

Campaign for Wisconsin's Farm and Forest Lands



FACT SHEET: Protecting Wisconsin's farm and forest lands provides benefits for all of our citizens.

- Saving our farm and forest lands is crucial to Wisconsin's economy. Agriculture/food processing and forestry are the No. 1 and 2 economic sectors in the state. One in 12 jobs in our cities and rural areas relies on farming and forestry. Our state's economic future depends on protecting our resource base.
- Wisconsin is losing 30,000 acres of farmland every year, and our working forests are being carved up by fragmentation. We need to act before it's too late.
- Wisconsin needs ample working lands to maintain its position as a leader in today's "energy economy." Bio-fuels and renewable energy like wind and solar depend on working lands.
- Well-managed farm and forest lands provide an array of environmental benefits for our cities and rural areas. They protect water quality, reduce the impacts of flooding and recharge our ground water.
- Healthy farms support healthy cities. They provide fresh and nutritious local food to our grocery stores and restaurants. Farmer's markets and community-supported agriculture connect our rural and urban residents.
- Working lands provide recreational opportunities, including hunting, birding, agri-tourism and sight-seeing.
- Protecting working lands helps communities grow efficiently and effectively. Communities that grow in a compact manner avoid high costs of extending services like public protection, roads, water and sewer to sprawled areas.
- Wisconsin can protect its working lands and meet the needs of our communities, businesses and industries through wise decisions about best use of our land and water resources. We can make these decisions together in the best interests of our rural and urban citizens, accommodating growth and protecting our resources for our children and grandchildren.

The Campaign for Wisconsin's Farm and Forest Lands is a project of American Farmland Trust. It seeks to raise awareness about the need to protect Wisconsin's working farm and forest lands.

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