

# Stakeholder Workgroup Charter: The Future of Wisconsin's "Working Lands"

## Scope

This workgroup will consider the future of Wisconsin's "working lands," including agriculture and forest lands. The workgroup will examine key land use trends and conflicts that will affect "working lands" in the years ahead and will work toward strategic consensus.

## Background Materials

- Wisconsin "Working Lands Initiative" Report (2006): [2006 Working Lands Report](#)
- Land Use Megatrends: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/publications-resources/LandUseMegatrends.aspx>
- Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program website: [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/FarmlandPreservation.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/FarmlandPreservation.aspx).
- Federal definition of Sustainable Agriculture: [Sustainable Agriculture Definition](#)
- What is Sustainable Agriculture?: [Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education](#)

## Questions

The workgroup will address the following general questions:

- What are the key trends affecting Wisconsin's "working lands?"
  - Total land in agriculture and forest use
  - Conversion of land to other uses
  - Changing ownership patterns
  - Form and intensity of use
  - Population, housing, development and infrastructure trends
  - Areas heavily affected by land use changes and development
- What are the key Impacts?
  - Agriculture, forestry, recreation and tourism
  - Environment
  - Local government
- Do current trends lead to a sustainable future? How do we define sustainable?
- What are our "working lands" preservation goals, if any?
- What, if anything, are we doing to achieve our goals?
- Are we making progress toward our goals? If not, why not?
- If progress is inadequate, what would it take to achieve our goals? Are incentives adequate?
- What are the trade-offs?
- Where do we go from here?

**Committee Co-Chairs:**

- Anna Haines, Director, Center for Land Use Education UWSP
- John Koepke, Farmer
- Mike Carlson, Gathering Waters

**Facilitator:** Margaret Krome, Program Director – Public Policy, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute; former DATCP Board member

**Committee Members:**

- Aaron Thompson, Professor & Land Use Specialist – UWSP
- Alison Volk, DATCP
- Brian Hasse, Waupaca County Conservationist
- Bruce Jones, Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics
- Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Coreen Fallat, DATCP
- Dave Helbach
- David Grusznski, Program Director, Greenseams and Working Soils Program
- Deb Nemeth, Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- Dick Cates, Farmer, Dairy Professor at UW-Madison
- Ed Brooks, Representative (R-Reedsburg)
- Ed Huck
- Jim Holperin, Senator
- John Torinus, Jr., journalist, entrepreneur, and business manager
- Margaret Burlingham, Chair Jefferson Co. FPP
- Margaret Kohring, Midwest Regional Director
- Dan Bahr, WI Counties Association
- Rob Gottschalk, Expert on Principal/Economic Positioning and Regional Sustainability
- Robin Wagner, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- Steve Guthrie, Woodlands Manager at Nicolet Hardwoods Corporation
- Steve Hilger, Hilger Farms