

# Farmland Preservation Agreements

## Agreement Overview

A Farmland Preservation Agreement is a voluntary 15-year agreement to keep land in agricultural use and comply with the state soil and water conservation standards. The agreement is made between the landowner and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). In return for signing the agreement, a landowner can claim the annual farmland preservation income tax credit.



## Applying for a farmland preservation agreement

Only land located within a designated Agricultural Enterprise Area can be covered by a farmland preservation agreement. To apply for a farmland preservation agreement, please submit a completed application to your county conservation department. Once the county provides initial approval, the application will be forwarded to DATCP.

You can find the application and instructions on our website at [farmlandpreservation.wi.gov](http://farmlandpreservation.wi.gov).

## Contact Us

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Email:

DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov



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Agreements are signed for a variety of reasons:

- Claim the farmland preservation tax credit
- Meet conservation goals on a farm
- Protect land from non-agricultural related uses

## Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be the farm operator to claim the credit?

*No, you do not need to be the farm operator to claim the credit, but you must be the farmland owner.*

Does the agreement need to include my entire farm?

*No, you can choose to leave out portions of the land you own from the agreement; however, your entire farm must be in compliance with state soil and water conservation standards.*

Who should I contact to find out more about compliance with the state's soil and water conservation standards?

*Contact the county land conservation department in the county where your farm is located to make sure your farm meets the conservation standards. If so, the county will issue you a certificate of compliance.*

If I sign a farmland preservation agreement, what tax credit amount am I eligible for?

*If your land is only covered by a farmland preservation agreement, you may claim \$5/acre. If your land is covered by a farmland preservation agreement and located within a farmland preservation zoning district, you can claim \$10/acre.*

Does the agreement terminate if I sell my land?

*No, a farmland preservation agreement covers the land. If you sell the land, the agreement continues to be in effect and the new owner will need to comply with the terms of the agreement.*

