criteria for Determination of Farmland Preservation Areas

Lands designated on Town and County land use maps as Exclusive Agriculture, Exclusive Agriculture-2, Primary Agriculture, or Rural Residential were designated as farmland preservation areas. The lands have historically been in agricultural, forestry, or other agricultural related use or are comprised of soils compatible for agricultural use (soil classes 1, 2, and 3).

Criteria for Determination of Non-Farmland Preservation Areas

Non-Farmland Preservation areas were designated based on existing development (platted subdivisions, groups of small parcels resembling a subdivision, and clusters of parcels 0-10 acres in size), areas adjacent or near to cities and villages designated as residential or commercial on town land use maps, and areas designated or active non-metallic mine sites. Additionally, parcels that are tax exempt, such as churches, cemeteries, non- profit entities, government-owned lands, utilities, and railroads and all incorporated (villages, cities) areas in the County are considered non-farmland preservation areas.

Farmland Preservation Map

To initiate the Farmland Preservation Map update, Trempealeau County and MRRPC staff attended the April 2015 Trempealeau County Town's Association meeting to discuss the process for designating Farmland Preservation Areas in Towns and to request input and assistance from Town Boards. Over the ensuing months, MRRPC and County Staff met individually with elected officials from the fifteen towns and reviewed their Comprehensive Plans/Maps and worked with them on designating Farmland Preservation Areas consistent with their Town Land Use Maps. The town maps created as a part of this public input process were then consolidated to form the Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Map. Farmland Preservation Maps are included in Appendix B and Appendix C.

In the event of inconsistencies between the Farmland Preservation Plan and/or maps and the County Comprehensive Plan and/or maps, the Farmland Preservation Plan and/or maps supersede the County Comprehensive Plan and/or maps and any and all inconsistencies between the documents shall be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan and/or maps.

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9. AGRICULTURE CHALLENGES/TRENDS

Agriculture has influenced Trempealeau County's landscape, communities and its people. Residents have a historical bond to the land and the agricultural traditions that have shaped the county. Preserving farmland is vital to preserving the county residents enjoy. Agriculture faces many challenges and trends in agriculture provide some definition to the challenges. As part of the Farmland Preservation Plan update the Trempealeau County UW-Extension Agricultural Agent provided some insight into agricultural trends and future challenges.

Trends

Trempealeau County Highlights (data from 2007 and 2012 census of agriculture)

- 2012 1,436 farms, down 285 from 2007
- Average farm size 225 acres, up 27 acres from 2007
- Irrigated land up 2,143 acres, total irrigated acres 7,934 in 2012
- Corn for grain acres up 16,859, total corn for grain acres 82,920 for 2012
- 11,677 corn acres cut for silage and green chop in 2012
- Hay acres down significantly 2007 to 2012, down by 5,174 acres to 42,756 acres
- Dairy cow numbers down by 438 to 21,373 cows
- Dairy farm numbers down to 195 from 257 in 2007
- Beef cow numbers are up 900 head from 2007 to 2012 for total beef cow number of 6466
- Broiler chicken production is up 231,797 head 2012 over 2007

Challenges

Trempealeau County faces many challenges and opportunities as we move forward. The drop in dairy cow numbers reflects the sharp downturn in milk prices that was experienced in 2009. This drop in milk prices was accompanied by a large increase in corn prices. This is reflected in the loss of dairy cows and dairy farms. The loss of cows was partially offset by larger dairies adding cows. Some of the cows just changed zip codes. Cows are being concentrated on fewer but larger farms. Hay acres also dropped because of the high corn prices and loss of dairy cows. When new data becomes available we should see a return of hay acres because hay prices were up significantly because of widespread drought and national hay acres being converted to row crops.

Soil conservation is a big challenge as we lose dairy cow numbers and add corn acres. Contour strip cropping and contour buffer strips are being lost with high grain prices. Heavy spring rain events have caused catastrophic erosion.

Business Development, Transportation, and Communication Trends/Challenges to Agriculture Preservation

As discussed previously in this plan the development of the frac sand mining industry in the county has affected agriculture and will continue to do so in the future. The development of frac sand mines has taken farmland out of production. In 2013 there were 81 permitted non-metallic mines in Trempealeau County compared to 58 permitted mines in 2010. The non-metallic mines not only take land out of agricultural production but impact the transportation system (local roads and highways) by increasing traffic volume and increasing road maintenance requirements due to heavy loads.

Communication whether it be GPS technology or internet access improvements will benefit agriculture production in the future. The use of GPS technology in farming practices improves productivity and efficiency in crop production and will help to offset loss of agricultural acres by increasing productivity. Internet access and internet services simply allow agricultural producers to be more efficient in business operations and marketing products and this will continue to benefit agricultural producers in the future.

Additional Trends/Challenges

Additional trends and challenges that point to the need for farmland preservation planning.

- Residential expansion in agricultural areas as commuting from La Crosse, Eau Claire, and Winona MN. to rural areas is common.
- Non-farmers or hobby farmers looking for rural quality of life, lower taxes, and other rural lifestyle benefits are residing in agricultural areas.
- The scale of farming has changed and modern farms requires substantial economic investments and financial uncertainties. Today's feedlots and animal confinements, for example, have different needs and characteristics than traditional farming operations.
- Nonfarm growth pressures have increased the opportunities to "cash-out" through farm sales or farmland conversion.

10. FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Farmland Preservation Plan for Trempealeau County will not be effective unless implemented. There are several different options available to implement the plan and depending on the option chosen will determine the level of successful farmland preservation in the county. The most effective and efficient tool to implement the Farmland Preservation Plan on a county wide basis would be for the county to amend its Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and modify an existing zoning district or create a new zoning district. The new or modified zoning district would meet the criteria (state criteria) and be eligible to be certified as a farmland preservation zoning district. This method would also ensure that all eligible property owners (land designated as a farmland preservation area and meets farm income eligibility requirements) in the county would be able to receive the financial benefits of farmland preservation.

If Farmland Preservation Zoning is not utilized as an implementation tool, a second option available to Trempealeau County would be to implement the Farmland Preservation Plan using Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA). This would require landowners to work with the county and/or towns to designate an area(s) as an AEA. To create an AEA, a minimum of five adjoining landowners that have been designated in the farmland preservation district would have to agree to form an AEA. Then landowners within the AEA would be eligible to voluntarily enter into an AEA Farmland Preservation Contract with the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to preserve farmland for at least 15 years, in exchange for tax benefits. AEA's can be used in conjunction with farmland preservation zoning. Eligible property owners located in both an AEA and farmland preservation zoning will be eligible for the maximum tax credit of $10 per acre.

The Farming for the Future AEA was recommended for designation September 2018. Final designation will take effect January 1, 2019.The Farming for the Future AEA (Appendix D) was created through a partnership with the County and poultry, beef, and dairy producers. The AEA's focus is agricultural preservation through conservation practices that will emphasize the unique landscape, while promoting agro-tourism. If designated, the County plans on expanding the boundary into other townships to allow a greater number of landowners the opportunity to sign Farmland Preservation Agreements.

Additional Farmland Preservation Implementation Tools

Specific tools that have proven effective in helping ensure the economic viability of agriculture are described below.

Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE Program)

Agricultural Conservation Easements are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their properties to protect productive agricultural land. They sell a conservation easement to a government agency or private conservation organization. Landowners retain full ownership and continue to pay property taxes, and manage and operate the farm. Conservation easements are tailored to each property: purchasers and landowners decide which activities, such as residential development, should be restricted or limited. When the landowner eventually sells the farmland, the development restrictions are passed on to the new owner.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)

In a similar program, Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), government agencies buy up the development rights to a property. The program does not give the government agency the right to

develop the agricultural land (such rights may be eligible for use by the purchaser in a Transfer of Development Rights program). It simply permits it to extinguish those rights in return for appropriate compensation.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

TDR programs allow landowners to transfer the right to develop one parcel of land to a different parcel of land. The programs are usually established by local zoning ordinances, and they are used to shift development from agricultural areas to designated growth zones closer to municipal services. The parcel of land where the rights originate is called the "sending" parcel. Once the development rights are transferred from a sending parcel, the land is restricted with a permanent conservation easement. The rights are transferred to a "receiving" parcel, which allows an owner purchasing the rights to build at a higher density than ordinarily permitted by the base zoning. Most TDR transactions are between private landowners and developers. Local governments approve transactions and monitor easements. Some jurisdictions have created "TDR banks" that buy development rights with public funds and sell them to developers and other private landowners. TDR programs can prevent non-agricultural development of farmland, reduce the market value (and tax burdens) of protected farms and provide farmland owners with liquid capital that can be used to enhance farm viability.

Mitigation Ordinances

Another farmland-protection technique is to establish a mitigation ordinance. One example would be an ordinance that requires developers to permanently protect one acre of farmland for every acre of agricultural land they convert to other uses. Developers can place an agricultural conservation easement on farmland in another location or pay a fee to satisfy mitigation.

Comprehensive Land-Use Planning

The County and Towns can use their comprehensive plans as the basis for farmland preservation zoning ordinances that identify areas to protect for agricultural use and areas where growth will be encouraged.

Resources to Assist in the Preservation of Agricultural Lands

Federal Resources

* Conservation Security Program (CSP)
* Conservation Reserve (CRP)
* Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
* Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
* Technical Service Provider (TSP)
* Regional Conservation Partnership Program

University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension Resources

* UW-Extension Farmer to Farmer Corn and Forage List
* UW Dairy Marketing &: Risk Management Program

* Daily LDP Rates, PCP Data, Milk &: Gain Futures-Farm Service Agency's Website
  * Buying and Selling Hay and Straw FA Webpage

Programs Administered by the Trempealeau County Department of Land Management

* Water quality improvement
* Soil conservation
* Groundwater protection
* Nonpoint water pollution abatement
* Erosion control
* Wildlife habitat improvement and damage abatement
* Farmland preservation
* Animal manure management (NR243 Animal Waste Management)
* Streambank improvement cost sharing
* Conservation reserve enhancement
* LWRM - Land and Water Resource Management Grants
* TRM – Targeted Runoff Management Grants
* County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance
* Shoreland and Wetland Protection Ordinance
* Local Livestock Ordinance
* Nutrient Management Planning (590)
* Well Abandonment
* Ag Performance Standards – NR 151
* Trempealeau County Sanitary and Private Sewerage System Ordinance

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Appendix A

Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan Public Participation Process

Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan Public Participation Process

Trempealeau County's Public Participation Process formed the framework for discussion between local decision makers, County staff, the planning consultant, and the citizens of Trempealeau County. This section outlines the public participation process used to gather input for the development, evaluation, and eventual adoption of the Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan. The creation of this Public Participation Process was developed to meet the requirements of Wisconsin's Working Land Initiative for the development of a Farmland Preservation Plan.

Public Involvement Objectives

• Residents of Trempealeau County become aware of the importance of participating in the development of the plan.
• The public participation process is designed to provide opportunities for people of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and income levels to be involved in the planning process.
• The public has opportunities to provide their input (both formally and informally) to the County or their local governing body.
• Input is encouraged through a variety of means (electronic, printed, and oral) and will be carefully considered and responded to in a timely fashion.
• Inform Trempealeau County citizens on the Working Lands Initiative's programs, including farmland preservation zoning, Farmland Preservation Agreements, and Agricultural Enterprise Areas.
• Allow opportunities for citizens to discuss the preservation of agricultural land and economic development of the agro-based economy.

Public Participation Guidelines

The main goals of the Public Participation Process is to make the citizens of Trempealeau County aware of the progress of the countywide Farmland Preservation planning process occurring in the County, and to offer the public opportunities to make suggestions or comments during the process. Public meetings provided opportunities for the public to openly discuss farmland preservation planning issues with local decision makers, County staff, and the planning consultant. A formal public hearing will be conducted as part of the plan adoption process to allow public testimony to be made regarding the Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan. During the countywide planning process, efforts were made to ensure that public meetings were held at a public location, central and convenient to all citizens of Trempealeau County. These same guidelines will be followed for the proposed Agricultural Enterprise Area, along with any future modifications to the AEA to expand the boundary.

Written Comments

• The public hearing notice includes the name and address of whom written comments should be sent.
• At the public hearing, the facilitator or chair will clearly announce any deadline for submitting written comments, if such comments are allowed subsequent to the meeting or hearing.
• Persons speaking or testifying will be encouraged to concisely express their comments and provide specific details in written format.

Provisions for Open Discussions

• Agendas are established that clearly define the purpose of the public meetings or hearing, the items to be discussed, and any actions that may be taken.
• The scheduled date, time, and place are convenient to encourage participation by residents.
• A clearly identifiable facilitator or chair conducts meetings or hearings in an orderly fashion to ensure that all attendees had an opportunity to offer comments, discuss issues, or provide testimony.
• The facilitator or chair clearly outlines the purpose of the meeting or hearing.
• As appropriate, an overview of documents or proposals to be considered are discussed.

• All persons attending the meetings or hearing that desire to participate are allowed to do so.
• Special arrangements are made available under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with sufficient advance notice.

Public Meeting Notices

Trempealeau County places meeting notices on the County website and all posting locations. The public hearing will be published with a Class 1 notice in the official County newspaper. The following information is provided to make the public aware of such meetings:

• Name of the governmental body that will meet.
• Date, time, and location of the meeting.
• General description and purpose of the meeting.
• Name of County staff member(s) in case of questions or concerns.

APPENDIX B

County Farmland Preservation Map

APPENDIX C

Individual Town Farmland Preservation Maps

Appendix D

Farming for the Future AEA Petition Application

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Appendix A

Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan Public Participation Process

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• Persons speaking or testifying will be encouraged to concisely express their comments and provide specific details in written format.

Provisions for Open Discussions

• Agendas are established that clearly define the purpose of the public meetings or hearing, the items to be discussed, and any actions that may be taken.
• The scheduled date, time, and place are convenient to encourage participation by residents.
• A clearly identifiable facilitator or chair conducts meetings or hearings in an orderly fashion to ensure that all attendees had an opportunity to offer comments, discuss issues, or provide testimony.
• The facilitator or chair clearly outlines the purpose of the meeting or hearing.
• As appropriate, an overview of documents or proposals to be considered are discussed.

• All persons attending the meetings or hearing that desire to participate are allowed to do so.
• Special arrangements are made available under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with sufficient advance notice.

Public Meeting Notices

Trempealeau County places meeting notices on the County website and all posting locations. The public hearing will be published with a Class 1 notice in the official County newspaper. The following information is provided to make the public aware of such meetings:

• Name of the governmental body that will meet.
• Date, time, and location of the meeting.
• General description and purpose of the meeting.
• Name of County staff member(s) in case of questions or concerns.

APPENDIX B

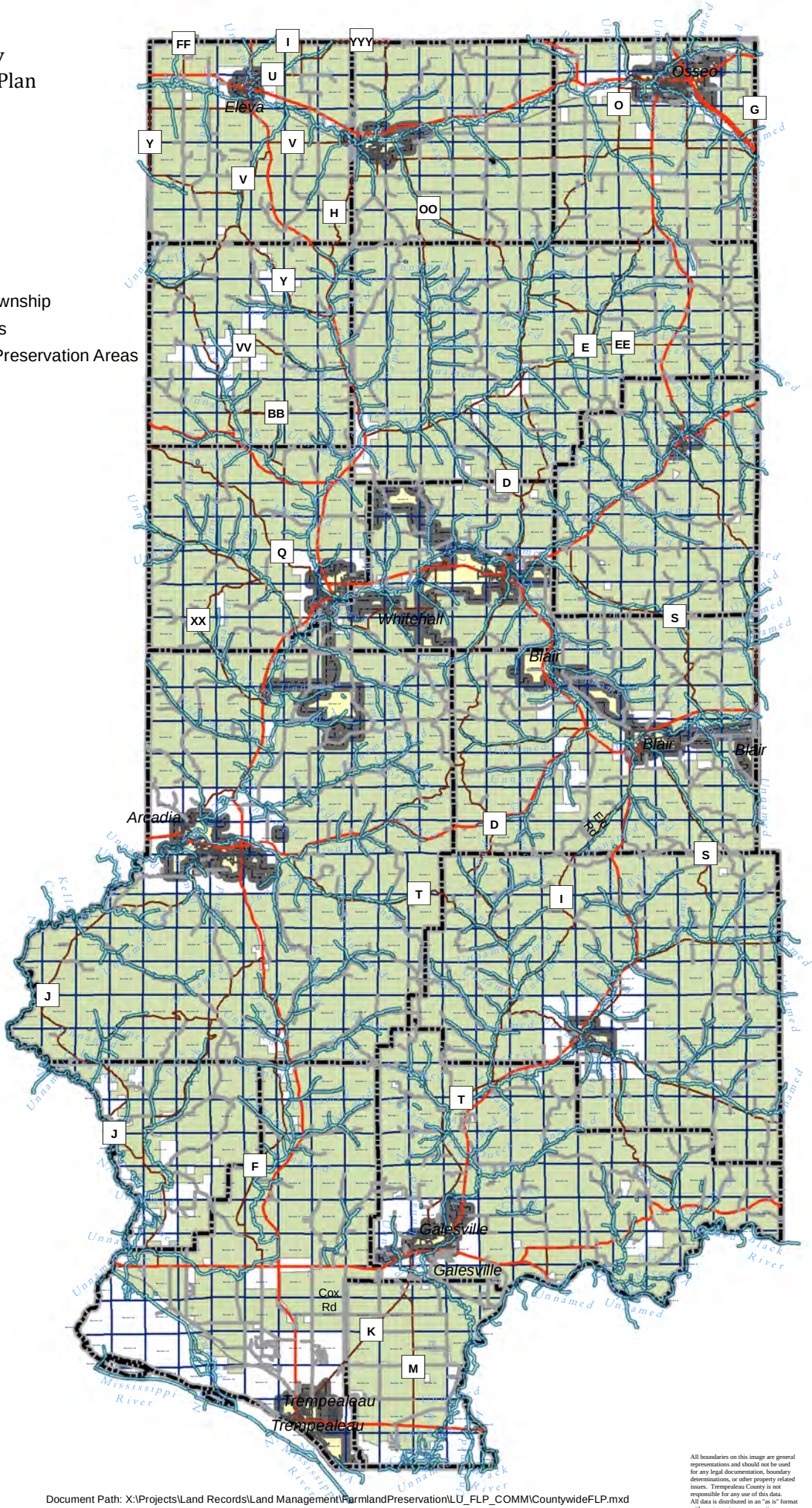
County Farmland Preservation Map

Trempealeau County
Farmland Preservation Plan
2018

Legend

River/Stream
Perennial

Roads
Interstate
US Hwy
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd
City St
County_Township
Corp_Limits
Farmland Preservation Areas

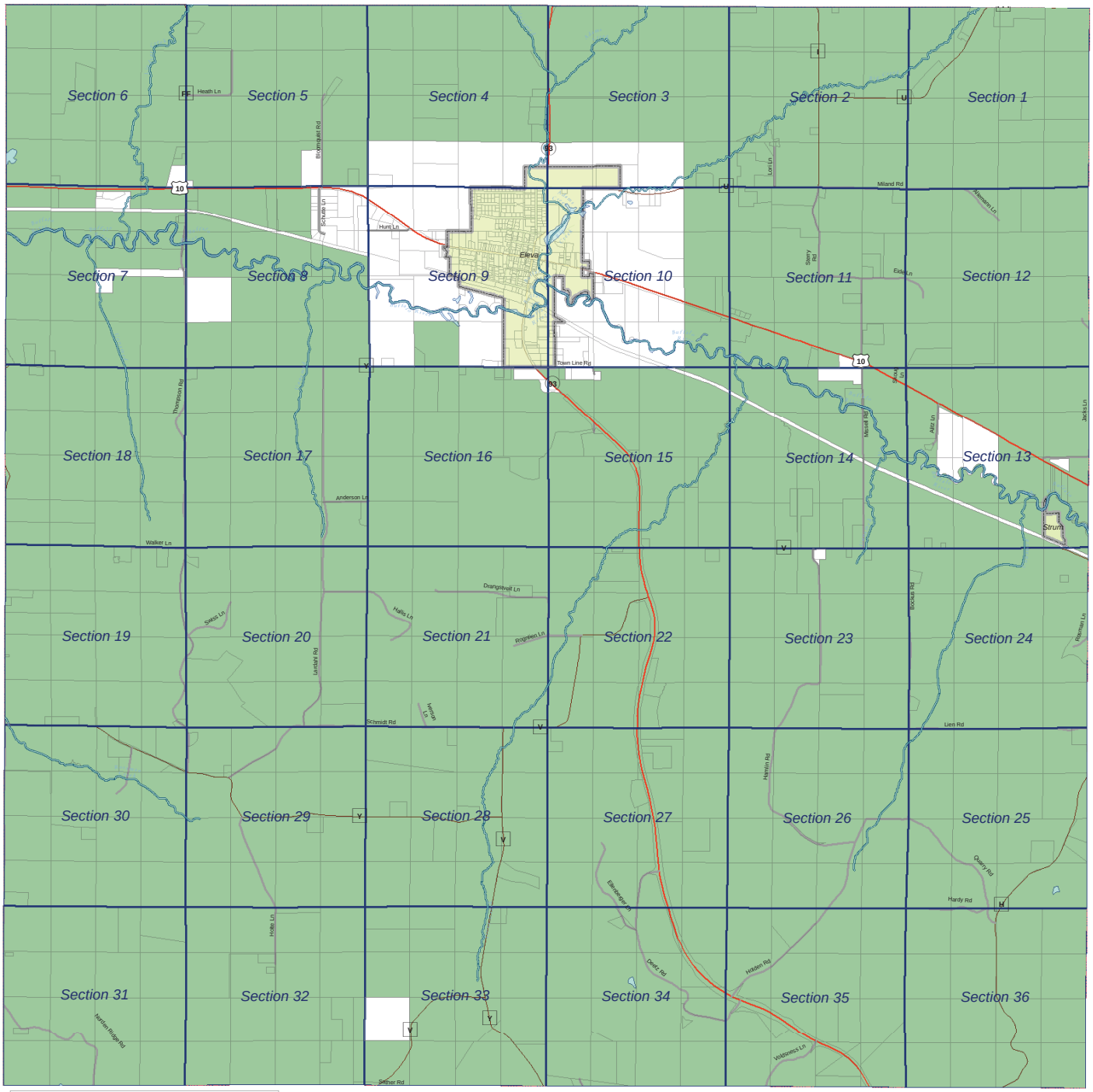


Document Path: X:\Projects\Land Records\Land Management\FarmlandPreservation\LU_FLP_COMM\CountywideFLP.mxd

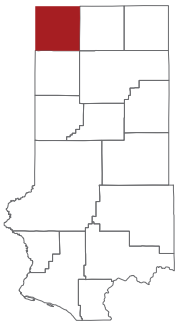
All boundaries on this image are general representations and should not be used for any legal documentation, boundary determinations, or other property related issues. Trempealeau County is not responsible for any use of this data. All data is distributed in an "as is" format with no guarantees or warranties.

APPENDIX C
Individual Town Farmland Preservation Maps

Town Of Albion
Trempealeau County
Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



Non Farmland Preservation Areas
Farmland Preservation Areas
County Township
City Limits
County Sections
Parcels
Water Region
River/Stream
Perennial

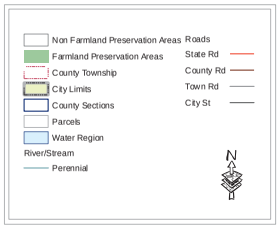
Roads
US Hwy
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd
City St

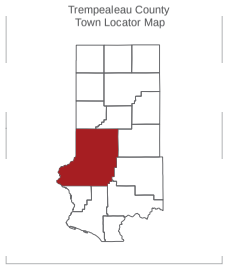
N

5,200 2,600 0 5,200 Feet

Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

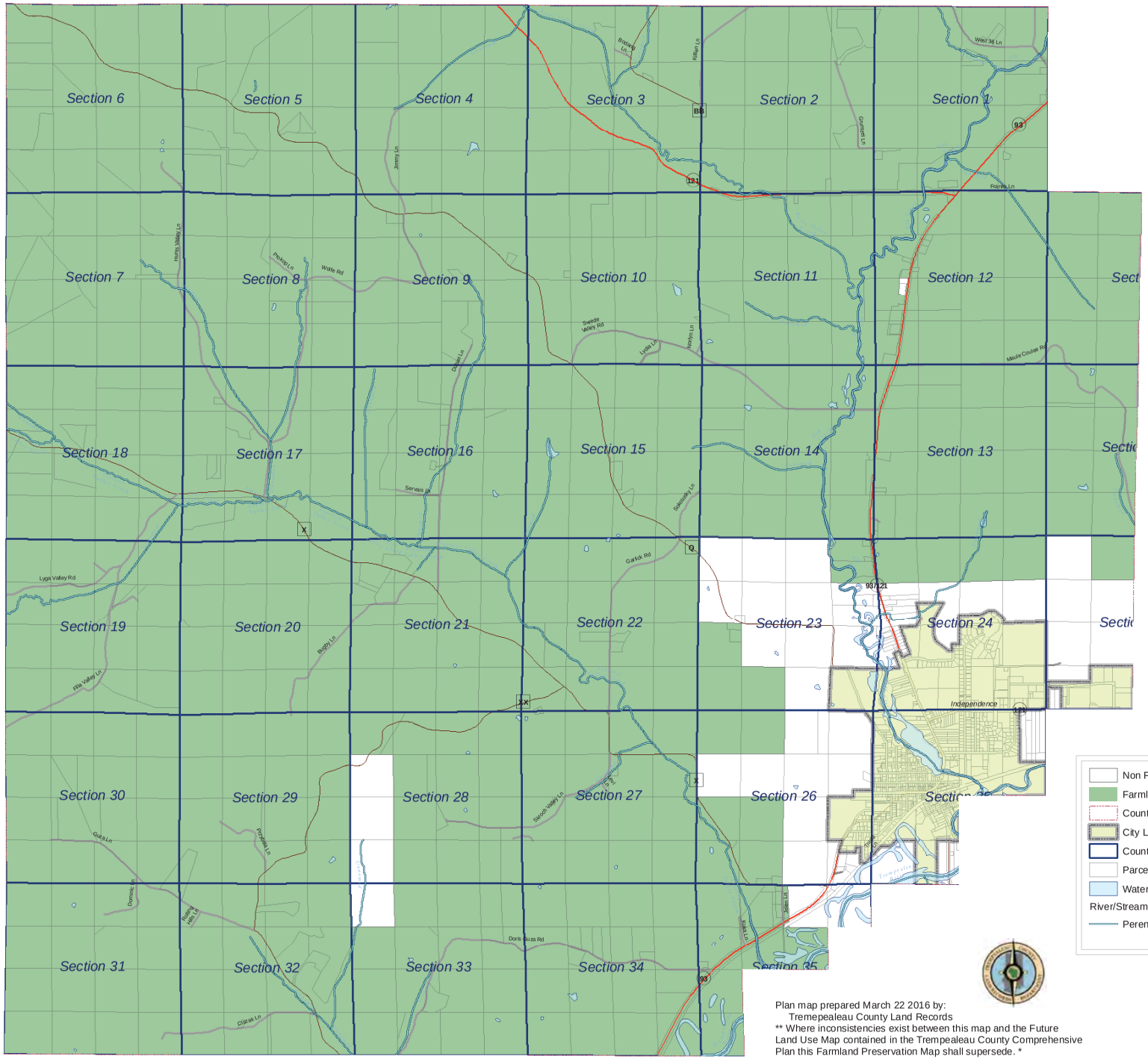
Town Of Arcadia
Trempealeau County
Farmland Preservation Plan 2016





Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Trempealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Burnside
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



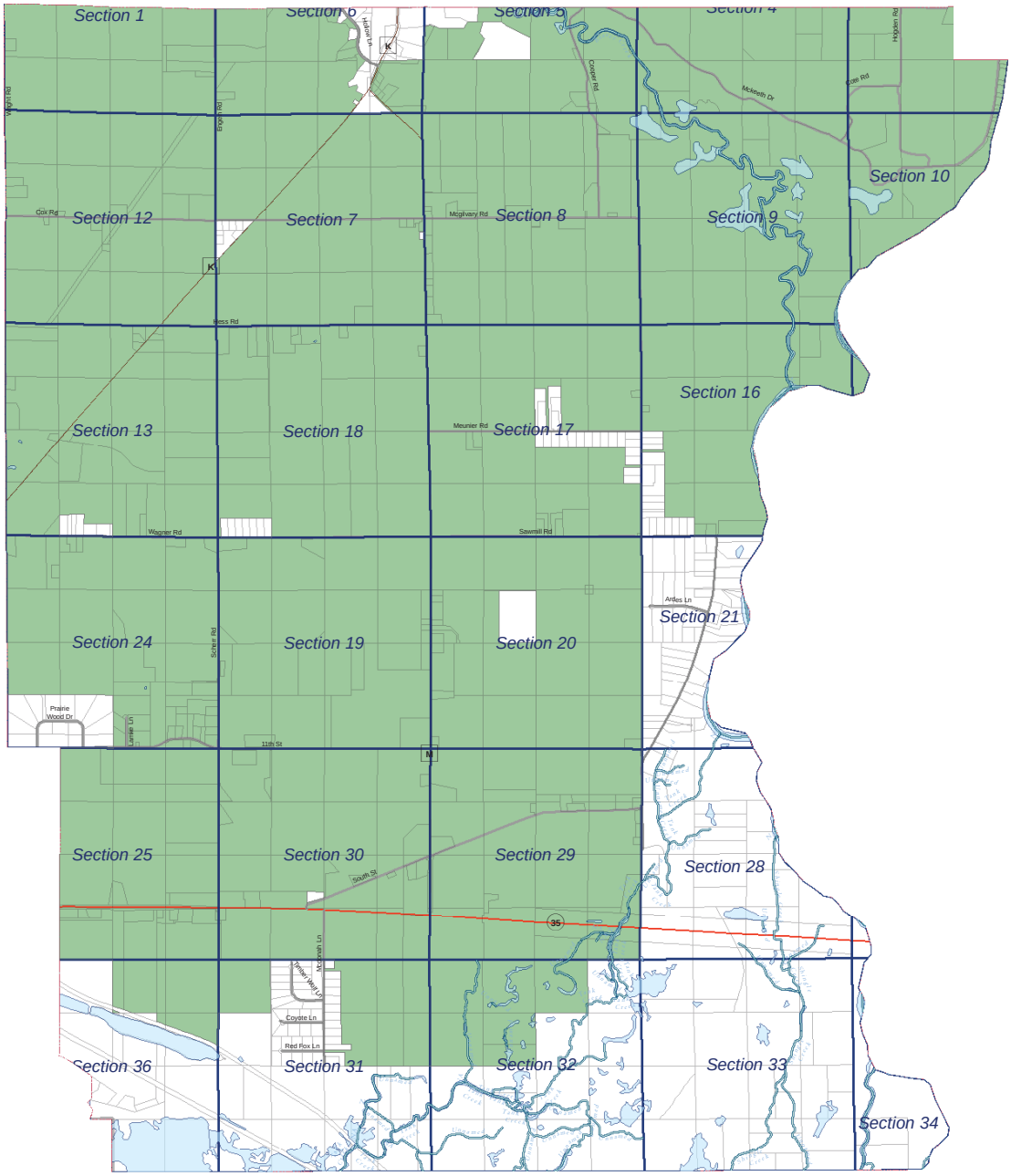
Non Farmland Preservation Areas
Farmland Preservation Areas
County Township
City Limits
County Sections
Parcels
Water Region
River/Stream
Perennial

Roads
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd
City St

N

Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Caledonia
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



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N

Non Farmland Preservation Areas
Farmland Preservation Areas
County Township
County Sections
Parcels
Water Region
River/Stream
Perennial

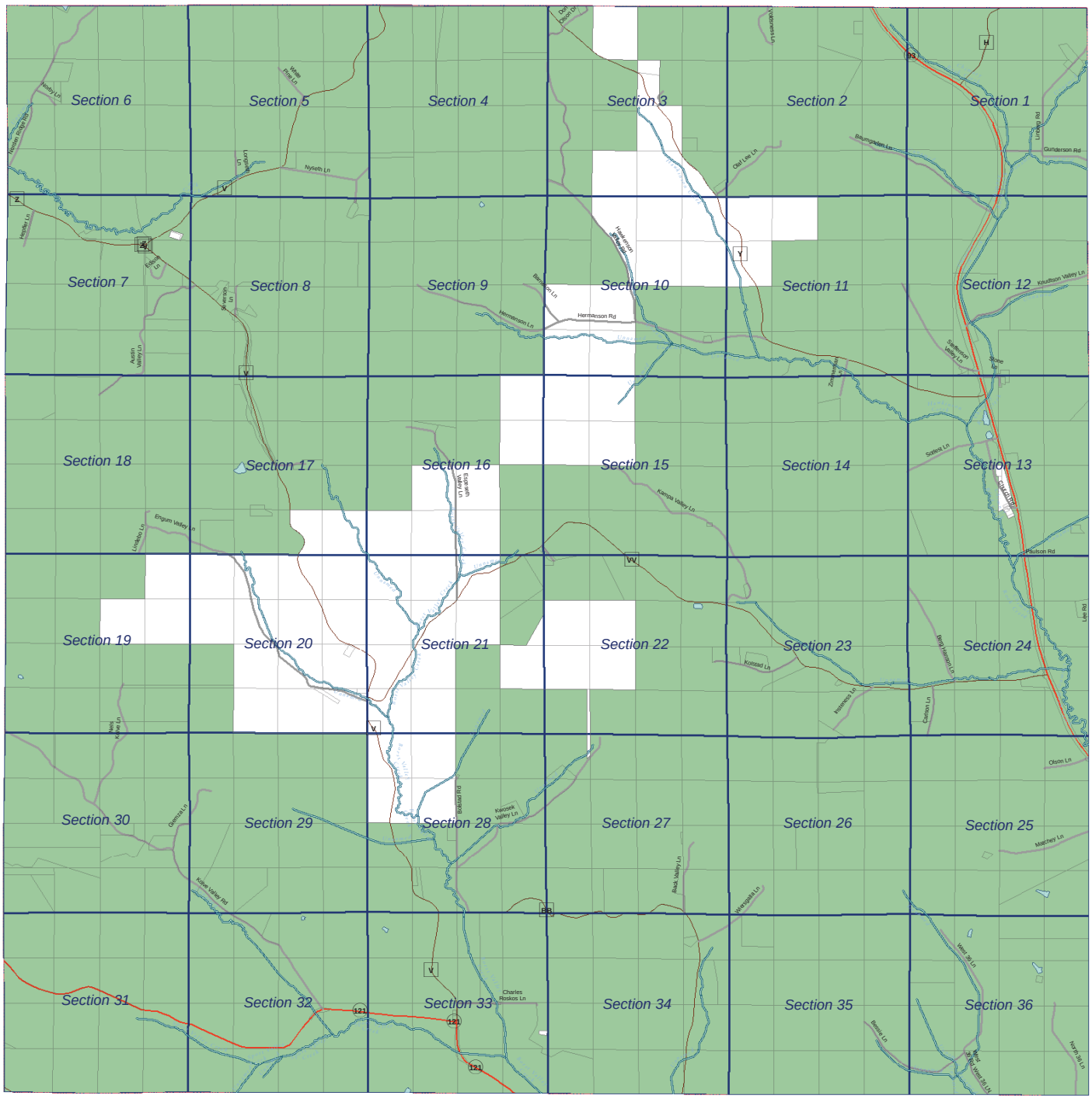
Roads
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd

Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Chimney Rock
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Non Farmland Preservation Areas
Farmland Preservation Areas
County Township
County Sections
Parcels
Water Region
River/Stream
Perennial

Roads
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd

Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map

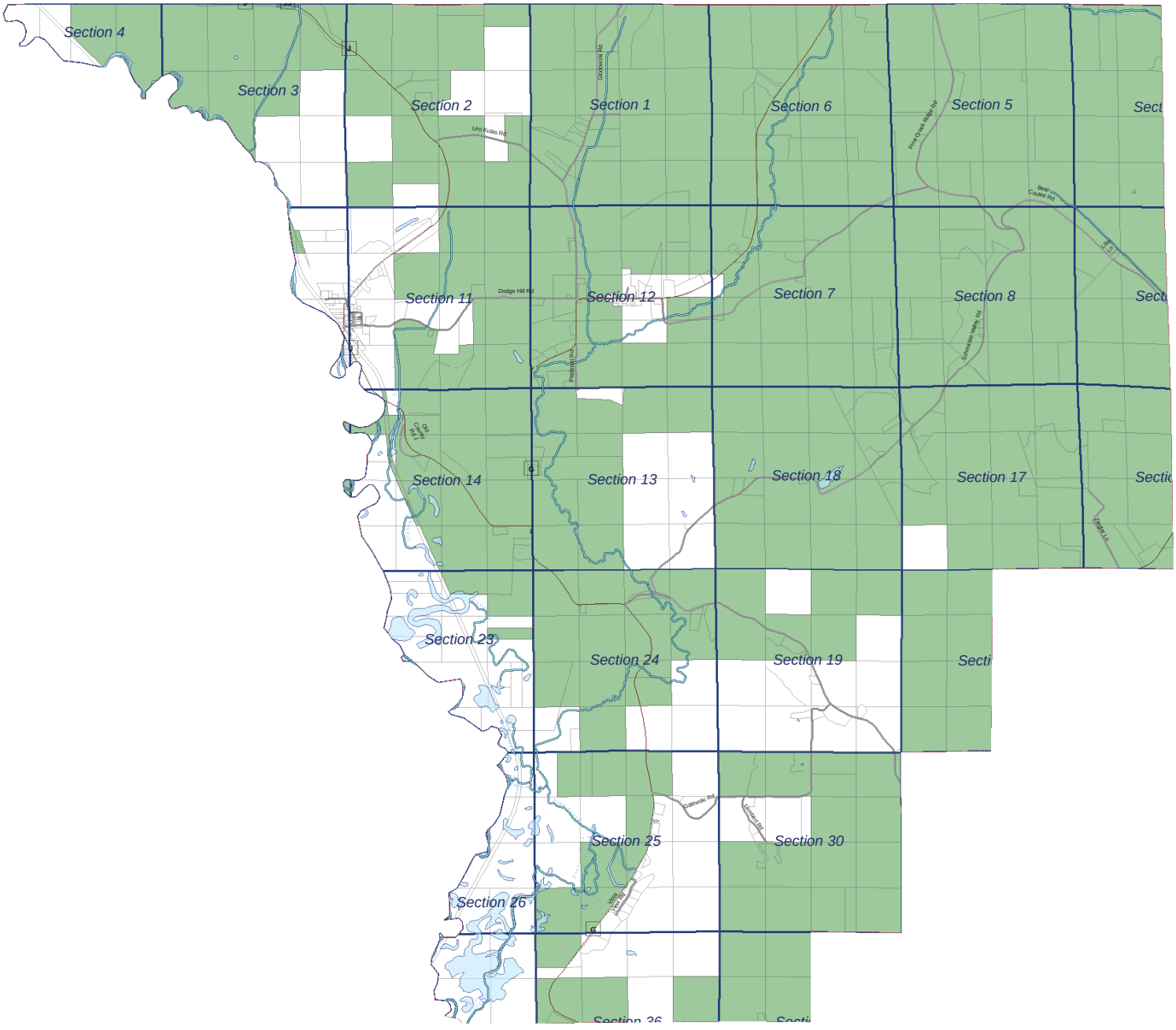


N

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Dodge
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



N

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

Non Farmland Preservation Areas
Farmland Preservation Areas
County Township
County Sections
Parcels
Water Region
River/Stream
Perennial

Roads
County Rd
Town Rd

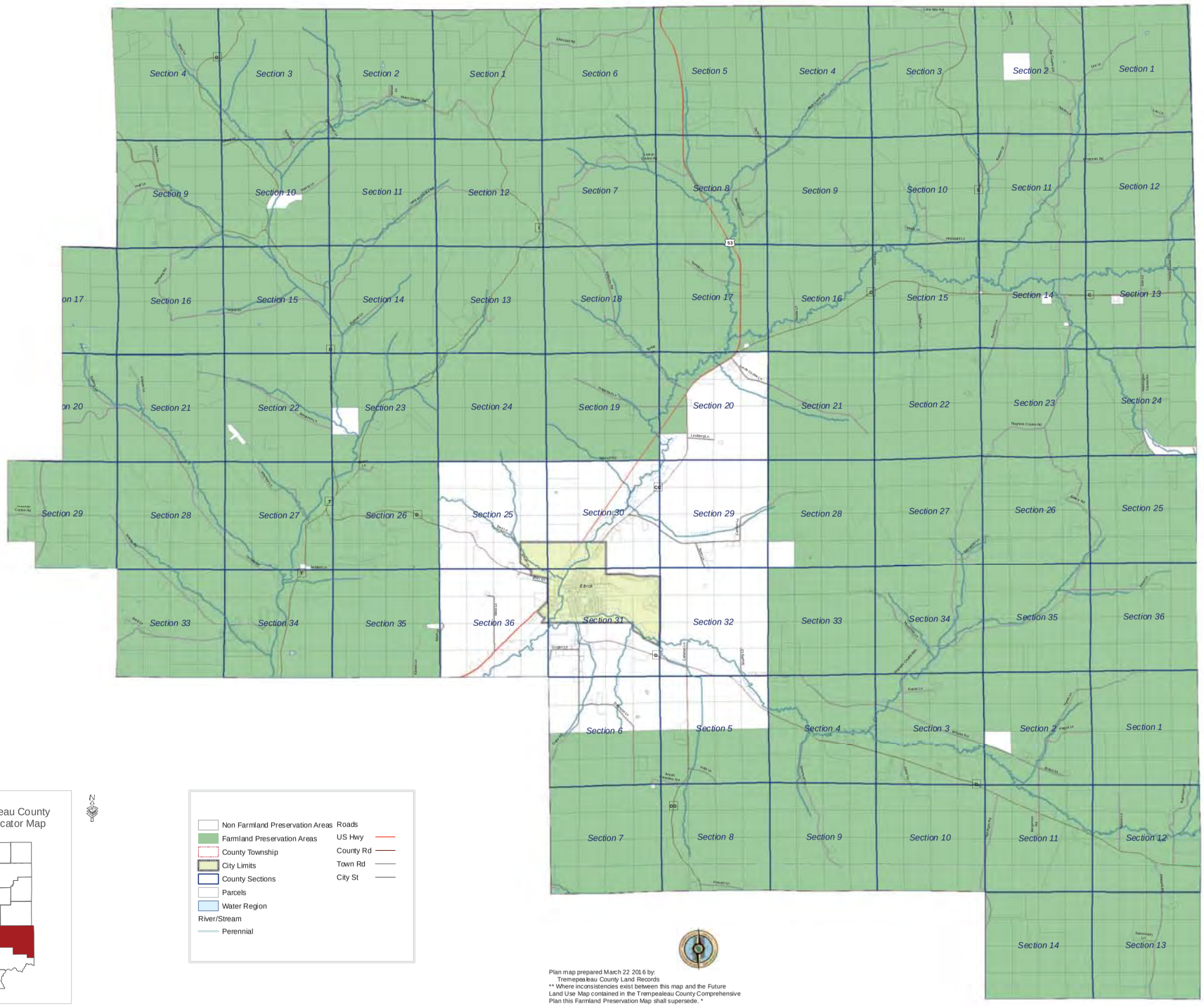
Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



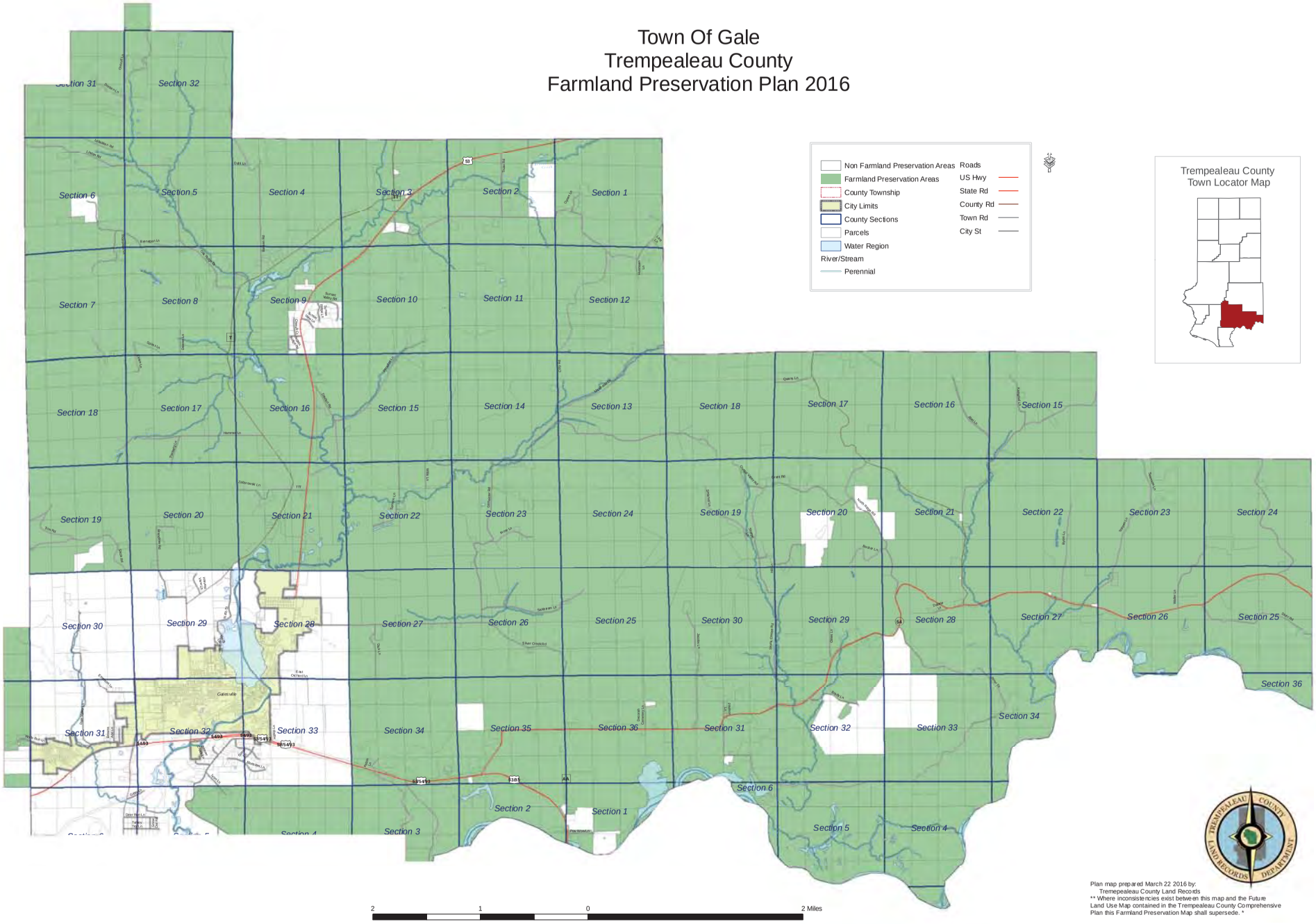
TREMPEALEAU LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Ettrick
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016

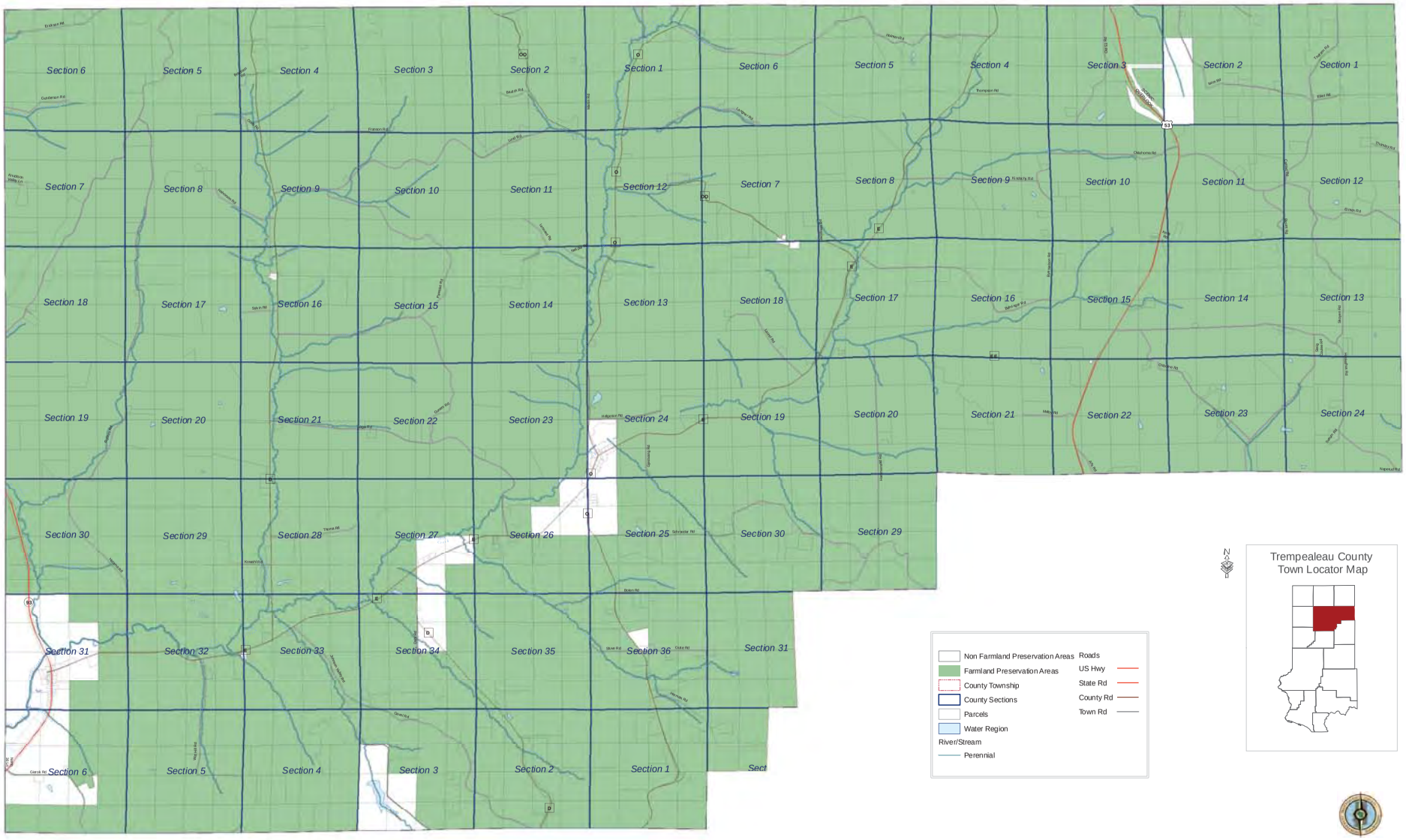


Town Of Gale
Trempealeau County
Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



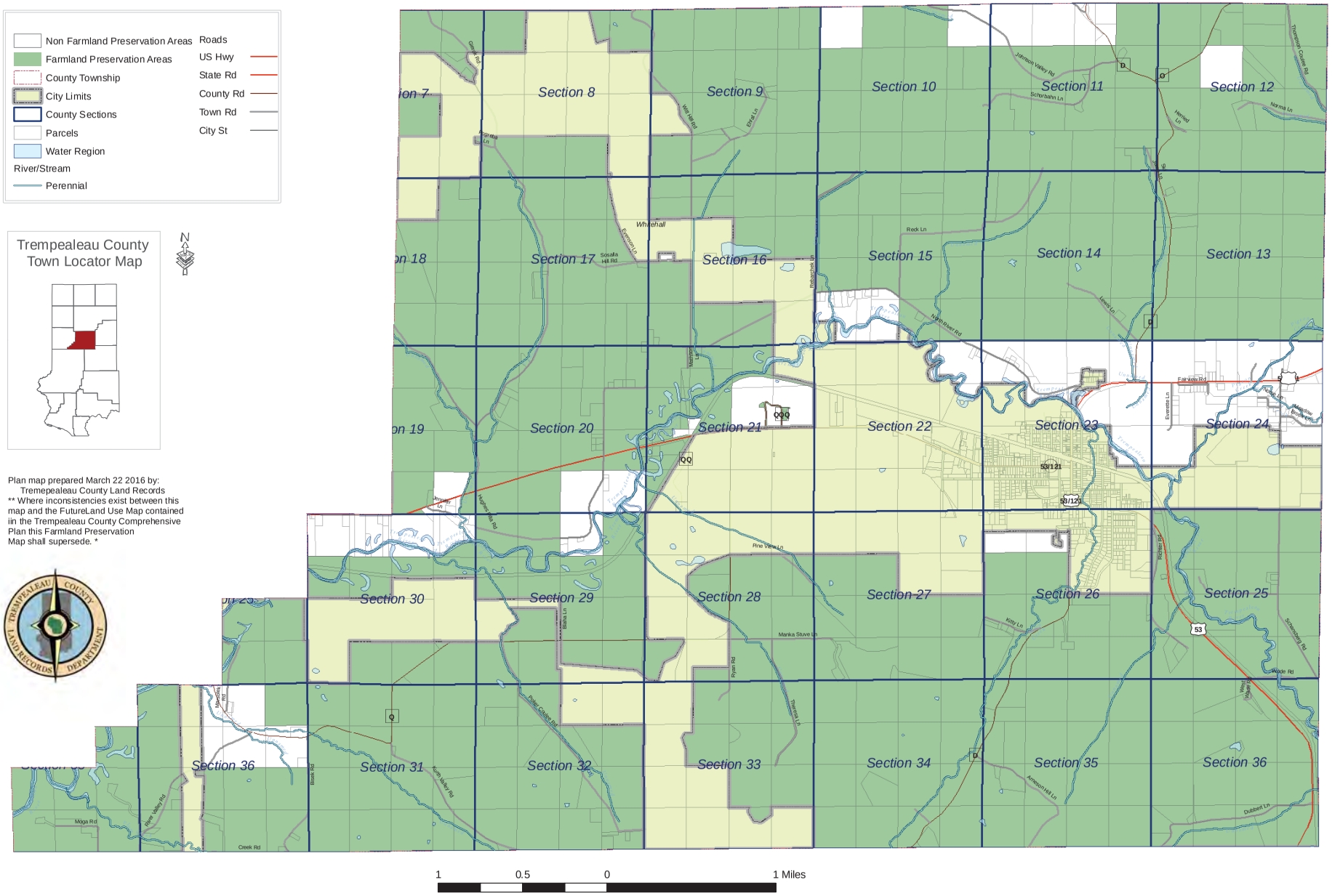
Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Trempealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Hale
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016

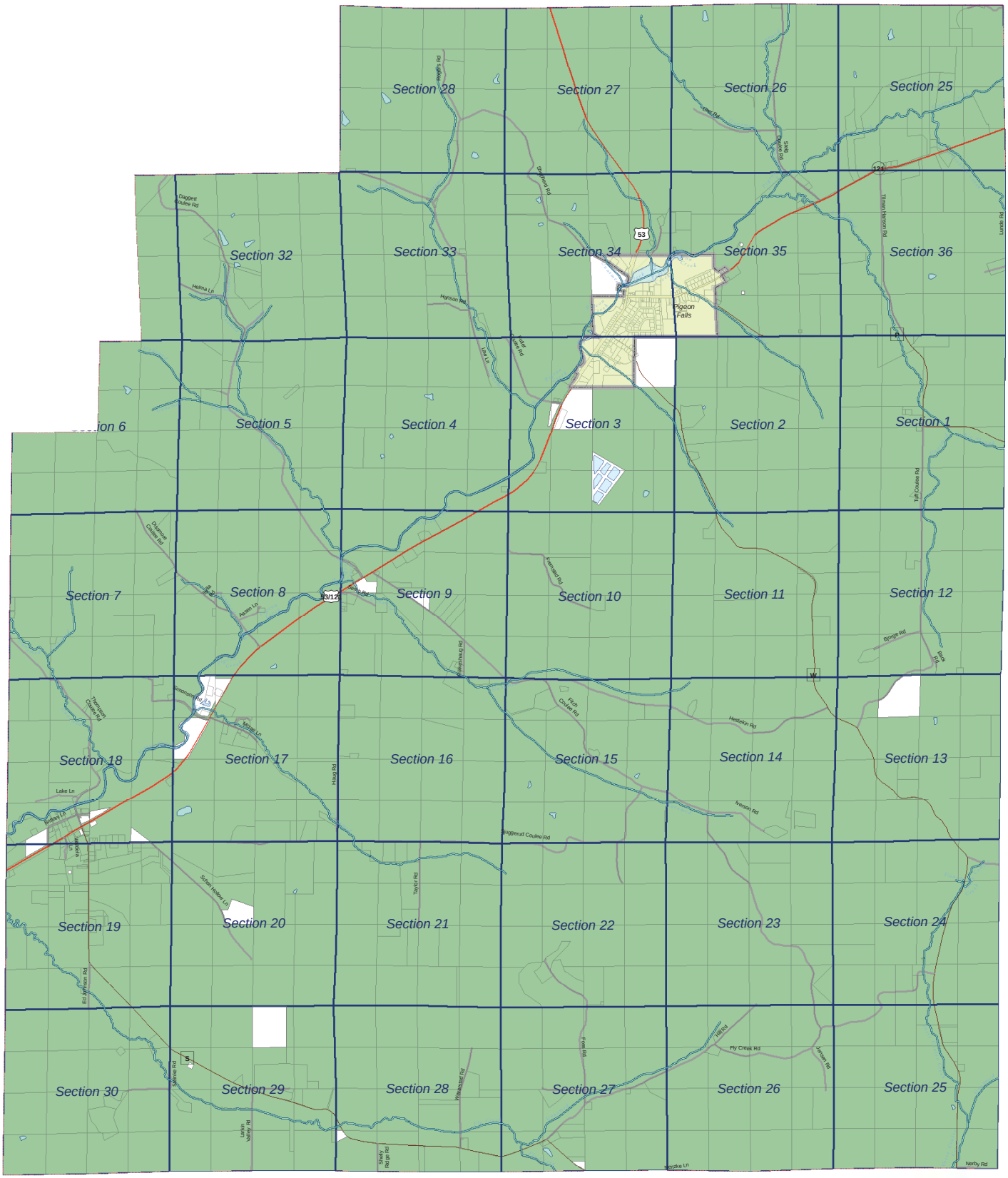


Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Trempealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Lincoln
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Town Of Pigeon
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Non Farmland Preservation Areas
Farmland Preservation Areas
County Township
City Limits
County Sections
Parcels
Water Region
River/Stream
Perennial

Roads
US Hwy
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd
City St

N

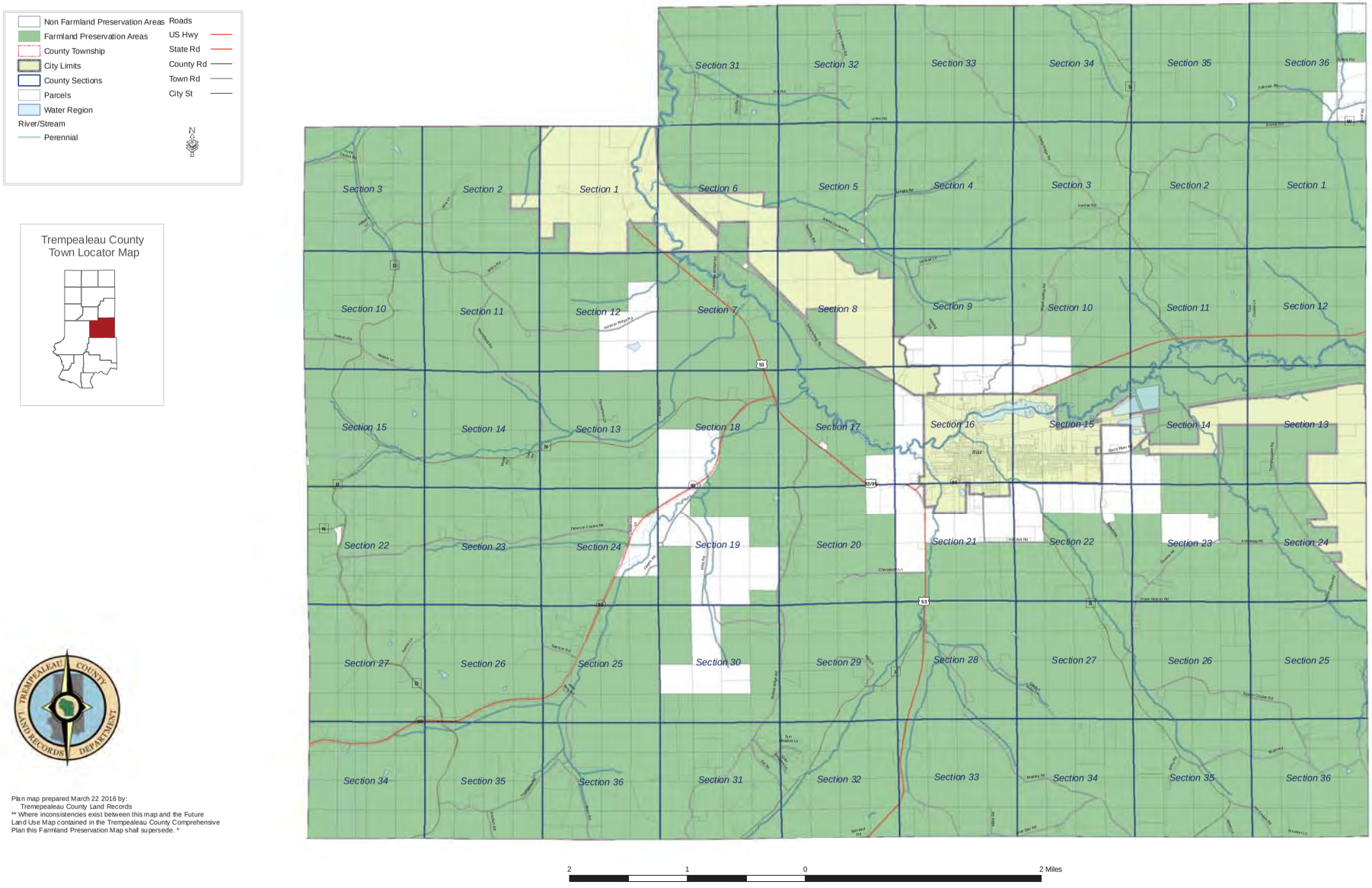
Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

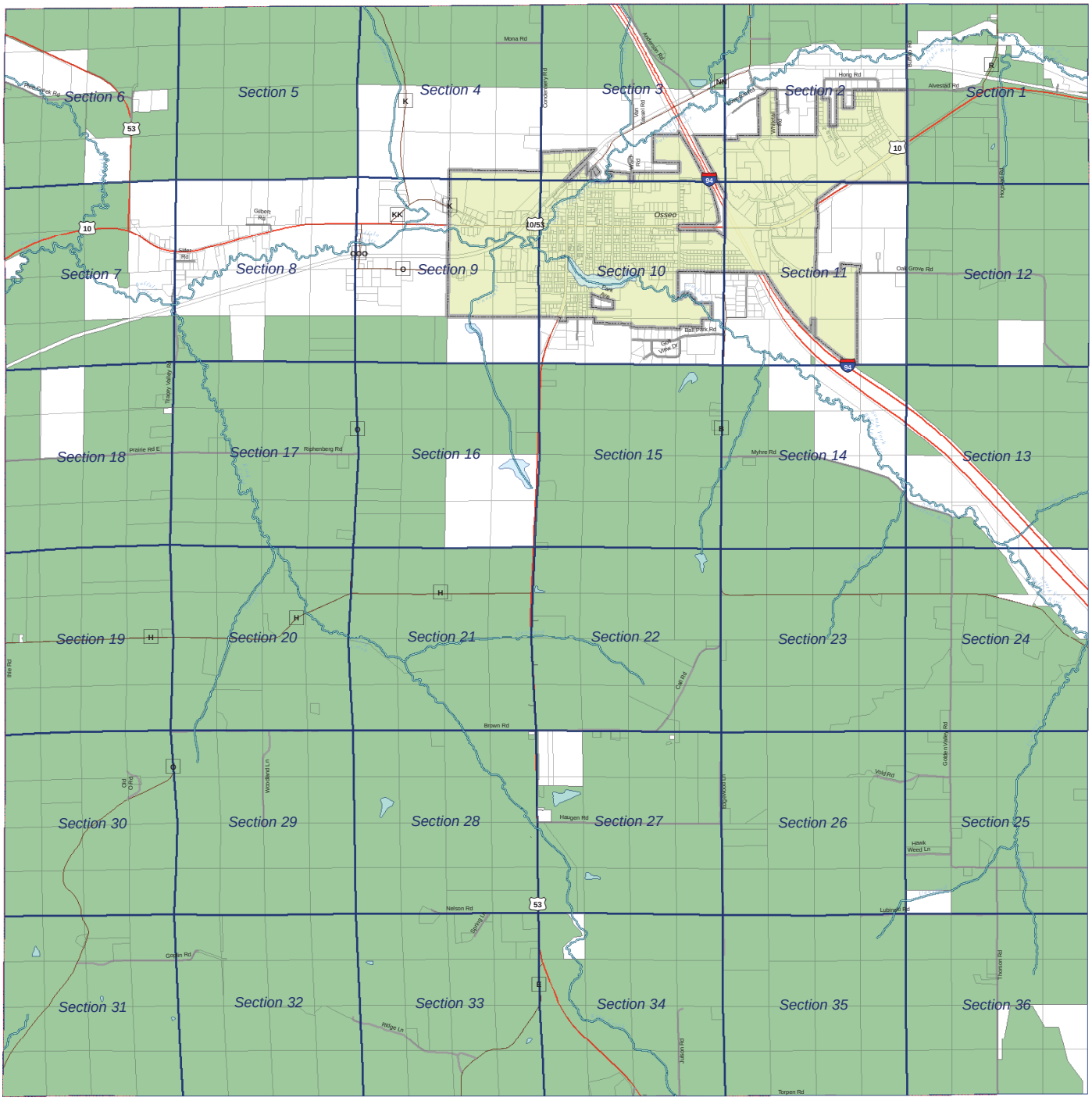
1 0.5 0 1 Miles

Town Of Preston
Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Sumner
Trempealeau County
Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



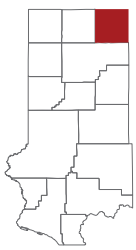
- Non Farmland Preservation Areas
- Farmland Preservation Areas
- County Township
- City Limits
- County Sections
- Parcels
- Water Region

River/Stream
- Perennial

Roads
- Interstate
- US Hwy
- County Rd
- Town Rd
- City St

N

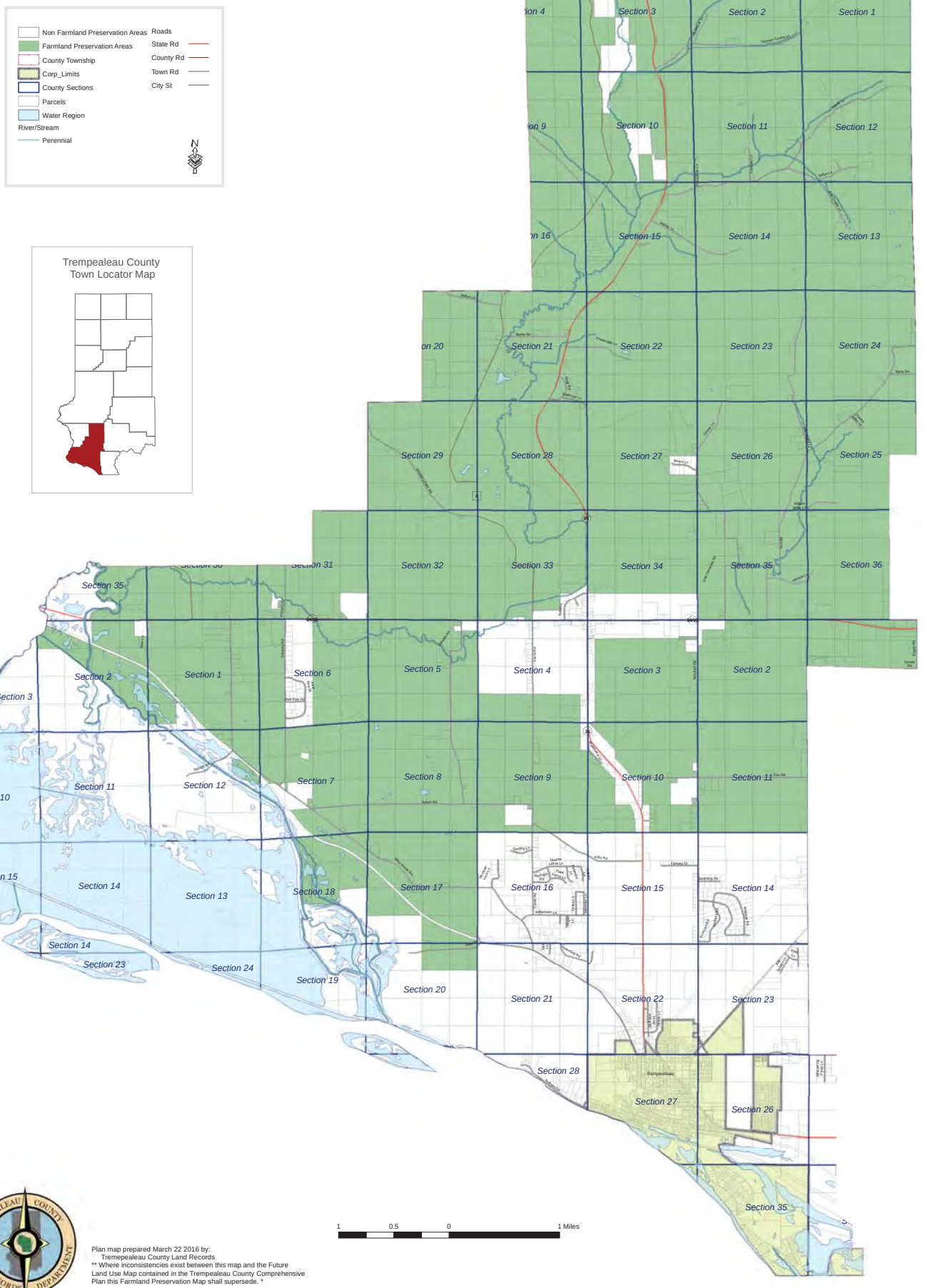
Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



1 0.5 0 1 Miles

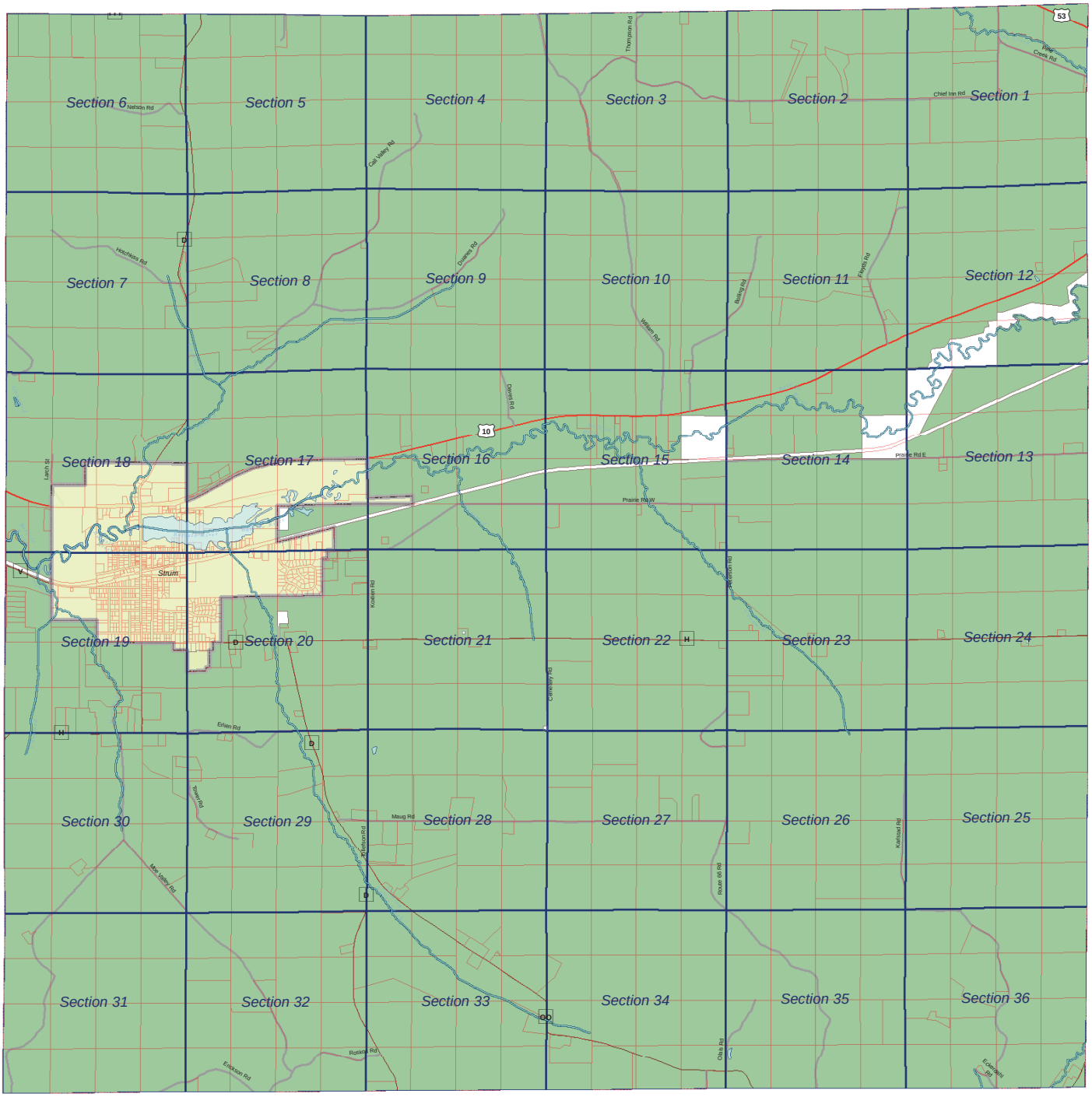
Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Trempealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Trempealeau
Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

Town Of Unity
Trempealeau County
Farmland Preservation Plan 2016



- Non Farmland Preservation Areas
- Farmland Preservation Areas
- County Township
- City Limits
- County Sections
- Parcels
- Water Region
- River/Stream
  - Perennial

Roads
- US Hwy
- County Rd
- Town Rd
- City St

Trempealeau County
Town Locator Map



N

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT

Plan map prepared March 22 2016 by:
Tremepealeau County Land Records
** Where inconsistencies exist between this map and the Future Land Use Map contained in the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Plan this Farmland Preservation Map shall supersede. *

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

Appendix D

Farming for the Future AEA Petition Application

ARM-LWR-457

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Resource Management
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
(608) 224-4604

Farmland Preservation Plan Certification Application

COUNTY: TREMPEALEAU **DATE SUBMITTED:** 10/16/2018 **NAME OF AREA TO BE CERTIFIED:** FARMING FOR THE FUTURE AEA

The above-named county hereby requests certification, under s. 91.16, Wis. Stats., of the attached county farmland preservation plan (or plan amendment).

PART A: Enclosed Materials

In support of its plan certification request, the county submits *all* of the following materials:

1. The farmland preservation plan (or plan amendment) to be certified, including plan text and maps. Each map is clearly correlated with the plan text that applies to that map. All intended farmland preservation areas are clearly identified and mapped.

2. The spatial location data used to create each farmland preservation map.

3. Cited portions of the county comprehensive plan, if any (or a website link to that plan).

4. A *cover document*, signed by the county planning director or chief elected official, that does all of the following:
   a. Concisely summarizes the farmland preservation plan (or plan amendment), including key changes from the county's last certified plan. The summary describes the extent and location of lands added to or removed from farmland preservation areas identified in the last certified plan, and explains why those lands were added or removed.

   b. Concisely summarizes the relationship between the farmland preservation plan and county and local comprehensive plans, if any. The summary identifies key related portions of the comprehensive plan.

   c. Concisely summarizes the steps (and timeline) by which the county developed the farmland preservation plan. The summary briefly describes the public hearing process, notice to other government units, input by other government units, and the process of county approval. It indicates which steps are completed, and which steps are planned but not yet completed.

   d. Concisely summarizes key unresolved issues between the county and other government units, if any.
   e. Lists all *certified* farmland preservation zoning ordinances (county and local) that are *currently in effect* in the county, and briefly describes any plans to update those ordinances. (Include exclusive agricultural zoning ordinances certified under the Farmland Preservation Law as it existed before July 1, 2009).

   f. Identifies the primary contact person for correspondence related to the certification of the farmland preservation plan.

5. If the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes inconsistencies in the County Comprehensive Plan, the Farmland Preservation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan both include language clarifying this and the proposed language to be added to the Comprehensive Plan is submitted along with the Farmland Preservation Plan.

PART B: CERTIFICATION

The county corporation counsel and the county planning director (or chief elected official) hereby certify that the farmland preservation plan (or plan amendment) attached to this application complies with s. 91.18, Wis. Stats., including the following applicable requirements:[1]

	Page Reference[2]
1. The plan states the county's policy *and goals* related to farmland preservation and agricultural development, including the development of enterprises related to agriculture.	34-35
2. The plan identifies, describes and documents other development trends, plans, or needs that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in the county, including:	
▪ Population	11
▪ Municipal expansion	13
▪ Economic growth	13
▪ Business development	13,41
▪ Housing	12
▪ Utilities	13-14
▪ Transportation	13,41
▪ Communications	13,41
▪ Community facilities and services	14
▪ Energy	13
▪ Waste management	14
▪ Environmental preservation (may include a map of natural resource areas and environmental corridors).	7-9

[1] For a complete farmland preservation plan, the county corporation counsel and county planning director or chief elected official certify that the plan complies with *all of the listed requirements*. For plan *amendment*, they certify that the amendment complies with all of the listed requirements that are *relevant to that amendment*, and that the amendment *does not cause the amended plan to violate any of the listed requirements* (see s. 91.18(2), Wis. Stats.). The farmland preservation plan may comply with listed requirements by incorporating, by reference, required information from other parts of the county's comprehensive plan.

[2] Cite the page number(s) in the county farmland preservation plan where the requirement is met. If the citation refers to the county comprehensive plan, cite the page reference followed by "CP."

	Page Reference
3. The plan identifies, describes and documents all of the following:	
▪ Agricultural uses of land in the county at the time that the farmland preservation plan is adopted, including key agricultural specialties, if any (include maps where appropriate).	17-26
▪ Key agricultural resources, including available land, soil, and water resources.	6,19
▪ Key infrastructure for agriculture, including key processing, storage, transportation and supply facilities.	28-29
▪ Significant trends in the county related to agricultural land use, agricultural production, enterprises related to agriculture, and the conversion of agricultural lands to other uses.	19-26
▪ Anticipated changes in the nature, scope, location, and focus of agricultural production, processing, supply and distribution.	21-29
▪ Actions that the county will take to preserve farmland and promote agricultural development.	33-38,43-45
▪ Key land use issues related to preserving farmland and promoting agricultural development, and plans for addressing those issues.	17, 33-38
▪ Policies, goals, strategies and proposed actions to increase housing density in areas other than farmland preservation areas.	10-13,34
4. The plan meets the following requirements for the designation of farmland preservation areas:	
▪ Clearly identifies *farmland preservation areas* that the county plans to preserve for agricultural use and agriculture-related uses. (These may include undeveloped natural resource and open space areas but may not include any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the plan is adopted).	Appendix B & C
▪ Describes the rationale used to identify the farmland preservation areas and explains how the rationale was used to map plan areas. (The rationale may include criteria such as soil type; topography; agricultural productivity; current agricultural use; agricultural related infrastructure; and proximity to incorporated areas, major arterials, and rural subdivisions).	39
▪ Includes maps that clearly delineate the farmland preservation areas, so that a reader can easily determine whether a parcel is within an identified area (see "MAP AND SPATIAL LOCATION DATA GUIDELINES").	Appendix B & C
▪ Clearly correlates the maps with plan text to describe the type of land uses planned for each farmland preservation area on a map. There are no material inconsistencies within the plan, such as inconsistencies within the plan text, between the plan text and maps, or between maps.	39
▪ Identifies programs and other actions that the county and local governments within the county may use to preserve the farmland preservation areas.	43-45

PART C: CONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE FARMLAND PLAN AND THE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

If the County has a Comprehensive Plan, the County must include the Farmland Preservation Plan in its Comprehensive Plan under s. 91.10(2), Wis. Stats. The County should treat the Farmland Preservation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan as the same document rather than two separate plans. Because the Farmland Preservation Plan is part of the Comprehensive Plan, the entire document must be internally consistent.

If there are inconsistencies, the County may clarify that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan and any and all inconsistencies between the two shall be resolved in favor of the Farmland Preservation Plan. The County must include a statement in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan declaring that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes the Comprehensive Plan so that a person referring to either plan will be aware of each plan's relationship to the other. If inconsistencies appear in the maps, then the legends in both maps should include a note explaining that the Farmland Preservation Plan supersedes any inconsistencies with the Comprehensive Plan. If inconsistencies appear in the text, then the appropriate language should be added to the text where the inconsistencies are present.

To complete certification of the Farmland Preservation Plan, the County board must officially adopt the language in both the Farmland Preservation Plan and the existing Comprehensive Plan stating that, in the event of any specific inconsistency between them, the Farmland Preservation Plan takes precedence. The County should ensure that this clarifying language appears in the Farmland Preservation Plan that is submitted to the department. In addition, the County should submit the proposed amended pages from the Comprehensive Plan with the appropriate clarifying language.

Once the department approves the Farmland Preservation Plan for certification, the County board must adopt both the Farmland Preservation Plan in the form certified as well as the proposed language in the Comprehensive Plan clarifying the resolution of inconsistencies. Following adoption, the County must send documentation to the department that the Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted in the form certified and that the County also adopted the clarifying language in the Comprehensive Plan.

If the County does not take this step to clarify and resolve inconsistencies, the department will compare the Farmland Preservation Plan with the County Comprehensive Plan for consistency. In the event inconsistencies are found, the County will need to reconcile these inconsistencies either by changing the Farmland Preservation Plan or the Comprehensive Plan.

Signatures: I have reviewed the attached county farmland preservation plan (or plan amendment), and certify that it meets the applicable requirements for certification as listed above:

Signed and certified this 12th day of October, 2018

By: _____,
County Corporation Counsel

Signed and certified this 16th day of October, 2018

By: _____,
County Planning Director or County Chief Elected Official (circle one)

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Resource Management
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
(608) 224-4500

Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition

The undersigned persons hereby petition the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), pursuant to s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., to create an Agricultural Enterprise Area (**AEA**) under s. 91.84, Wis. Stats. We have read the guidance[1] provided and submit the following information in support of the petition:[2]

PART I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Name of AEA.	*Farming for the Future*
B. County or counties in which the proposed AEA is located.	**Trempealeau**
C. All towns, villages or cities in which the proposed AEA is located.	**Town of Arcadia**
D. Number of owners of eligible farms within the proposed AEA who signed the petition.	**32** (9,559 acres)
E. Total number of acres in the proposed AEA.	**62,929**
F. All parcels in the proposed AEA are located within a farmland preservation area designated in the certified county farmland preservation plan.	☒ Yes ☐ No
G. All parcels in the proposed AEA are contiguous.	☒ Yes ☐ No
H. The proposed AEA is primarily in agricultural use.	☒ Yes ☐ No
I. Primary type of agricultural production in the proposed AEA.	**Dairy, Beef, & Poultry**

J. Designated contacts for the AEA. *Please list at least two contacts for the AEA; preferably at least one staff contact (county, town, UWEX, regional planning commission etc.) and one landowner representative.*[3] *You may have more than two contacts. Attach a separate page if necessary.*

Name: **Jon Schultz**
Address: **N23277 Kukowski Ln**
Arcadia, WI 54612
Phone number: **715-919-1755**
Email: **jons@tremplocounty.com**

Name: **Cassandra Fowler**
Address: **36245 Main St – P.O. Box 67**
Whitehall, WI 54773
Phone number: **715-538-2311, Ext. 277**
Email: **cassandraf@tremplocounty.com**

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[1] *Guidance available at: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AEAPetitionInfo.aspx*
[2] *Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was collected, s. 15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.*
[3] *The listed contacts should be willing to:*
- *Communicate with other petitioners and partners in the AEA, with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and with contacts in other AEAs*
- *Respond to an annual status update inquiry from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection*
- *Engage in activities within the AEA*

PART II. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE FOR AEA[4]

Introduction to proposed AEA:

Farmland Preservation has been a part of the County since 1981 when the first Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted. It has been an important aspect of the community and the County had one of the highest densities of agreements in the state. The current density of agreements have dwindled down to a fraction of what it once was due to the inability to sign up for new agreements. Agriculture still has the largest economic impact in the county, contributing over $207 million in income and $17 million in taxes. According to the 2011 Trempealeau County Agriculture: Value and Economic Impact, agriculture provides over 4,778 jobs and $782 million in sales for the County.

Trempealeau County is traditionally an agriculturally diverse area due to its steep topography and fertile valleys. The main modes of production have been the grazing of beef & dairy cattle, along with cash cropping and the growing of poultry since the sixties. In 2012, on-farm milk production accounted for 987 jobs and dairy processing accounted for 1,142 jobs throughout the county. In the same year throughout the county $78.2 million in market value was generated through milk, $77.4 million in poultry and eggs, $21 million in cattle and calves, $59.4 million in corn and $16.4 million was generated in the production of soybeans. Even with this diverse and productive landscape, the number of farms throughout the County have begun to decrease with increased pressure from industrial sand mining operations, and rural housing development combined with the national decrease in the value of agricultural related products.

In order to combat these socioeconomic factors we are hoping to revitalize the Farmland Preservation Program within Trempealeau County. Through increased revenue for farmers generated through the use of Farmland Preservation Agreements and the ability to protect this unique landscape from development, landowners will be able to continue to be stewards of this area of historically prime farmland. Many landowners already follow the soil and water conservation standards that would be required as they hold permits with the county, received cost-share monies, or historically held a Farmland Preservation Agreement. The creation and goals of our Agricultural Enterprise Area will further support the following policies and objectives as stated in the 2016 Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan:

Public Participation

Policies/Objectives

1. To increase public awareness and participation in decisions affecting the agricultural resources of Trempealeau County, and also educate nonfarm residents about the value of prime farmland.
2. To work with Town's to establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) so that farmers can take advantage of the tax incentives offered through Working Lands Initiative.
3. To coordinate preservation activities among all levels of government.
4. To promote the utilization of lands in Trempealeau County in a manner which serves the needs of the county residents, businesses, and farmers, and is consistent with sound economic and environmental principals.

Agriculture

[4] *DATCP will evaluate petitions under s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., and will consider information provided in response to the following questions.*

Policies/Objectives

1. Utilize the Trempealeau County Soil Survey to help guide land use decisions.
2. Develop land use regulations which will manage non-agricultural uses of agricultural land which historically exhibited high yields.
3. To prevent wherever possible, rural-urban land use conflicts which can eventually jeopardize farming operations in the county.
4. To encourage conservation practices that improve the quality of our land and provide cost-sharing services to farmers for these practices.
5. Guide rural non-farm uses to those areas least suitable for agricultural production.
6. Support the continuation of the family farm as the basic production farm unit and foundation of the rural Trempealeau County community.
7. Strive to preserve land currently or historically in productive farm use.
8. To encourage the proper handling of animal wastes and chemicals, so that they produce a minimum effect upon ground and surface waters.
9. Encourage agriculture and agriculture-related businesses as a major economic development force in the community.
10. Encourage the preservation of the family farm, cropland, and farmland in the community.
11. Preserve prime farmland for agricultural uses.
12. Preserve agricultural fields in the community from encroachment of incompatible development (limit fragmentation of crop fields).
13. Maintain the agricultural infrastructure to support agricultural operations.
14. Preserve and protect agriculturally productive soils.
15. Encourage the use of conservation easements by private landowners to keep prime agricultural land from being developed.
16. Maintain and improve the agriculture transportation network (public roads) in the county

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1. State the specific goals for the preservation of agricultural land use.

1. Support the diversity of agricultural production through the various modes of beef, dairy, poultry, and crop production to best suit the landscape.

2. Preserve prime agricultural lands in Trempealeau County in order to strengthen, maintain, and encourage a sound agricultural economy.

3. Public and private actions in Trempealeau County should regard lands which have historically exhibited high agricultural yields as an irreplaceable resource whose value should not be impaired for future generations.

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2. State the specific goals for agricultural development and/or innovation.

1. Promote the development of local agricultural processing facilities and the local sale of those products for the growth of the local food, agricultural and tourism economy.

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2. Maintain and improve the agriculture transportation network (public roads) in the County.

3. Educate the public on the agricultural resources, production strategies, animal welfare and the value of prime farmland.

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3. Describe the relationship between the area's goals for agricultural preservation and development.
Through increased crop diversity, well managed grazing and proper forest management, landowners will be better able to withstand variations in prices for agricultural products. This increased diversity will also preserve prime farmland, productive soils, and encourage land conservation practices. Direct market sales within the County will allow for greater stability and grant more control to local landowners and businesses. Our unique landscape and diversity of production may be utilized for agri-tourism, further expanding the local market. The maintenance of the County's transportation network, will better equip producers to move products and encourage travel through the region. Through educating the public, producers will gain further support from local non-agricultural residents, and increase awareness of the value of agriculture to the general public. Education strategies will be aimed locally as well as part of the agri-tourism of the region. Tourism will focus on the preservation strategies of the landscape and their relation to the historical significance of the area.

4. Describe (a) <u>all</u> current land uses within the proposed AEA <u>and</u> (b) provide information about land use trends in and around the AEA. ***(The proposed AEA must be primarily in agricultural use.)***

The land use is primarily agricultural, with small, to medium sized dairy, beef, and poultry broiler farms. There are also poultry layer barns, a single dairy CAFO, and cash cropping operations. There are 6 non-metallic construction aggregate mines under one acre in size which produce sand or lime for agricultural purposes. The land use information provided in the table below is from the WIDOR 2013 Final Statement of Assessment. This is a tax assessment based upon accumulative results of the entire county.

<u>Land Uses</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Residential	12,684	2.67%
Commercial	1,653	0.35%
Manufacturing	1,430	0.30%
Agriculture	255,047	53.74%
Undeveloped	33,637	7.09%
Agricultural Forest	73,921	15.57%
Forest Lands	22,330	4.70%
Other	73,922	15.57%
TOTAL:	474,624	100.00%

This equals over 69% of the total acreage in Trempealeau County as being assessed for agricultural purposes. According to data derived from the USDA's geospatial land cover data, within the AEA, 52% of the land cover is deciduous forest, 25% cultivated crops, and hay/pasture land accounts for

15% of the land cover. This equates to having over 92% of the current land cover with the potential for agricultural production and revenue.

Of the farms in Trempealeau County 88.5% are owned by individuals and families, partnerships make up 6.9% and 2.7% are owned family corporations. Between 2002 and 2012 the amount of farms with milking cows decreased by 37.1%, while the actual amount of cows only decreased by 3.1% and beef cattle farms decreased by 27.1% with actual beef cattle only decreasing by 1.1%. The amount of farms decreased by 285 farms between 2007 and 2012 but the average farm size increased by 27 acres. This trend of decreasing farms while increasing herd sizes is concerning for an area that historically is dominated by smaller family owned operations.

Another attributing factor is the change in the type of farm production. The amount of broiler production increased by 231,797 birds between 2007 and 2012 and grain corn increased by 16,659 acres within the same time frame. Corn & Soybean acreage has increased by 25.5% and 44.8% between 2007 & 2012, while hay, and grass silage have decreased by 10.8%. With the increased acreage in cash cropping other land uses have seen a decline with a 22% decrease in woodland, and 31% decrease in pastureland. While dairy farming has decreased by 41.4% in the county, from 2002 to 2012, grain farms have increased by 51.1%. These types of trends are concerning as much of the terrain is not suitable for the production of corn and soybeans, requiring greater rotations of hay, or to be used as pasture in order to maintain the quality of the soil.

Although, not included within the boundary of the AEA, industrial sand mines have had a large impact on Trempealeau County, and the Town of Arcadia in particular. Since 2010, seven industrial sand mines have opened in the Township, with two of those operations having annexed to the City of Arcadia and Independence. In the past 8 years, there have been over 17 individual registrations of nonmetallic mineral rights. All of these mines and registered mineral rights have occurred in areas zoned for agriculture and in some cases were once under Farmland Preservation Agreements. Through the creation of an AEA, landowners will have more options for creating revenue on their land, and protecting it for future agricultural production.

5. How did you determine the boundary (location and size) of the proposed AEA? As part of your answer describe all efforts to provide information to and involve the public in the petition process.

Initial contact with landowners involved County employees reaching out to landowners who currently had a farmland preservation contract to inform them of AEA's and signing new contracts. An area with the greatest concentration of interested landowners was then chosen as starting point. This was then expanded to include other landowners with expired farmland preservation contracts, and current Trempealeau County Livestock Siting or Animal Waste Storage permits. All current Trempealeau County permit holders would be eligible for a new contract if an AEA was created as they are required to follow current agricultural prohibitions including filing a nutrient management plan with the County.

There was an initial informational meeting at the Arcadia Town Hall where members of DATCP presented on AEAs and the farmland preservation agreements. Invitees included landowners who have had a farmland preservation agreement, held a county permit, or expressed interest in the start of an AEA. The Town of Arcadia Board were also invited along with 10 Arcadia based agricultural businesses, the County Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator, the County Conservationist, the County Planning & Conservation Coordinator, the County Environment & Land Use Committee, the UW-Extension Agricultural Educator, and the local Western Technical agricultural course educator. Flyers were posted on the Town and County websites along with public spaces such as churches, gas stations, local banks, agricultural businesses and announcements made at board meetings.

Due to the positive feedback at the initial meeting, it was decided that the entire Town of Arcadia should be included within the boundary and all present were encouraged to speak with their neighbors, families, and friends. The boundary of the AEA throughout the Town of Arcadia was decided on by the following factors:

1. Landowner attendees at the planning meetings
2. Landowner interest in signing new Farmland Preservation Agreements
3. The quantity of landowners that would qualify for signing a new Agreement
4. The new Town of Arcadia Land Use Map in which areas reserved for agriculture were expanded.
5. Land that currently has an industrial sand, non-metallic mine or has registered non-metallic mineral rights were not included.

Every two weeks, another informational meeting was held at the Town Hall with over 160 mailings to invitees, along with flyers posted on websites, and throughout the city of Arcadia. The local County newspaper was invited to the third meeting where the goals of the AEA were reviewed along with a rough draft of the petition application. Petitioning landowner signature pages were handed out along with non-landowner petitioner pages for those present, or for members who wished to approach a business. Landowners unable to attend the meetings, but that were interested in the AEA were welcome to come in for an individual meeting with Land Management staff and mailed updates of the boundary and petition application.

6. Describe any recent investments made to support agriculture and agricultural-related business in or near the proposed AEA.

The following list of investments is a general overview with all landowner names and costs of investments removed for the sake of privacy. This information was gathered through meetings with landowners, and County Land Management staff.

1. Over 40 landowners have invested time and money into writing a nutrient management plan for their operation.
2. A landowner has converted cropland to pasture to better suit the steep landscape and uses prescribed burning throughout their pasture and woodlot to promote the growth of native species, while suppressing invasive species.
3. For over 40 years, the area has been able to support four implement dealers all located in the City of Arcadia. The area has also been able to support multiple small family farm supply operations, and greenhouses.
4. "In the past 11 years, our family has built a new milking facility, free stall barn, calf facility, and manure lagoon. We have also updated our planting, harvesting, and manure handling equipment to help sustain our farming legacy for future generations. We still believe that agriculture is the backbone of not only the local economy, but that of the state and national economy as well." – Scott Schank, member of Schank Family Farms LLC
5. Landowners throughout the Township have invested money in stream restoration located along cropping fields to stabilize banks and reduce nutrient loads. A single landowner is having over 1 mile of the Meyer's Valley Watershed being restored and a 30 foot buffer installed. This same landowner is also installing a new waste storage system for their dairy with the financial assistance of WDNR.
6. Since 2010, fourteen poultry broiler barns have been permitted in the Arcadia Township and two turkey barns.
7. The Dairy CAFO has had continued growth and expansion with investments in new buildings, maintenance, and the stabilization of stream banks.

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7. Indicate the approximate level of petitioner compliance with state soil and water standards.

☐ Nearly all petitioners are in compliance

☐ More than half of the petitioners are in compliance

☒ Half or less than half of the petitioners are in compliance

☐ Few or no petitioners are in compliance

☐ Compliance status of petitioners is unknown

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8. Describe the level of non-petitioner cooperator support for the petition.

The following list includes all cooperators who sent a letter in support of the AEA.

1. UW-Extension, Steve Okonek
2. Western Technical College, Brad Sirianni

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3. Trempealeau County Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator, Darrek Orwig

The petition received support from the Town of Arcadia and the County Environment & Land Use Committee. Each governing body passed a resolution in support. All letters, signatures and resolutions of support are included in Appendixes B-D.

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9. Fill in the tables to provide information about activities and partners in the proposed AEA.

A. Land Use Controls and Plans		
Type of Control	***Existing or Future***	***Provide details about the selected control***
☐ Farmland preservation zoning ordinance		
☒ Other zoning ordinances Specify: Trempealeau County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance: Chapter 2 - Zoning Districts and Zoning Map; Use Regulations	Existing	The entirety of Trempealeau County is zoned and covered under the Trempealeau County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. 2.03 Purpose and intent of zoning districts • (1) Exclusive Agriculture (EA): o Preserve class I, II & III soils o Preserve woodlands, wetlands, natural areas and the rural atmosphere of the County o Intended to implement the Trempealeau County Farmland Preservation Plan o Apply to lands in productive farm operations and historically productive land • (2) Exclusive Agriculture-2 (EA-2): o Preserve class I, II & III soils o Preserve woodlands, wetlands, natural areas and the rural atmosphere of the County • (3) Primary Agriculture (PA): o Maintain, preserve, and enhance prime agricultural lands o Allows limited residential development http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/landmanagement/documents/ordinances/zoning/CHAPTER_2.pdf Please see Table 2.05 Table of Uses for the complete list of all permitted and conditional uses allowed in each zoning district. http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/landmanagement/documents/ordinances/zoning/Table_2.pdf

☒ Farmland preservation agreements	Existing & Future	There are over 90 existing farmland preservation agreement holders. We hope to increase this number with the creation of the AEA.
☒ Purchase of development rights and/or easements (donated or purchased) Mississippi Valley Conservancy	Future	The Mississippi Valley Conservancy works with landowners on perpetual conservation easements. The Conservancy assists landowners with management and enforcement, free of charge. Their management goals include: • Protecting and expanding habitat available for rare species • Restoring the structure and composition of natural communities to the quality and biodiversity that was present here more than 200 years ago • Maintaining resiliency in the face of changing condition A petitioning landowner is currently working with the conservancy to put their 600 acres of wood, pasture, and cropland into an easement.
☒ Transfer of development rights	Existing	The following section refers to a landowner's right to transfer development rights from one parcel to another as part of the general zoning requirements. 3.04 Maximum residential density (e) Transfer of allowable density. The transfer of allowable density from one parcel to a contiguous parcel under the same ownership is permitted. Such transfer may also be across a public highway to a parcel under the same ownership which has opposite frontage. http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/landmanagement/documents/ordinances/zoning/CHAPTER%203_2_09.pdf
☒ Subdivision ordinances Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 24 – Subdivision Ordinance	Existing	This chapter regulates the creation of any new parcels or lots within the unincorporated areas of the County that are not covered by a municipal ordinance. All intents and purpose of this chapter are to promote the public health, safety and general welfare, provide orderly development of the County, and provide orderly, precise, and consistent means of preparing descriptions in real estate conveyance records and to provide accurate and uniform land records. No person shall create any parcel of land or lot within Trempealeau County resulting in a land division or replat, as the term is defined at section 236.02(11), Wis. Stats., without full compliance with all requirements of this Ordinance. http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/misc/documents/Code%20of%20Ordinances/CHAPTER%2024%20-%20SUBDIVISION%20ORDINANCE.pdf

☐ Cooperative boundary agreements/inter-municipal agreements		
☒ Natural area protections Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27- Floodplain Zoning	Existing	This ordinance is intended to regulate floodplain development to protect life, health, property, minimize public funds at the expense of tax payers, minimize damage to public facilities, and prevent any increase in flood heights. Areas regulated included are those mapped by the DNR and FEMA. Any development within the mapped floodplain is allowed to increase regional flood heights, obstruct floodways, relocate or alter any watercourse. http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/misc/documents/Code%20of%20Ordinances/CHAPTER%2025%20-%20FLOODPLAIN%20ZONING.pdf
☒ Comprehensive plan *Please list which county(ies) and town(s) have an adopted comprehensive plan and explain how that plan is consistent with the proposed AEA. Submit a future land use map if available.*	Existing	The entirety of Trempealeau County is zoned and each town has their own land use plan that is included in the County Comprehensive plan. Areas throughout the County have been designated for continual agriculture production and make up the majority of the current and future land use. The County Comprehensive Plan is currently being updated, but the recently adopted Town of Arcadia Land Use Map has been included.
☒ Other (specify) Trempealeau County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance: Chapter 15 - Livestock Facilities Performance Standards	Existing	Chapter 15: Livestock Siting & Animal Waste Storage requires all permit holders to be in compliance with the requirements of ATCP50, ATCP51, and NR151 State Administrative Rules. Since its adoption in 2007, any landowner that builds a new livestock facility, or expands an existing facility is required to apply for a permit and be in compliance with the aforementioned requirements. http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/landmanagement/documents/ordinances/zoning/CHAPTER_15.pdf
☒ Other (specify) Trempealeau County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance: Chapter 22 - Animal Waste Management	Existing	Chapter 22: Animal Waste Management requires all permit holders to be in compliance with the requirements of ATCP50, ATCP51 and NR151 State Administrative Rules. Since it was first adopted in 1986, any person who constructs, installs, reconstructs, enlarges, alters, closes, or transfers ownership of an animal waste facility is subject to the requirements within the ordinance. http://www.tremplocounty.com/tchome/misc/documents/Code%20of%20Ordinances/CHAPTER%2022%20-%20ANIMAL%20WASTE%20MANAGEMENT.pdf

B. Planned Farmland Preservation Agreement Strategy
☒ Informational meeting(s) Informational meetings will be held at the Town Hall consisting or compliance requirements, restrictions once in an agreement, how to sign-up for an agreement, and how to file their taxes.
☒ Mailing Everyone that had attended a meeting will be notified via mailings along with all previous information about the option to sign a Farmland Preservation Agreement.
☒ One-on-one conversations Each landowner that is located within the AEA that holds a Trempealeau County Livestock or Animal Waste Permit will be contacted about their eligibility to voluntarily sign up for a new agreement.
☐ Newsletter/media
☒ Other Targeting farmers located within the proposed AEA that already meet soil & water conservation standards due to a zoning ordinance.
Agreement sign-up goal (percent of AEA or number of landowners): 10 new landowners each year

C. AEA Partners		
Partner	***Involved in petition development?***	***Current or future activity***
Trempealeau County Land Management Office: County Conservationist	Yes	The County Conservationist administers the County's Livestock Facilities and Animal Waste Storage ordinances. Land Management staff will be assisting landowners in achieving compliance and understanding the Farmland Preservation Program.
UW-Extension Agricultural Educator	Yes	AEA outreach, & Economic planning with individual landowners
Western Technical College: Agricultural Educator	Yes	Teaches the local Nutrient Management Plan Writing class along with economic planning with individual landowners
County Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator	Yes	The Economic Developer will be instrumental in reaching the AEA's economic goals along with promoting tourism of the area based on its agricultural history and grant-writing.
County Planning & Conservation Coordinator	Yes	The County Planner assists in creating the Farmland Preservation Plan and all land use planning. During the petition process, they were instrumental in creating the boundary of the AEA and

		amending the Farmland Preservation Plan maps to better match the updated land use map of the Township.

D. Agricultural Development Activities		
Type of Activity	***Existing/Future***	***Provide additional details***
On-farm Tourism & Education Days	Existing & Future	Each year a farm in the County hosts a Dairy breakfast in which landowners throughout the area are invited to tour the farm, and eat breakfast in one of their agricultural buildings. Landowners host education days on their farms, where children from local schools can come learn about agricultural production.
Agri-tourism Grants	Future	Producers would like to pursue grants to increase agri-tourism of the area, based on educating the public in farming practices of the unique landscape.

E. Other AEA Activities		
Type of Activity	***Timeframe***	***Provide additional details***
Statewide AEA Meetings	Future	The AEA Coordinators will attend all statewide AEA or Farmland Preservation meetings and relay the information back to other members.
Annual Meetings	Future	There will be annual meetings with every member of the AEA present to discuss our achievements, goals, strategies, and possible expansion. County staff will be present to answer any Farmland Preservation Agreement Questions.

Appendix A

Maps

Appendix B:

Petitioning Landowner Signature Pages

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Myers Valley Farm

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Anthony J Myers Date 4-4-18

Print name: Anthony Myers

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N26137 Weaver Ln
Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): anthonmyers@yahoo.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Schank Family Farms LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☑

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Scott Schank Date 5-9-18

Print name: Scott Schank

Authorized signature: Jason Schank Date 5-9-18

Print name: Jason Schank

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N30673 St Rd 93

Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): scottdschank@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Jason Schank

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Jason Schank Date 4-17-18

Print name: Jason Schank

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N30419 St Rd 93

Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): Schankjason@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Cassandra,

You may add the following statement to the list of investments to support agriculture:

In the past ~~ten~~ eleven years our family has built a new milking facility, free stall barn, calf facility and manure lagoon. We have also updated our planting, harvesting and manure handling equipment to help sustain our farming legacy for future generations. We still believe that agriculture is the backbone of not only the local economy, but that of the state and national economy as well.

Sincerely

Scott Schank, member

Schank Family Farms LLC

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Charles A. and Karla J. Johnson

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: _____ Date 5-2-18

Print name: Charles A. Johnson

Authorized signature: _____ Date 5-2-18

Print name: Karla J Johnson

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W2802/ Trout Run Rd,

ARCADIA WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): johnsontroutrun@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Hanson Family Trust

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Karen Hanson - trustee Date 4/24/18

Print name: Karen Hanson

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W21361 State Rd. 95
Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): jensmarit@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

William + Kathlee Lockington

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: William Lockington

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: Kathleen Lockington

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N26980 State Rd 93

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): kalidd@msn.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Melby Heritage Farm LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Donald R. Melby Date 05/03/2018

Print name: Donald Melby

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N31584 Square Bluff Rd

Blair, WI 54616

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☒ Yes	☐ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Larry & Nancy Bergman

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Nancy Bergman Date 5.4.18

Print name: Nancy Bergman

Authorized signature: Larry Bergman by Nancy Bergman Date 5.4.18

Print name: Larry Bergman

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N3305 Square Bluff
Westfield WI

E-mail address(es) (if available): nbergman49@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

KILLIAN FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST DATED MARCH 21, 2018

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe) TRUST

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Beth Killian Date 5-4-18

Print name: BETH KILLIAN

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N26509 JOE ROSSA LANE

ARCADIA WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): killianb@triwest.net

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Bert Hodous and Donna Brogan

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Bert Hodous Date 5-9-18

Print name: BERT HODOUS

Authorized signature: Donna Brogan Date 5/4/18

Print name: Donna Brogan

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W20695 Coddie Klink Rd

Blair, WI 54616

E-mail address(es) (if available): donnabrogan@trivest.net

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Albert Woychik Jr

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Albert Woychik Date 5-10-18

Print name: Al Woychik II

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W24201 St. Rd 93

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Lynn M. Axness

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Lynn M. Axness Date 5-10-18

Print name: Lynn M. Axness

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N2789G Soppa Rd

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Galen S. Mueller

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Galen S. Mueller Date 05-01-18

Print name: GALEN L. MUELLER

Authorized signature: Doris A. Mueller Date 05-01-18

Print name: DORIS A. MUELLER

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W29265 BILLS VALLEY RD

ARCADIA, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Kube Farms LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Roger Kube Date 5-18-2018

Print name: Roger Kube

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W29719 Trout Run Rd

Arcadia, WI. 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

A. H. Fell LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Henry H. Schultz Date 5-15-2018

Print name: Henry H. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N25487 Myers Vly Rd

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Andrew C. Schultz

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Andrew C. Schultz Date 5/16/18

Print name: Andrew C. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N25064 Haines Ln.

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Michael L Backes

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Michael L Backes Date 5-15-18

Print name: Michael L Backes

Authorized signature: Margaret S. Backes Date 5-15-18

Print name: Margaret S Backes

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W27408 Trout Run

Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available):

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

CHICKEN RIDGE INC.

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☐

Corporation ☒ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Henry H. Schultz Date 5-15-2018

Print name: Henry H. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N23078 Glodowski Rd

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

CHICKEN RIDGE I LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Henry H. Schultz Date 5-15-2018

Print name: Henry H. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N23078 Glodowski Rd.

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

CHICKEN RIDGE II LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

- Individual or married couple ☐
- Corporation ☐
- Partnership ☐
- LLC ☒
- Other (describe)

Authorized signature: Henry H. Schultz Date 5-15-2018

Print name: Henry H. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N23078 Glodowski Rd

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

CHICKEN RIDGE III LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Henry H. Schultz Date 5-15-2018

Print name: Henry H. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N23078 Glodowski Rd

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

CHICKEN RIDGE IV LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☒

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Henry H. Schultz Date 5-15-2018

Print name: Henry H. Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N23078 Glodowski Rd

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☒ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Larry + Jeffrey Sonsalla

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe) Larry L. Sonsalla and Jeffrey J. Sonsalla Individually 50% owners

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Larry L Sonsalla Date 5/18/18

Print name: Larry L. Sonsalla

Authorized signature: Jeffrey J Sonsalla Date 5-18-18

Print name: Jeffrey J. Sonsalla

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): 23971 9th St
Trempealeau WI 54661

E-mail address(es) (if available): lsonsalla@yahoo.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe N/A

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Mary + Randall Nilsestuen

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Randall Nilsestuen Date 5-20-18

Print name: Randall Nilsestuen

Authorized signature: Mary A Nilsestuen Date 5-20-18

Print name: Mary Nilsestuen

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W22767 Gilbertson Ln

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available):

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

David & Charlotte Schank

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: David Schank Date 5-22-18

Print name: DAVID Schank

Authorized signature: Charlotte Schank Date 5-22-18

Print name: CHARLOTTE SCHANK

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W26161 Kewis Valley Road
Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available):

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

James J Sobotta

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: James J Sobotta Date 24 May 2018

Print name: James J Sobotta

Authorized signature: Mary S Sobotta Date 5/24/18

Print name: MARY S. SOBOTTA

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N 27719 Co. Rd. T

ARCADIA WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Robert J. Sobieck

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Robert Sobieck Date May 18, 2018

Print name: Robert Sobieck

Authorized signature: Marilyn Sobieck Date May 18, 2018

Print name: Marilyn Sobieck

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N30744 River Valley

Arcadia, Wi. 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): —

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

David Bagniewski

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: David Bagniewski Date 5-28-25

Print name: David Bagniewski

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W28443 Bills Valley Rd

Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

John B Kamrowski

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: John Kamrowski Date 5-25-18

Print name: John Kamrowski

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N22086 Kamrowski Road

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

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Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Victoria Schultz

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Victoria Schultz Date 5/6/18

Print name: Victoria Schultz

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N23277 Kukowski Ln

Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): vjam@riverland.org

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No (expired) ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Mark L. Brave

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☒ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Mark L. Brave Date 6/5/18

Print name: Mark L Brave

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: Jennita A. Brave - Died April 23, 2018

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N33611 Woyclik Sonjalla Rd.

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): mbrave@frontier.net

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Glenzinski Brothers, LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

- ☐ Individual or married couple
- ☐ Corporation
- ☐ Partnership
- ☑ LLC
- Other (describe)

Authorized signature: John A. Glenzinski Mgd Mem Date 6/7/18

Print name: John A. Glenzinski

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W29564 Cty Rd JJ
Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).	☐ Yes	☑ No	☐ Don't Know
I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*	☐ Yes	☐ No	☑ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Glenzinski Homestead, LLC

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☑

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: John A. Glenzinski Mgd Mem Date 6/7/18

Print name: John A. Glenzinski

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W29564 Cty Rd JJ

Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☐ No ☑ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☑ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

John A. Glenzinski Trust

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☐ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐ Trust

Authorized signature: John A. Glenzinski Trustee Date 6/7/18

Print name: John A. Glenzinski

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): W27329 Whistle Pass Rd

Trempealeau, WI 54661

E-mail address(es) (if available): _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☑ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☐ Yes ☐ No ☑ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Diane Walske

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: B. Walske Date 6-7-18

Print name: Brian Walske

Authorized signature: B. Walske Date 6-7-18

Print name: Brian Walske

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N29964 River Valley Road

Arcadia WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): brianjwalske@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple as individuals, both must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name or legal name of business entity):

Brian and Amber Walske

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple ☑ LLC ☐

Corporation ☐ Other (describe)

Partnership ☐

Authorized signature: Amber Walske Date 6-7-18

Print name: Amber Walske

Authorized signature: B. Walske Date 6-7-18

Print name: Brian Walske

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): N30494 River Valley Rd
Arcadia, WI 54612

E-mail address(es) (if available): brianjwalske@gmail.com

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement). ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)* ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Appendix C:

Letters of Support

Non-Petitioner Cooperator Signature Page

Persons other than the petitioners may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, or letter of support, may be submitted for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Bradley W. Sirianni

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Trempealeau County landowner, farmer, educator and active community member.

Principal mailing address: N38584 Johnson Valley Rd., Whitehall, WI 54773

E-mail address: bradsirianni5@gmail.com

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition requesting designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

My interest in signing this is in support of the farmers I work with as a Farm Business & Production Management instructor and the Trempealeau County Land Management team who I work cooperatively with for many programs and initiatives. (See letter of support)

Print name: Bradley W. Sirianni

Authorized signature: Bradley W Sirianni Date May 10, 2018

May 10, 2018

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Resource Management
Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition
PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911

This letter of support is for the application for an agricultural enterprise area (AEA) in the town of Arcadia located in Trempealeau County. I strongly encourage the leaders of Trempealeau County and the *Division of Agricultural Resource Management* to approve the application submitted by project leaders Jon Schultz and Cassandra Fowler.

My name is Brad Sirianni and my family and I reside and farm in the Whitehall area of Trempealeau County. For many years, I have been an agriculture educator in the county and currently am a Farm Business & Production Management (FBPM) instructor at Western Technical College. The FBPM program focuses on providing education and training to farmers. Nutrient management planning and training is one of the main areas we provide education. In fact, many of the farmers in the proposed AEA area are or have been students in the program and have completed farmer written nutrient management plans. During my years of working with farmers, there has been discussion about how to protect the valuable farmland in the area. The establishment of an AEA will address these concerns and protect this land. Our collaboration will provide an excellent means of sharing information and resources with other farmers and agribusinesses throughout the phases of implementing the AEA.

The Trempealeau County Land Management department has been working very hard to help landowners/farmer improve their land stewardship practices through education, collaboration and financial support. The impact they are making in the communities is powerful. Powerful in how their work is influencing others in relating their everyday decisions on protecting our soil and water quality.

As a landowner, farmer and educator in Trempealeau County I support the development and implementation of an agricultural enterprise area in Arcadia. We will continue to provide input, conduct educational events and support the AEA initiative as it moves forward.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bradley W Sirianni

Brad Sirianni
Farm Business & Production Management Instructor
Western Technical College
Fede Farms
N38584 Johnson Valley Rd.
Whitehall, WI 54773
715-533-8081
bradsirianni5@gmail.com

Non-Petitioner Cooperator Signature Page

Persons other than the petitioners may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, or letter of support, may be submitted for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: Steven D Okonek

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):
Trempealeau County UW-Extension

Principal mailing address: PO Box 67, Whitehall, WI 54773

E-mail address: steve.okonek@ces.uwex.edu

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition requesting designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

Print name: Steven D Okonek

Authorized signature: Steven D Okonek Date 5/11/2018

Trempealeau County Government Center
36245 Main Street
PO Box 67
Whitehall, WI 54773
715-538-2311 Ext. 208
877-538-2311 (Toll Free)
715-538-1974 (FAX)
TTY 800-947-3529 or 711

UW Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension

May 11, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed Agriculture Enterprise Area (AEA) in Trempealeau County. Setting up the AEA in Trempealeau County would be a positive step forward in preserving farm land for agricultural production into the future. Trempealeau County has a diverse economy that relies on agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. While having a diverse economy is positive, the diversity also puts pressure on farm land to be converted to other uses such as housing. Allowing farm land owners the option to enter into a 15-year farm land preservation agreement on their land would reduce pressure to convert land into other uses. Soil erosion is a major problem in Trempealeau County due to the steep slopes that are farmed. The farm land preservation agreement would require land owners and operators to follow a conservation plan to protect soil and water from erosion.

Entering into a farm land preservation agreement is optional for people in the AEA. The AEA would not create any undue burden for anyone that does not want to be in a farm land preservation agreement. Setting up the AEA would provide those land owners that want to enter a farm land preservation agreement the option to enter into an agreement. It is my opinion that this AEA should be set up and will be a positive development for the county and its citizens now and in the future.

Thank you,
Steve Okonek
UW-Extension Agriculture Agent

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.

Trempealeau County
Economic Development

May 11, 2018

Greetings,

It is with enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for Arcadia Township's Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition. Trempealeau County's most important economic development asset, its fertile landscape, is at risk because of residential and commercial development, industrial uses, and erosion.

The Agricultural Enterprise Area in Arcadia Township would encourage soil and water conservation standards that can serve as an example to farmers and agricultural property owners on how to minimize the amount of sediment impacting area waterways and to discourage erosion of hillside fields.

Encouraging the preservation of agricultural lands could also guide sustainable development in nearby communities, reducing the need to expand City infrastructure. This could result in neighborhood revitalization, rehabilitation of existing housing stock, and walkable mixed-use downtowns.

An Agricultural Enterprise Area would greatly contribute to Trempealeau County's current efforts to create a sustainable economy, while strengthening the conservation of its rich agricultural landscape. It is my hope that the proposed AEA in Arcadia Township will be the first of many in Trempealeau County.

Best Regards,

Darrek D. Orwig
Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator
Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

Appendix D:

Resolutions

Political Subdivision Signature Page

In addition to passing a resolution in support of this petition, this signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included.

Political subdivision name: Town of Arcadia

Type (check one): County ☐ Town ☑ City ☐ Village ☐

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: Barbara G Tock

Title of authorized officer or representative: Chairperson

Authorized signature: Barbara G Tock Date: 5/01/18

Principal mailing address: W26051 State Road 95
Arcadia, WI 54612

Phone number: 608-323-3470

E-mail address: ~~Townofarcadia~~ townofarcadia@outlook.com

Resolution Number: 2018-02

Resolution in Support of the Petition for Creating an Agricultural Enterprise Area Located Within the Town of Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, Trempealeau County has participated in Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program since December 1980, and historically, Trempealeau County had the highest volume of Farmland Preservation Agreements in the State, and

WHEREAS, since 2009, Wisconsin's historical Farmland Preservation Program transitioned to the Working Lands Initiative, in which landowners have been unable to sign new Farmland Preservation agreements and enroll in the program unless they are located within a Farmland Preservation Zoning District or an Agricultural Enterprise Area, which has resulted in a drastic decrease of agreements in Trempealeau County, and

WHEREAS, landowners in the Town of Arcadia are petitioning the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to create a 62,929 acre Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Town of Arcadia, in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 91.86, and

WHEREAS, the creation of an Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Town of Arcadia would allow landowners located within its boundaries to voluntarily sign up for new 15-year Farmland Preservation Agreements, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Arcadia is in support of the proposed Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition, due to its effectiveness in protecting prime farmland, its support of the Town's agricultural economy, the promotion of conservation practices and the option it provides landowners to collect tax credits associated with the Farmland Preservation Agreements, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Arcadia Board of Supervisors supports the petition creating the 62,929 acre Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Town of Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin.

Dated at the Town of Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin this 10th day of May, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town of Arcadia Board:

Barbara G. Tock, Chairperson

Karen Geske, Supervisor #1

Donna Brogan, Supervisor #2

Michael R. Wineski, Supervisor #3

Michael A. Chitko, Supervisor #4

Lynn M. Axness, Clerk

Motion to Adopt By: _____				
Seconded By: _____				
Dist.	**Supervisor**	**Y**	**N**	**A**
1	**Frey**	☐	☐	☐
2	**Winters**	☐	☐	☐
3	**S. Miller**	☐	☐	☐
4	**Sacia**	☐	☐	☐
5	**Schultz**	☐	☐	☐
6	**Brandt**	☐	☐	☐
7	**Killian**	☐	☐	☐
8	**Tollefson**	☐	☐	☐
9	**Haines**	☐	☐	☐
10	**Aasen**	☐	☐	☐
11	**Walek**	☐	☐	☐
12	**Zeglin**	☐	☐	☐
13	**Fimreite**	☐	☐	☐
14	**Nelson**	☐	☐	☐
15	**Nutter**	☐	☐	☐
16	**Skoyen**	☐	☐	☐
17	**Johnson**	☐	☐	☐
	TOTALS	___	___	___

First Reading: _____

Vote Required: _____
Adopted ☐
Defeated ☐

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)s.s.
CO. OF TREMPEALEAU)

I hereby certify that this resolution /ordinance is a true and correct copy of a resolution/ordinance adopted by the Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors on: _____

_____
Paul L. Syverson, County Clerk

Resolution Number: _____

Resolution in Support of the Petition to Create an Agricultural Enterprise Area Located Within the Town of Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, Trempealeau County has participated in Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program since December 1980, and historically, Trempealeau County had the highest volume of Farmland Preservation Agreements in the State, and

WHEREAS, since 2009, Wisconsin's historical Farmland Preservation Program transitioned to the Working Lands Initiative, in which landowners have been unable to sign new Farmland Preservation Agreements and enroll in the program unless they are located within a Farmland Preservation Zoning District or an Agricultural Enterprise Area, which has resulted in a drastic decrease of agreements in Trempealeau County, and

WHEREAS, landowners in the Town of Arcadia are petitioning the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to create a 62,929 acre Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Town of Arcadia, in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 91.86, and

WHEREAS, the creation of an Agricultural Enterprise Area would allow landowners located within its boundaries to sign up for new 15-year Farmland Preservation Agreements, and

WHEREAS, Trempealeau County is in support of the proposed Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition, due to its effectiveness in protecting prime farmland, its support of the County's agricultural economy, the promotion of conservation practices and the option it provides landowners to collect tax credits associated with the Farmland Preservation Agreements, and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors supports the petition creating the 62,929 acre Agricultural Enterprise Area in the Town of Arcadia, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin.

Introduced by: Environment & Land Use Committee

George Brandt

Kathy Zeglin

Beth Killian

Jon W. Schultz

Michael Nelson

Curtis Skoyen

Henry Schultz

Aaron Kidd

Committee Approval Date: June 6th, 2018

Committee Vote: _____

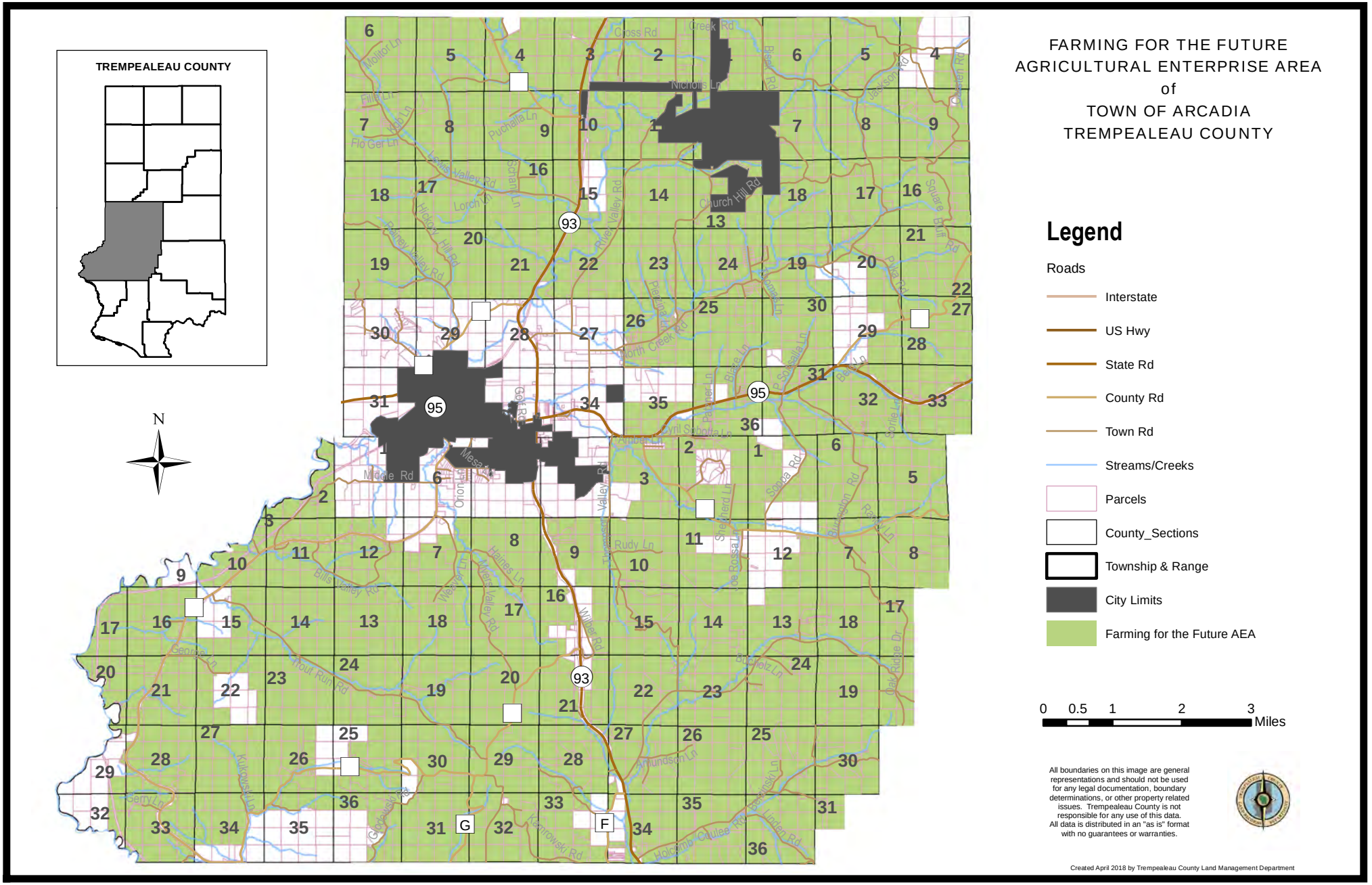
Resolution Drafted by: Cassandra Fowler

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel: Rick Niemeier

Fiscal Impact: (Fiscal Statement – as set forth in Project Initiation form) This resolution has the ability to bring in additional income tax credits for those landowners who pursue Farmland Preservation Agreements. In turn, additional money could be spent at agricultural businesses throughout the County. By following through the goals of the petition as set forth by County residents, additional effort will be put into the local food market as well as agricultural tourism.

Appendix E

Farming for the Future AEA Map


TREMPEALEAU COUNTY
N
FARMING FOR THE FUTURE
AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA
of
TOWN OF ARCADIA
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY
Legend
Roads
Interstate
US Hwy
State Rd
County Rd
Town Rd
Streams/Creeks
Parcels
County_Sections
Township & Range
City Limits
Farming for the Future AEA
0 0.5 1 2 3
Miles
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Created April 2018 by Trempealeau County Land Management Department