

Examples of Possible Agricultural Enterprise Areas

Petitions for agricultural enterprise areas across the state should reflect the diverse communities and agricultural business types in Wisconsin. By requesting designation of an AEA local farm owners and local governments can help to 1) maintain existing agricultural infrastructure and 2) spur increased investment and economic development opportunities for agricultural business in the area.

The list provided below is not exhaustive or prescriptive. It simply represents examples that could be used to assist local farm owners and local governments think about how they might design a petition that recognizes the importance of preserving an area's agricultural land uses and that promotes economic development of agriculture in that area.

1. Conventional dairy
 - ◆ Ensure adequate land base to provide needed feed resources
 - ◆ Ensure adequate land base to meet nutrient management standards
 - ◆ Limit the distance to haul feed or manure
 - ◆ Promote maintenance of agricultural landscape
 - ◆ Support establishment of or maintain existing "agricultural-related" business (implement dealer, co-op)
2. Dairy production and processing
 - ◆ Ensure adequate supply of product for processing
 - ◆ Limit the distance to transport the product
 - ◆ Enable production of a value-added agricultural product
3. Specialty crops (fruits (apples, grapes, cherries, cranberries), vegetables for canneries, organics)
 - ◆ Enable production of a value-added agricultural product
 - ◆ Ensure production of crops to support existing infrastructure (cannery, winery)
 - ◆ Maintain agricultural related employment in the community
 - ◆ Provide opportunity to build agro-tourism industry
 - ◆ Build "neighbor" network of growers
 - ◆ Coordinate management strategies (pesticide applications)
4. Grazing
 - ◆ Promote marketing opportunities for locally grown and specialty products ("grass-fed" cheese, "grass-fed" beef)
 - ◆ Provide opportunities to share equipment
 - ◆ Provide local sources for supplemental feed purchases
 - ◆ Build "neighbor" network of grazers
 - ◆ Acknowledge additional benefits of agricultural land use (environmental benefits, lifestyle aspects)
5. Agro-tourism (roadside vegetable/fruit/egg markets or stands, crop mazes and harvest events and "fests," dude-farm bed and breakfasts)

- ◆ Enable joint marketing opportunities for the farm owners in the area
 - ◆ Support value-added agricultural production
 - ◆ Opportunity to support multiple types of agriculture in one area
 - ◆ Encourage development of additional business opportunities that enhance individual farm family incomes and ability to stay on the land
 - ◆ Support the local economy including home crafts and products (that rely on the continuation of the agricultural use)
6. Community supported agriculture
- ◆ Support direct marketing for locally grown products to consumers (“grass-fed” cheese or grass fed beef, locally grown products)
 - ◆ Limit the distance to transport the product
 - ◆ Provide opportunities to share equipment, or access farm labor
 - ◆ Build “neighbor” network of farmers
 - ◆ Support establishment of infrastructure to promote products or deliver them (i.e. auction)
7. Livestock
- ◆ Support establishment of or maintain existing “agricultural-related” business (veterinary services, co-op, livestock yards, meat processing facilities, local meat markets, manure pelletizing)
 - ◆ Opportunities for supplemental feed purchases from neighboring farmers
 - ◆ Ensure adequate supply of product for processing (i.e. multiple small contract growers of turkeys)
 - ◆ Limit the distance to transport the product for processing
8. Biomass/bioenergy/biofuel
- ◆ Ensure adequate supply of product needed in the area, without causing secondary impacts
 - ◆ Limit the distance to transport the product for processing
 - ◆ Support establishment of or maintain existing “agricultural-related” business (veterinary services, co-op, processing facilities)
 - ◆ Promote and support experimental or innovative agricultural related business (manure digester, other bioenergy plants)
 - ◆ Provide link to other programs (Biomass Crop Assistance Program)
9. Accelerated conservation oriented agriculture
- ◆ Support existing and encourage continued local, state, and federal investment in conservation practices that sustain farming and protect the environment
 - ◆ Provide link to other programs (GreenTier) or watershed-wide efforts
 - ◆ Build “neighbor” network of conservation minded farm owners
 - ◆ Coordinate to achieve environmental management strategies for water quality protection
 - ◆ Recognize accelerated conservation efforts in the area and identify opportunities to access additional grant resources