

# Town of Williamstown Landowners

## Farmland Preservation Program

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### What is the Farmland Preservation Program?

The main purpose of the Farmland Preservation Program is to preserve Wisconsin rural land by means of local land use planning and conservation practices. Landowners that participate in the Farmland Preservation Program are eligible to collect Farmland Preservation tax credits. Legislation requires a county to develop and adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan in order for landowners in the county to be eligible for the Farmland Preservation Program and the tax credits offered by the state. The Farmland Preservation Program has been a popular program in Dodge County, as the county has been participating in the state program since 1979.

Dodge County has the responsibility to develop and adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan to make the county eligible for the program. However, town officials have the authority to decide if their town will participate in the program, as the program is not state mandated.

The Town of Williamstown participates in the program through zoning (Farmland Preservation Zoning). Participation in the program is voluntary and landowners can discontinue participation at any time.

### What are the Benefits of Participating in the Farmland Preservation Program?

A benefit of participating in the Farmland Preservation Program is the ability to collect Farmland Preservation Program tax credits. The recently revised Farmland Preservation Program increased the tax credits and removed the maximum tax credit limit. Landowners in the Town of Williamstown are now eligible for a \$7.50 per acre tax credit.

### Who is Eligible?

In order to be eligible for the farmland preservation tax credit, the land must be located in a Town Farmland Preservation Zoning District. Contact the Clerk, Mary Dessereau, at 920-387-4251 or [tnwille@gmail.com](mailto:tnwille@gmail.com) to confirm your zoning district. Also, landowners must comply with state soil and water conservation standards. The Dodge County Land Conservation Department assists landowners with soil and water conservation plans. As part of the soil and water conservation plan, landowners need to prepare and follow a cropland nutrient management plan.

Additionally, landowners must have \$6,000 in gross farm revenue in the past year or \$18,000 in the past three years. Income from rental receipts of farm acres does not count toward gross farm revenue. However, gross farm revenue produced by the renter on the landowner's farmland can be used to meet this eligibility requirement.

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To learn more about the Farmland Preservation Program, feel free to contact Dodge County staff:

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