

Advocates for locally led
conservation



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FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Budget Priority 2:

Improve and modernize the DATCP Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) by increasing participant tax credits and expanding grant implementation reimbursements to local units of government, as proposed in 2021-22 Senate Bill 68.



LEARN MORE:

[wisconsinlandwater.org/
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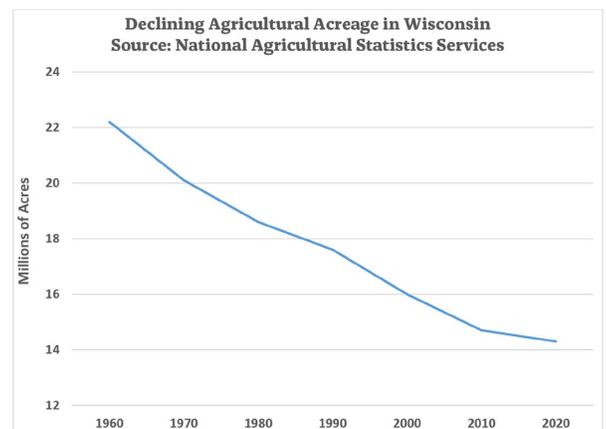
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THIS INVESTMENT IN CONSERVATION

Agriculture is vital to Wisconsin's economy and cultural identity. In 1978, the Farmland Preservation Program was established to ensure Wisconsin maintains this vibrant farming community for future generations. Improving and modernizing the program will build on our state's rich conservation legacy.

- **Makes a successful conservation program even better**, providing farmers an incentive to maintain their land, while meeting standards that protect soil and water resources.
- **Increases and simplifies FPP program tax credits, leading to greater landowner participation.** FPP tax credits have not been adjusted for a decade. Consolidating and increasing the three incentive tiers of \$5, \$7.50, and \$10 per acre to two tiers of \$10 and \$12.50 per acre will modernize the program.
- **Expands eligibility of FPP planning grant funds to support program implementation.** Counties, local municipalities, planning commissions, and tribal governments should be supported for their role in implementing FPP.
- **Demonstrates responsiveness to Wisconsin taxpayer concerns.** These proposed changes remove barriers to FPP participation previously indicated in landowner surveys.
- **Protects more Wisconsin farmland, which is rapidly declining.** From 1950-2000, farmland acreage declined by nearly one-third.



“ I would like to leave a place for the next generation that will be profitable and excitable to farm, because those two things keep you on the farm.

Roman Miller
Sauk Co.



CONSERVATION WORKS FOR FARMERS

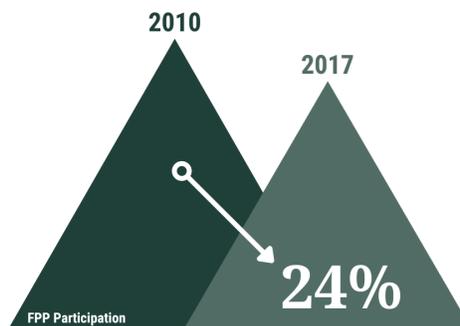
The Farmland Preservation Program is the only state conservation compliance program that rewards landowners for their stewardship of the land and their commitment to future generations of farmers. With the rising costs associated with farming and growing pressure from urban development, the current tax credits are too modest to entice farmers to enroll.

MODERNIZING THE PROGRAM WILL



Protect Local Resources

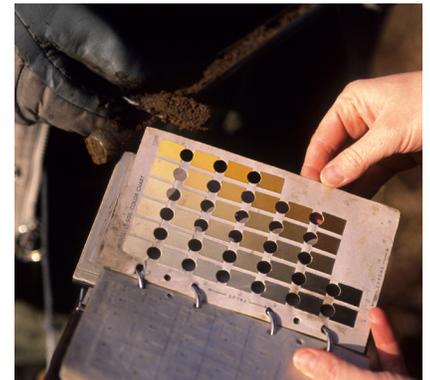
FPP farmers are not only protecting farmland from development, **they are also dedicated to improving the land they intend to pass along to the next generation.** Certification through the county ensures they are meeting the state's soil and water conservation standards.



Increase Participation

FPP Participation has declined, **down 24% from 2010 to 2017.**

A 2018 DATCP FPP survey showed modest tax credits and FPP agreement length may be two obstacles to program participation.



Provide Technical Support

County conservation staff support landowners enrolling in the program, offer guidance for improving farmland, and conduct compliance checks needed to qualify for the tax credit.



WI Land+Water is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership organization that supports the efforts of 450 county land conservation committee (LCC) supervisors and 370 professional staff in 72 county land and water conservation department (LWCD) offices. We provide training and education, develop conservation standards, promote youth education, build partnerships, and advocate for our members.