# Dane County 2022 Farmland Preservation Plan Update

Zoning and Land Regulation Committee 10/25/2022

### Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee Activities

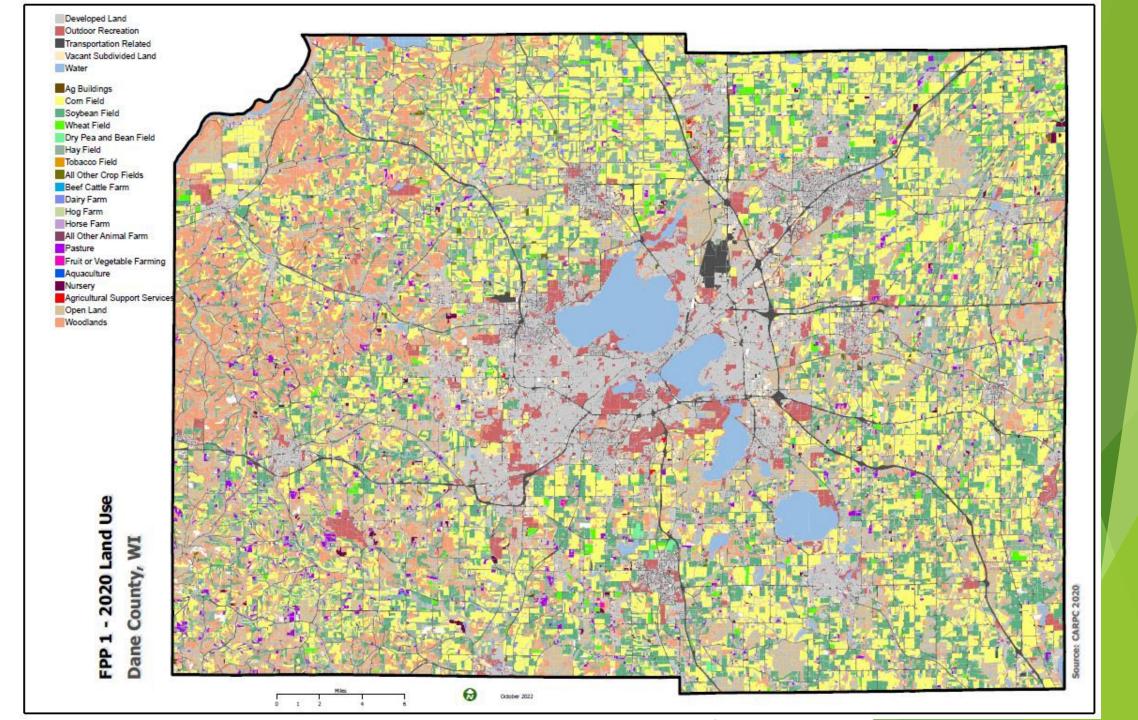
Completed and analyzed public opinion surveys of:

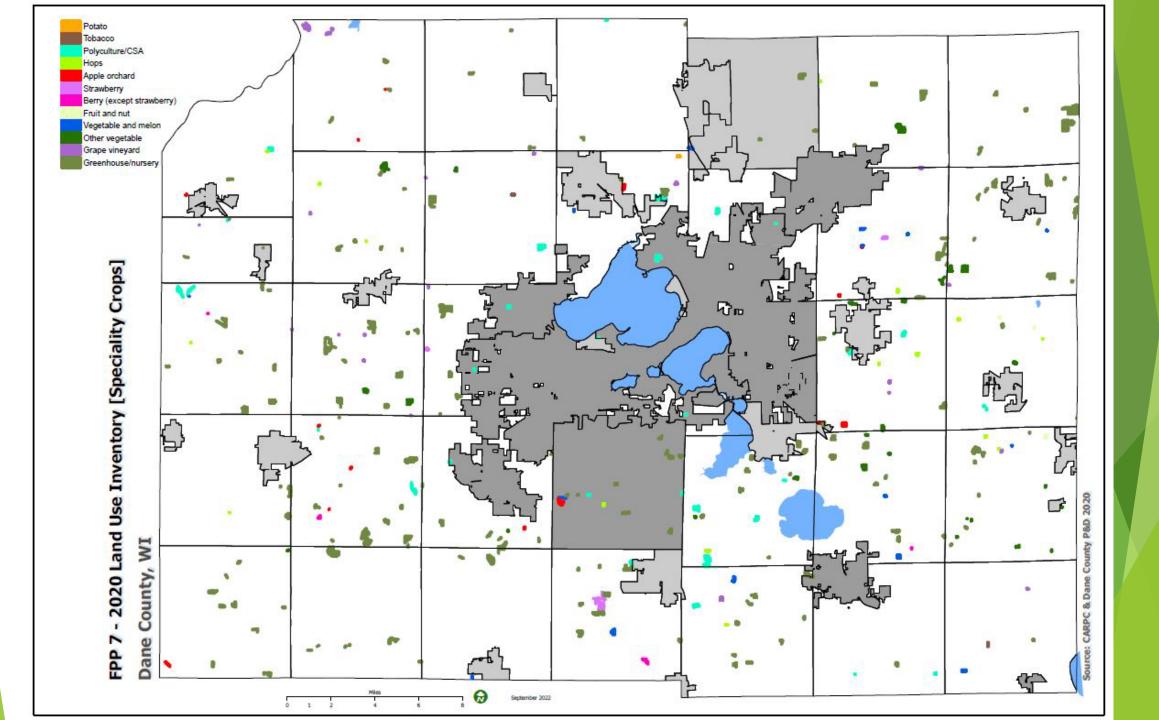
► Farmers

- Farming organizations and other stakeholders
- ► General public

### Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee Activities

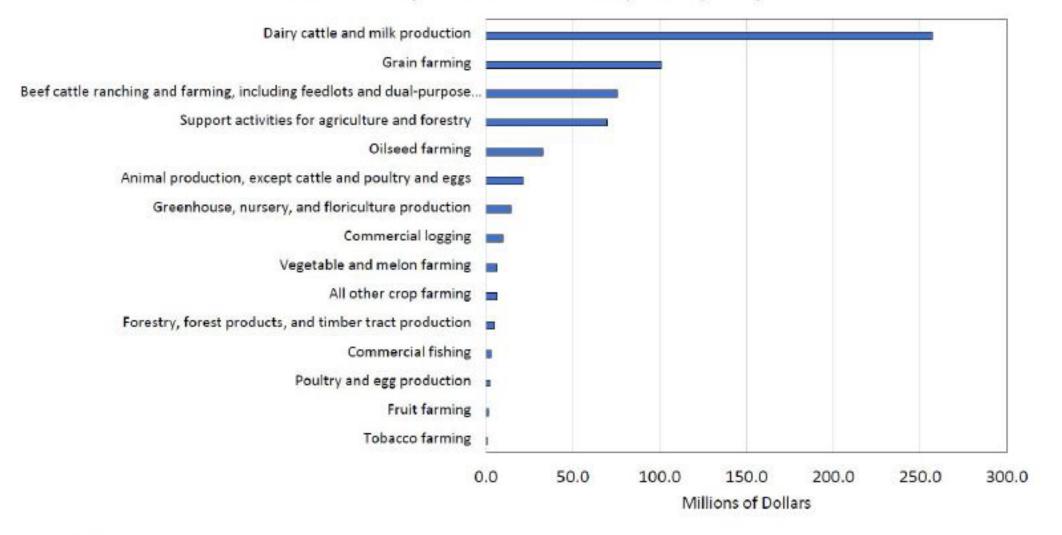
- Heard presentations and reviewed information from:
  - American Farmland Trust
  - American Planning Association
  - Clean Wisconsin
  - Dairy Business Association
  - Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change
  - Groundswell Conservancy
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Rock County Planning and Development
  - Wisconsin Land and Water
  - University of Wisconsin Madison Extension





#### Contribution of Agriculture to the Dane County Economy: Update 2019-2020

Dane County Farm Sector Industry Sales (2019)

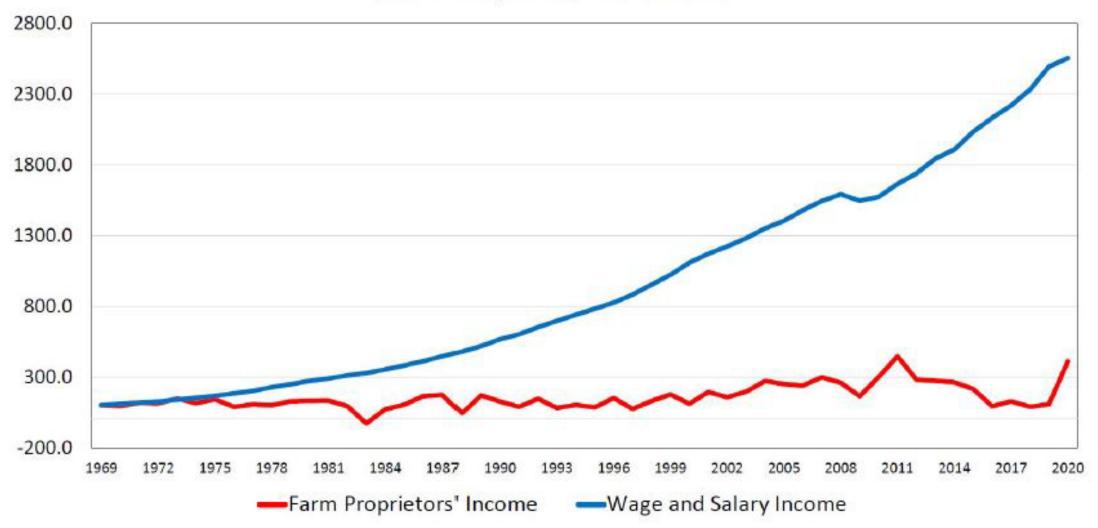


Source: IMPLAN.

Figure 15: Sales by farm sector, 2019

Contribution of Agriculture to the Dane County Economy: Update 2019-2020

Dane County Income Growth Index



Source: BEA REIS, calculations by the author.

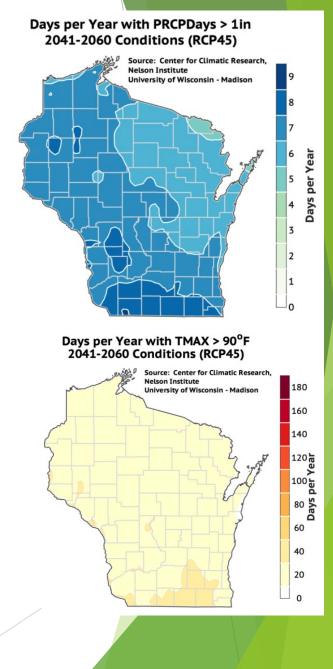
Figure 14: Farm income vs. wages 1969-2020<sup>29</sup>

### General Farmland Preservation Recommendations to State of Wisconsin

- Increase Farmland Preservation Tax Credits to at least cover cost of conservation compliance.
- Re-fund state Purchase of Conservation Easement (PACE) grant program
- Increase state support for county conservation staff
- Expand resources available to help farmers adapt to impacts of climate change on agriculture.
- Expand resources to mitigate agriculture's carbon footprint.

# Farmland Preservation Plan County Policy Changes

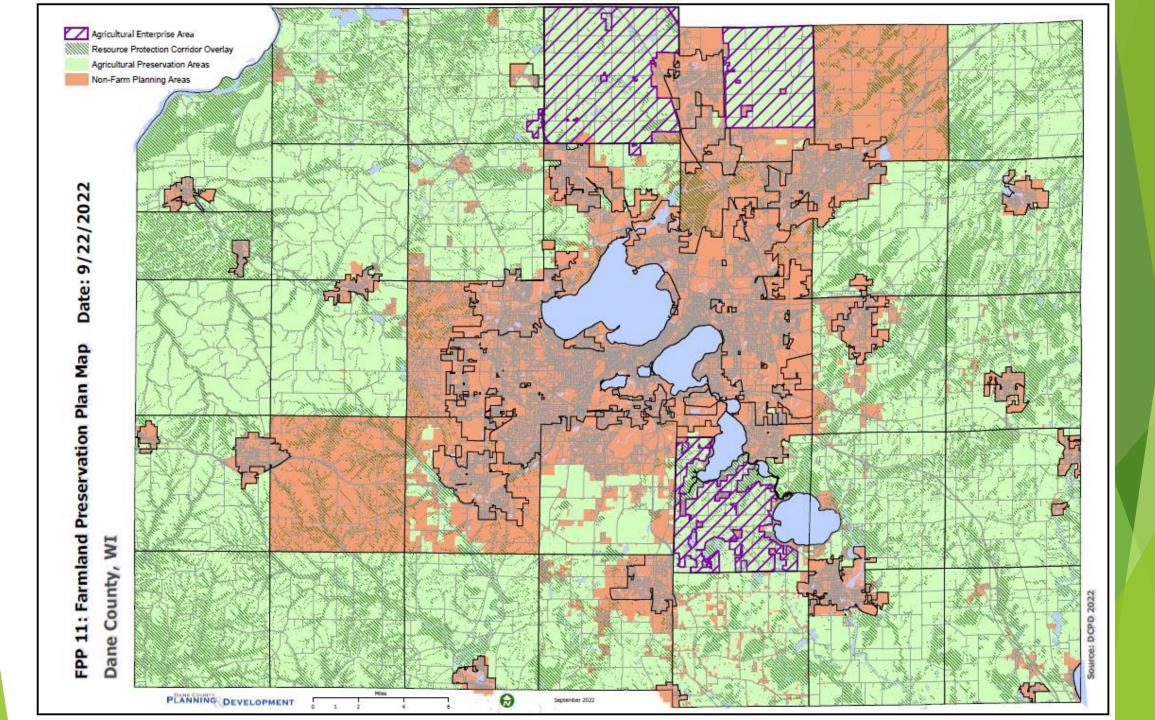
- Climate change
  - Added county policies to promote adaptation, resilience and mitigation
    - Explore renewable energy credits
    - Increase continuous cover
    - Improve manure management
    - Reduce artificial application of nitrogen and phosphorus
    - Expand use of alternative energy in agricultural production
    - Protect natural ecosystems and enhance carbon sequestration



# Farmland Preservation Plan County Policy Changes

- Renewable Energy Facilities
  - New siting guidelines to:
    - Minimize need for new transmission lines
    - Reduce impacts to rural character and agricultural operations
    - Encourage "agri-voltaics:" allowing energy and agricultural uses to coexist
    - Allow for equipment and wildlife movement through renewable energy facilities
    - Where possible, avoid most productive farm soils
    - Meet county erosion control and stormwater standards
    - Ensure adequate maintenance
    - Require reclamation to agricultural use if decomissioned





#### Timeline

- Underway: DATCP review and certification recommendations.
- Nov. 15: ZLR Public Hearing
- Nov. 17 OR Dec. 15: County Board Action
- Nov. 21 OR Dec. 21: County Executive Action
- Dec. 31 DATCP 10-year certification takes effect