

Press Release

Local officials meet to discuss Farmland Preservation Plan

Four meetings have been held throughout the County to provide local officials with the information they need to provide input on the development of the Marquette County Farmland Preservation Plan. MDRoffers, the consulting firm hired by the County Board of Supervisors, facilitated the meetings and reviewed the new State requirements for a County to participate in the Farmland Preservation program. By participating in the program and developing a Farmland Preservation Plan local farmers can become eligible for Farmland Preservation tax credits. While Marquette County has had a Farmland Preservation Plan since 1982, changes to the State law under the 2009 Working Lands Initiative require that the County update their plan by the end of 2015. As part of the planning process the County and local communities are also reviewing their 2005 Comprehensive Plans and it is the goal of the project to incorporate the Farmland Preservation Plan into the County Comprehensive Plan as the Agriculture element.

Now that local officials have had their initial meeting with the planning consultant they will be holding their own meetings to discuss farmland preservation in their town and to review their local comprehensive plan. Input from local residents is a very important and needed during this process. Residents should watch for meeting notices in February and March and are asked to attend meetings in their community to provide their input.

Updates on the planning process are available on the County website. Go to www.co.marquette.wi.us and follow the Farmland Preservation/Comprehensive Plan link on the home page. Information is also available by visiting the Planning and Zoning Department in Room 104 of the Courthouse.