



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection  
Division of Agricultural Resource Management  
P.O. Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53708-8911  
(608) 224-4500

## Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition

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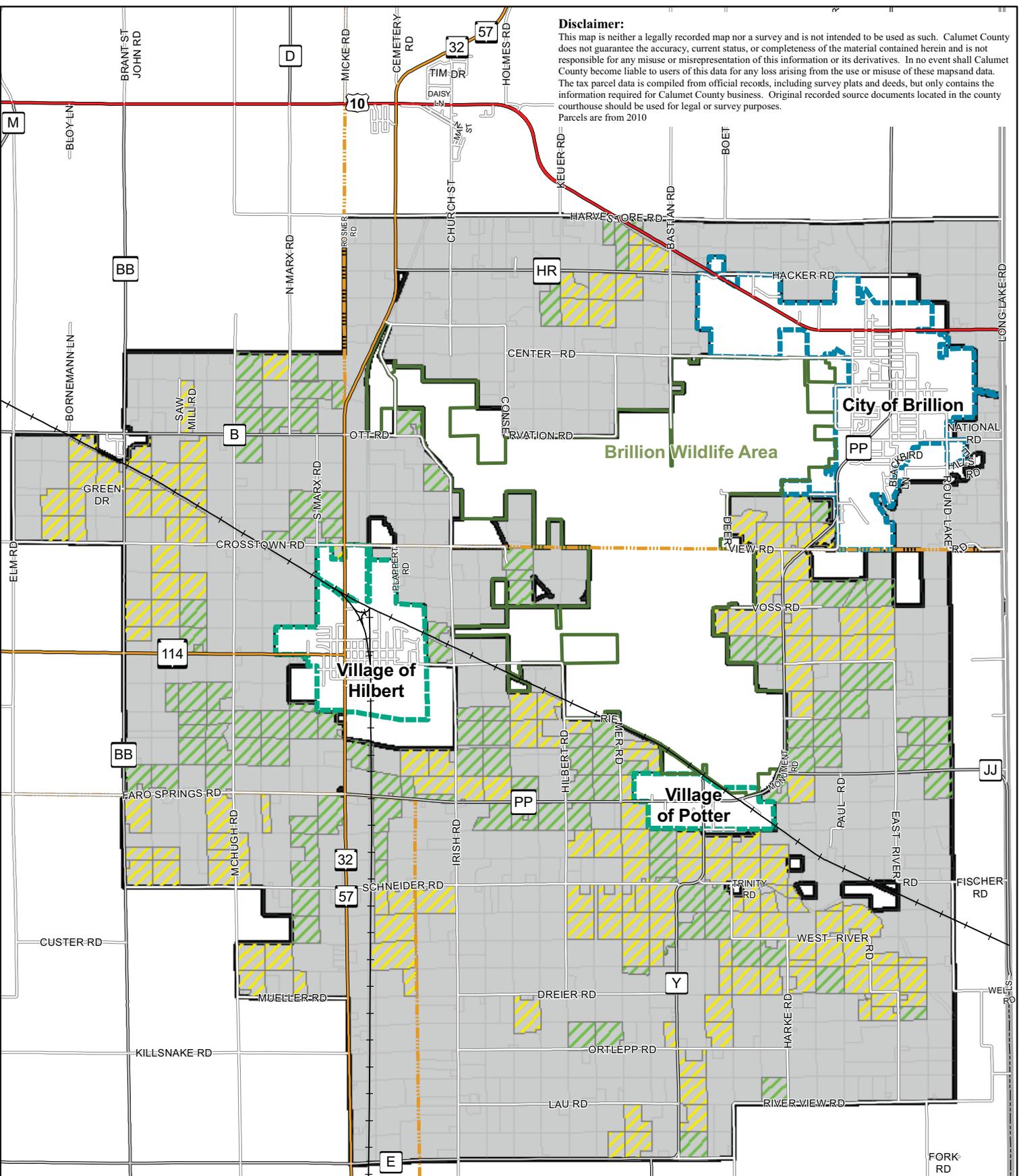
The undersigned persons hereby petition the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), pursuant to s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., to create an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) under s. 91.84, Wis. Stats. We have read the guidance provided and submit the following information in support of the petition (use the space provided or check the appropriate box):<sup>1</sup>

### PART I. GENERAL INFORMATION

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|---|---|
| A. Name of AEA.   | Hilbert Ag Land on Track Calumet                                    |
| B. County or counties in which the proposed AEA is located.   | Calumet   |
| C. All towns, villages or cities in which the proposed AEA is located.  | Brillion, Chilton, Rantoul, Woodville                               |
| D. Number of owners of eligible farms, within the proposed AEA, who are signing this petition.  | 17  |
| E. Total number of acres in the proposed AEA.   | 28,477  |
| F. All counties signing the petition have a certified farmland preservation plan.   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| G. All parcels in the proposed AEA are located within a farmland preservation area designated in the certified county farmland preservation plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| H. All parcels in the proposed AEA are contiguous.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I. The proposed AEA is primarily in agricultural use.   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| J. Primary agricultural land use in proposed AEA.   | Dairy farms and cropland  |
| K. Designated contact person for the AEA.   |   |

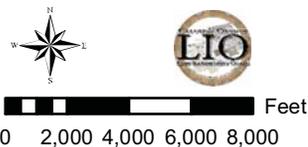
<sup>1</sup>Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was collected, s. 15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.

**Disclaimer:**  
 This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. Calumet County does not guarantee the accuracy, current status, or completeness of the material contained herein and is not responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of this information or its derivatives. In no event shall Calumet County become liable to users of this data for any loss arising from the use or misuse of these maps and data. The tax parcel data is compiled from official records, including survey plats and deeds, but only contains the information required for Calumet County business. Original recorded source documents located in the county courthouse should be used for legal or survey purposes. Parcels are from 2010.



# Hilbert Ag Land on Track

## Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Petition



Map Date: January 31, 2011

- Railroads
- Federal Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- Municipal Streets
- Parcels
- Public Lands
- City Boundary
- Village Boundary
- Town Boundary
- County Boundary
- Ag Land Owned By Petitioning Farmers
- Ag Land Rented By Petitioning Farmers
- Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)

## PART II. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE FOR AEA<sup>2</sup>

Introduction to proposed AEA (optional):

The subject AEA surrounds the historic railroad settlement in Calumet County. The Village of Hilbert, once known as 'Hilbert Junction' was the first railroad junction in the county. With the railroad sprung a small community attracting businesses to support the rapidly developing dairy industry in the area. The dairy industry consisted of small multi-generational farms dating back to the Civil War era. Today many of these farms are still owned and operated by the same families, making them six generational farms. Due to the historic strong family ties in the community, the farms have an interdependence on each other. It is the interdependent farms that comprise this AEA and make it unique to the county.

The AEA is located in the second fastest growing county in the state and the need to protect its working lands from development is crucial. The land subject to this petition lies in the central and northern parts of the county where farmland has seen some threats of conversion to non-farming uses, particularly housing development. Consistent with the desire to preserve working land the towns in which the petitioning parcels are located are either zoned for farmland preservation, or are in the process of adopting farmland preservation zoning, thereby helping ensure the subject lands have some protection from development.

Although zoning helps protect the land, other tools are needed to help protect it, promote the area to potential agri-businesses, and to assist farmers in remaining profitable. An AEA designation will declare the land 'Open for Business' and should help protect the existing agricultural infrastructure in the area, and also may lure ag-related businesses to this agriculturally thriving part of the county. The tax credits earned as a result of the AEA will assist farmers in financial management, while the conditions of the agreements will help protect the land from excessive erosion, sedimentation, protect the water quality, and restrict incompatible land uses.

'Hilbert Ag Land on Track' lies in towns where some of the county's best farmland is located. The thick, clay soils make it viable for agriculture while helping protect groundwater from potential contamination. Due to the fact that 92% of the AEA is considered prime, it is deserving of protection so as to keep it available for agriculture. The farms and cropland currently comprise at least 65% of the total land use. The land encompasses two railroad lines, has a feed cooperative at the south end, a grain mill in the center, and another feed mill on the eastern edge as well. Multiple farm related businesses, such as cheese processing plants, implement dealers, and repair shops, spackle the area to provide services to the farms.

Since agriculture contributes over \$338 million in economic activity in the county, assisting land owners in preserving their working lands during this decade of growth pressure is more critical than ever. Together with assistance from the state, the subject land holders can become more profitable, protect the land and water they need, while at the same time guide development to the neighboring cities and villages rather than sporadically on the valuable farmland.

The development pressure in the county continues in that it has been the second fastest growing county in the State and is predicted to remain such. Designating the area as an AEA is one tool to help save the area from development and guide housing into the cities and villages where infrastructure exists and land use conflicts are minimal.

Both Wisconsin and Calumet County have been aggressive at trying to save our best agricultural land from development and for food and fiber production. The AEA designation helps promote the State's Working Lands Initiative, Calumet County's Smart Growth Plan, Strategic Plan, and Farmland

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<sup>2</sup> DATCP will evaluate petitions under s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., and will consider information provided in response to the following questions.

Preservation Plan. The environmental protection portion of the agreements help implement the County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan. Together the county and the State can make a difference.

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1. State the goals of the proposed AEA for:
    - a. preservation of agricultural land use
    - b. agricultural development
  - a.
    1. Prohibit non-agricultural land uses so as to ensure working lands are available for current and future generational needs.
    2. Guide residential development to urban areas so as to preserve lands and limit incompatible land uses which may threaten the livelihood of a farm.
    3. Support land owners dedicated to farming so as to make farming more cost-effective and therefore the preferential land use.
    4. Help maintain the towns' rural character.
    5. Aid in implementing the policies and recommendations of the Calumet County Smart Growth Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan; assisting the county in its implementation of its recently adopted Strategic Plan.
    6. Work in concert with other land preservation tools, such as zoning and land division management ordinances, to preserve land for agriculture.
  - b.
    1. Establish the area as an area devoted to agriculture so as to support current farming operations and their expansion.
    2. Promote the area to prospective agri-businesses seeking a stable, dedicated farming community.
    3. Aid in ensuring family farms can continue into the future.
    4. Illustrate the benefits of farming so as to attract young farmers who can take over existing farms, bring in new ideas, and invest in the future.
    5. Use the area as a marketing tool to attract an ag-technology park and/or other businesses which can have a symbiotic relationship with the protected lands.
    6. Minimize erosion and protect water quality so farming has a minimal negative impact on the environment and therefore ensure the lands can sustain future crops and dairy operations.
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2. What activities in the proposed AEA aid in achieving the goals stated above? Please identify any past activities, ongoing activities or future activities and the primary entity responsible for the activity.

**Past Activities:** The farms in the AEA recognize the importance of working together. As farmers have retired and left the dairy industry they either went into growing crops for their neighboring dairy farms, leased the land to those needing a place to spread manure and grow crops, or sold their land to neighbors looking to expand. This type of 'mutual support' is strongest in this portion of the county, probably in part to the multi-generational ties these farmers possess.

Many of the farmers in the area, and most of those who signed this petition, meet annually to develop a marketing plan for the value of their local forage. The group involves several very large dairy farmers as well who together follow the Chicago Board of Trade in an effort to get better pricing on commodities. This is a unique relationship that has been created to help keep forage prices competitive which in turn has helped to support the ongoing production of crops in the region. Also, due to the lucrative prices there is an incentive to keep land in forage, thereby reducing row crops which tend to be less environmentally friendly in this part of the state.

The area has a strong forage council—one of eleven forage councils in the state (there are only fifteen in the four state area).

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Dairy farmers have historically negotiated nutrient management plans for the land they lease in an effort to not only protect the owners land, but also to improve production. This responsibility for land they do not even own has demonstrated a deep gratitude for the lease of the land, but an earnest effort to be good stewards of all farmland in the area, not just the land owned by the operator.

The County Dairy Promotion Board has received \$3000 for marketing and education about the importance of farming. Many of the farmers in the proposed AEA are part of that Board or have attended the seminars. Reduced tillage workshops have been offered by UW Extension and the Calumet County Forage Council in 2006 and 2008. The majority of participants came from within the proposed AEA area as well. The Farm Bureau also does education and has offered to fourth graders the 'Ag in the Classroom' experience.

The local technical college has offered technical training and agricultural service training at their facility in nearby Chilton (Fox Valley Technical College, aka FVTC). The FVTC Regional Center in the neighboring county has recently completed an expansion that will house the on-site agriculture training courses as part of several agriculture service and supply and agriculture mechanics programs. These two agriculture programs are two year associate degree programs specializing in agriculture, livestock and crop service training, and, agriculture equipment mechanics and repair. Also, there are 3 dairy herds within the AEA that are utilized by the Dairy Herd Management Program at Lakeshore Technical College, in Cleveland, Wisconsin. The herds have served and continue to serve as site farms for dairy herd management students as part of a supervised experienced hands-on training opportunity.

In an effort to improve the productivity of existing local operations the primary cooperative became a computerized site specific fertilizer and nutrient facility that uses technology to quickly assist a farmer with his fertilizer or nutrient needs. Such investment by the cooperative has been very beneficial to the farmers.

The Fox Valley Alfalfa Mill in Hilbert opened recently and is one of the few alfalfa mills in existence. The facility converts baled alfalfa to pelletized alfalfa and ships it globally. Given the opportunity for the area to continue to thrive will be a major factor in this mill's success. Having this type of facility in the center of the AEA has helped many farmers in need of selling or purchasing, and the fact that the facility is close to the farms has meant no added transportation expenses, thereby keeping costs low.

In 2009 Calumet County updated their zoning code integrating Wisconsin's new Working Lands Initiative and farmland preservation zoning language. Two of the towns where the petitioned land lies have adopted the new county zoning code. Such new provisions should limit the conversion of land and minimize land use conflicts, all which assist in keeping land available and attractive for farming and investments. The county also updated their Land Division Code to manage land development through density regulation—not just in the farmland preservation districts, but countywide. One of the towns even exceeded state farmland preservation density ratios by adopting a 1:40 density.

Since 2004 the county has assisted four farmers through the Milk Volume Production Program resulting in expansions that supported 57 additional jobs in the county. The majority of these jobs were created in the proposed AEA and immediate adjacent area.

In addition the County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) has assisted many farmers in the proposed AEA to plan and implement conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and improve surface and groundwater quality. In the past year, LWCD staff have reviewed dairy farming operations in two of the towns within the AEA for compliance with soil and water conservation standards for the Farmland Preservation Program, and, Wisconsin Performance Standards and Prohibitions for Agriculture. A majority of operations were found in compliance with all or most of the standards. Schedules of compliance were developed for non-compliant operations.

Ongoing Activities: Many of the activities above have occurred in the past and continue to occur today. By strengthening the area with an AEA designation it is anticipated these efforts will not only continue but be more in demand as the success of the farms increase.

It is mentioned above the cooperative made an investment in software to assist the farmer. Although the initial investment is past, it is used today to improve operations and its functionality enhanced as farmers invest in equipment. The cooperative is using variable rate fertilizing and soil testing technology so that appropriate levels of fertilizer are applied. Agri Partners has the GPS and technological capabilities to apply fertilizer and other land and crop applications utilizing variable rate applications. This allows producers to apply the same amount of material to a field or fields but apply the rates based on production capability. The producers use yield maps from GPS equipped harvest machines to show yield variance within each field. Several producers in the AEA area have invested in variable rate planting equipment to take advantage of the technology investments and maximize their profitability on their farm. It is expected more farmers will invest in such equipment.

The youth in the AEA area are engaged in on-going activities. FFA, UW Extension (services for youth), and the Junior Holstein Association contribute to managerial projects, hands-on farming experiences, education and awareness, and exhibit at the County Fair. Several farmers in the AEA help the youth with their animals by either selling them animals or allowing them to raise the animals on the farmer's farm.

In addition to the educational efforts by the farms listed under 'Past Activities' above, at least five of the farmers in the AEA continue to offer on-site education, classroom and community educational programs. Their operations have taught others about basics such as food production to complexities such as the many facets involved with large farms, 'green' farming, and symbiosis with neighbors. Additionally, these large farms, like other large farms in the AEA, have saved many a retired farmer from selling his land and instead renting it to the large dairy. Absent the dairy farms' need for the land, many a retired farmers' land might have been converted to non-agricultural use.

The farmers continue to meet as explained in the previous section, but several have begun discussing other preservation tools such as PACE. Other ideas have evolved as well, such as requesting assistance from the county for retiring farmers (to make the sale to another farmer profitable so the farmer doesn't feel the need to sell for development). It is anticipated ideas will continue to emerge as more farmers see the benefits of keeping land in agriculture and those on the edge of the AEA face development pressure.

Several of the farms in the area sell produce and are currently involved in the local School to Lunch Program, and the new School to Restaurant Program. It is anticipated that with these new programs, support of the farming community, and the tax credit available through the AEA, these farms will expand crops and to new markets.

One of the towns involved has never been zoned. They are in the process of adopting zoning—but not just general zoning, farmland preservation zoning. The other town is in the process of adopting a town farmland preservation zoning ordinance as well.

Calumet County has been working on securing funding to develop an ag-technology park in the Village of Hilbert, somewhat the 'center' of the proposed AEA. If successful, the AEA can support the park's needs for research, and the park can aid in signifying the area as dedicated to not just current agricultural practices, but open to new ideas and research and development to assist the farming community.

The county has been working with communities to make sure the rail remains in use and access unobstructed so there is a cost effective means to transport products. In addition, the county has been surveying businesses to determine if they need assistance with job training or technical or financial assistance so as to keep them profitable and in the area; this includes everything from

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service businesses to implement dealers.

The county has a Revolving Loan Fund Program and an Economic Development Specialist to help farmers seeking funding sources for expansion, diversity, or value added enhancements. UW Extension staff also works with farmers to promote the availability of such programs which may make them more cost effective and profitable.

The county recently adopted their Strategic Plan. The number one goal of that plan is to enhance economic development. This January a focus group was organized (via the Draft Economic Development Plan) to strategize on ideas the county should pursue to enhance economic development. The number one strategy was to bolster agri-business opportunities. The county is developing a marketing plan to promote existing infrastructure and services which may be beneficial to future agricultural related businesses.

The county and regional tourism group promotes agri-tourism to help support farmers markets, roadside stands, and the local educational petting farm in the area. Agri-tourism not only brings in money to the county, but it helps teach the value of farming and educates children and adults alike on where their food comes from and the need to keep land available for the production of such goods.

County LWCD is assisting owners of farming operations within the AEA to implement their schedule of compliance for the Farmland Preservation Program, State Performance Standards, and other federal and state programs. Technical assistance in the design and installation of conservation practices is provided on an on-going basis. The LWCD is also conducting an on-going education program to raise awareness for owners not currently participating in programs of the need to implement conservation practices to meet State performance standards and qualify for future program benefits.

Future Activities: Farmers are committed to developing this area as a designated farming area. They have created an environment which is conducive to dairy investments in the future. They acknowledge they can not grow more acres, and therefore believe the AEA will help ensure their and others commitment to finding ways to grow more profits on the land base. They plan to explore ways to become even more productive, diversify, and become more profitable.

As illustrated in the latter portion of this petition many farmers have made significant investments in their farms to ensure the future success of them. As farming becomes even more efficient, and profitable, it is reported the farmers will continue to invest.

It is the aspiration of those who are petitioning for the AEA that more land owners join the designated area to help support farmland preservation efforts. Discussions are already occurring on ways the petitioners can get more farmers involved in such opportunities.

As farms become more successful, so will the use of the cooperative. As the cooperative thrives there will be need for expansion. As the expansions come, so will more product, thereby increasing the profitability of all those in the cooperative.

The petitioners in the AEA have begun discussing ideas to assist next generation farmers with capital or low interest loans and grants for retiring farmers. They plan to develop a list of ideas to present to the county in anticipation the county can develop a formal program.

'Hilbert Ag Land on Track' lies in the 'heart' of the county nearby adjacent to major state wildlife areas (one in the eastern portion of the AEA is over 4800 acres; one at the south end is over 5500 acres in size). The farmers in this area are environmentally conscious and take great efforts to protect the environment from harm from their operations.

This heartland area has many large dairies, two of which alone contain 8,000 cows. The operator of these two large dairies is also the large dairy producer that establishes most of the contractual

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relationships with dozens of local farm operators to buy their alfalfa forage, corn silage, available straw as needed, and also establishes nutrient management contracts and applies liquid dairy manure to several thousand acres of crop land each year. Due to the fact that there are 4 digesters located at these two dairy sites, the farm can also apply several thousand gallons of digester leachate to established alfalfa and grass forage acres. This lower concentrated leachate does not cause crop injury and the additional moisture increases forage significantly during the drier months of the summer which in Calumet County are typically July and August. Absent the two large farms many retired farms may have been converted to other land uses. The two farms have been an example to others and have taught many farmers how to become more efficient with less land. Continued efforts by all farmers to coordinate with other farmers and ag land owners in such a manner is vital to the future of the area. Relationships such as the ones mentioned will help the area become more well known as an area dedicated to farming.

The county is in the process of adopting a Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program to help preserve lands for agriculture. The preserved lands will help ensure the best farmland is preserved for agriculture, and, help farmers have money to invest, pay off debt, or set aside funds for retirement.

As farmers elect to participate in Farmland Preservation agreements, zoning, and easements, the LWCD will assist them in checking compliance for conservation requirements and providing technical assistance to install and implement the necessary conservation practices. They will also continue their on-going education program on compliance with the State Performance Standards.

LWCD staff will continue to assist the farming operations in the AEA in designing and implementing the needed conservation practices to reach and maintain compliance with the state standards. It is anticipated that formation of the AEA will increase participation in the Farmland Preservation Program within its boundaries, resulting in more operations complying with the standards.

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### 3. How did you determine the boundary (location and size) of the proposed AEA?

Following several educational programs on the Working Lands Initiative offered by county staff from UW Extension; Planning and Zoning; and the Land & Water Conservation Department, interested petitioners gathered to discuss the feasibility of an AEA. There was general agreement, consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan and updated Farmland Preservation Plan, to focus on areas that are dedicated to the preservation of farmland identified in the Farmland Preservation Plan, exclusive agriculturally zoned lands, have active large dairies and cooperative relationships with landlords for the growing of crops and spreading of manure, while avoiding areas with higher densities or areas planned for development.

The boundary of the AEA encompasses interested petitioners, and also includes places where there have been considerable investments in dairy and livestock agriculture. The farmers most interested in pursuing an AEA were predominantly the six generation farms from the Hilbert area. The majority of these farms included some of the largest dairies in the county and the forage and crop growers that support the large dairies. In mapping land owned by the farmers, and the land they lease, it became clear all of the petitioning farmers were from the Hilbert area, and all were in close proximity to the railroad tracks. All agreed on the value of the rail service to their business and thought it should be a factor in their AEA boundaries, if not their name. In that most of them had family that either helped build the rail, settled in Hilbert Junction, or worked in businesses reliant on rail service, they felt these historic ties to rural agriculture should be noted. In addition, because of past family relationships, these select farms tend to still interact and support each other.

Two state wildlife areas are either contained in or border the south and eastern edge of the AEA, and,

to the north is a large wetland area which feeds into one of the state wildlife areas. The wildlife areas serve as good filtration sources and recharge areas, as well as sources to attract wildlife and prevent crop damage. Both wildlife areas (the Brillion Wildlife Area and the Killsnake Wildlife Area) have DNR management plans which seek to have cropland on its borders to minimize land use conflicts. Keeping the AEA boundaries within these natural features serve as good parameters for the AEA's geographic limitations.

Supporting agriculture in these areas also helps limit residential development which can threaten the fragile ecosystems in these marshes. Based on the location of the petitioners' land, their rented land, and these natural resources, it made sense to have the marshes serve as the approximate boundaries, with the railroad serving as the central hub of the AEA (especially since the railroad is so crucial to the livelihood of the farms). Besides, the AEA should help curb urban sprawl in the outlying areas, or as they say in Hilbert, HALT growth! (HALT = 'Hilbert Ag Land on Track').

Lastly, western boundaries were drawn to exclude land not used for agriculture (i.e. the regional landfill), and to stop at the town border (the next town west is more residential in character).

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4. Describe (a) all current land uses within the proposed AEA and (b) provide information about land use trends in and around the AEA. *(The proposed AEA must be primarily in agricultural use.)*

Per the most recent East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission land use inventory in the Town of Brillion, 67.5 % of the land use is farm and cropland; Chilton is 77.4%, Rantoul 68.1%, and Woodville is 80.6% farm and cropland. 92% of the proposed AEA is considered to be 'prime' or 'prime if drained or not flooded'. Using the LESA scoring system, 92% also ranks high in soil productivity scores.

Although there is some commercial, industrial and residential in these towns, it is minimal, and the only commercial in the AEA is agriculturally related. There are 28,477 acres of land in the AEA, 22,781 of which is farm and cropland, 496 residential, 17 commercial, and 5374 considered 'other' (industrial, government, park, etc.).

The area is predominantly dairy farms (37 in the AEA boundaries) and cropland (see the attached map which illustrates where the petitioners' land is located, as well as land they lease to support their operations). Other farms exist in the AEA, but have not signed the petition. It is expected most of these operators will sign an agreement and continue to use their land solely for farming. The AEA has several large dairies, but the majority of these are still individual or family owned farms. Calumet County has historically been a dairying county, but with over 87% of its farms still being non-corporation, it portrays the historic family dairy farm image so many people still seek in Wisconsin.

Although the area is predominantly dairy farms and crops, it involves a host of diverse agriculturally related businesses. It boasts tourism venues such as the educational farm animal operation, to small scale operations producing maple syrup, honey, eggs, berries and pumpkins. It also boasts agricultural festivals like the Cheese Derby and the Cheesehead Marathon. The adjacent areas promote agriculture as well with the Crafty Applefest, Chickenfest, Corn Mazes and other adjacent festivities in the county, all of which bring visitors to a rural part of Wisconsin.

The AEA area also involves an alfalfa mill, private small mill, an implement dealer who also sells barn equipment, an ag electric business, three cheese processing plants, a fish farm, small businesses that repairs old farm equipment, inseminators (primary offices elsewhere), a pesticide sales and application operation, crop duster, custom planter and harvester, manure haulers/spreaders, building supply company catering to farms, flat work company specializing in agricultural flatwork, farm equipment lettering firm, farm excavating firm, a hay jockey, sawdust sales for free stall barns, cooperative liquid propane facility, sheep farm for processing wool as a cotton substitute, a farm animal tourist attraction, two honey producers, numerous maple syrup hobbyists, and several

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roadside stands selling everything from eggs and berries to canned goods, and a new company in Hilbert that provides wireless service to the rural area, as well as a company that services farm computers.

At the perimeter of the AEA is a feed cooperative, another cheese processing facility, a cheese packaging facility, a malt factory, implement dealer, digester manufacturer, another ag electric business, well known goat farm (ice cream made with their milk was showcased on Oprah), truck dealer that sells pick-up trucks to most of the farmers in the area, tire sales for farm equipment, lime sales facility, livestock hauler, machinist specializing in farm equipment, three large animal veterinarian clinics, veal farm, milking parlor equipment sales and service, meat market, financial office specializing in loans for farmers and training them in technology and accounting, a farm market specializing in pumpkins, and the local technical college mentioned earlier.

There are some services the farmers need that they end up paying a higher premium for due to the fact there is not a local dealer. With success of the AEA hopefully the community can attract such land uses as a local insemination office, dead cattle contractor, or a low grade meat processor.

Per municipal Smart Growth Plans limited growth is projected in the cities and villages within the AEA's broader borders. Per trends in agriculture more land will need to be preserved to meet crop and manure spreading needs, although digesters are being used in the county (one of the petitioners himself has four manure digesters on two sites). Although there are fewer farms in the county than there were ten years ago, the farms cover more acreage and have more cows per farm, a trend expected to continue. Livestock on farms in 2010 was 29,000 dairy cows with a total cattle and calves inventory of 60,000 head of cattle (about half that amount is in the proposed AEA).

There are over 150,000 acres in farms in the county. These farms cover 75% of the land area overall. The proposed AEA would encompass 22,781 of these acres. Of the county's 150,000 acres in farmland 135,000 acres of it is cropped. Of the cropland 32,000 acres of the county's land is in alfalfa and hay; 60,000 in corn for corn grain and corn silage; 20,000 in soybeans; 13,000 in wheat; 3000 in oats and other small grains; and the remaining 7000 acres in vegetable and specialty crops, such as pumpkins or strawberries.

The subject cropland is highly productive. Current FSA average county yields are corn grain at 150 a bushel; corn silage is 17 tons per acre; soybeans are 45 bushel per acre; wheat is 75 bushel per acre; and alfalfa is 4 tons of dry matter forage production per acre.

The AEA and surrounding farm and cropland in the county support 12,000 cows which are fed the forages purchased from farmers that sell to the large dairy operations through contracts negotiated between the forage providers and the dairy operations. This symbiotic relationship is rather unique and not present throughout most of Wisconsin. The prices of the forage on a per ton basis are calculated from the Chicago Board of Trade corn and soybean future prices. About 7000 acres of corn silage and 7000 to 10,000 acres of alfalfa forage raised in the county is sold in this contractual manner. The proposed AEA is somewhat in the center of the county where the dairy farms and cropland are most prevalent. This location has resulted in neighboring partnerships between forage producers and the dairies that buy the forages. Lastly, because such a high number of acres is reserved for alfalfa, the environmental benefits of maintaining the alfalfa in the rotations is a great plus to water quality and to reducing soil erosion and soil loss.

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5. Confirm that the proposed AEA is consistent with any existing local comprehensive plan. Submit a future land use map, if available. *Please do not submit a complete copy of any comprehensive plan.*

The county of Calumet has a comprehensive plan and the proposed AEA is consistent with this plan.

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- The Town(s) of Brillion, Chilton, Rantoul and Woodville has(have) a comprehensive plan and the proposed AEA is consistent with this plan.
  - There are no comprehensive plans for the political subdivisions in which the proposed AEA is located.
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6. (a) Select which of the following land use controls will support the agricultural uses in the proposed AEA. (b) Explain if the selected control is currently in place or will be implemented in the future **and** how the control will support the proposed AEA.

- Farmland preservation zoning ordinance (provide a copy of the certified zoning map as supporting documentation) Calumet County and draft FP ordinances for Chilton and Rantoul
  - Other zoning ordinances Other zoning districts are covered by the county and town ordinances, and help minimize land use conflicts on the borders of the AEA
  - Farmland preservation agreements
  - Easements or purchase of development rights Glacial Lakes Conservancy has one easement in the county (Town of Chilton)
  - Transfer of development rights
  - Subdivision ordinances Calumet County (density magement and land division)
  - Cooperative boundary agreements
  - Natural area protections DNR wildlife mangement plans for the Brillion and Killsnake Wildfie Areas.
  - Other (specify) County Sanitary Ordinance (makes exemptions for farmers)
  - Other (specify) Floodplain Zoning Ordinance (allows farming in a floodplain)
  - Other (specify) Calumet County Strategic Plan, Land and Water Resources Management Plan
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7. Describe any recent investments made to support agriculture and agricultural-related business in or near the proposed AEA.

In the AEA:

With the exception of the largest dairy operator, in the past five years the 'Hilbert Ag Land on Track' AEA petitioners have invested an average of \$2 million for building and equipment maintenance costs, and \$4 million for those who have added to their facilities. As an example, the Thiel farm in St. John has added a 125 stall free stall barn to their current 275 cow herd to bring the herd to 425 total cows; Pleasant View Dairy, Potter, added 120 cows in 2008. The largest dairy in the AEA (also a petitioner) has invested over \$50 million (\$25 million in the first dairy about 8 years ago, \$29 million in the second dairy developed about four years ago) and spends about \$27 million annually. The money being recycled throughout the community is a tremendous boost to the area economy.

Gruetts Inc. is a farm equipment and custom services provider within the proposed AEA. Gruetts has added floor space for sales and mechanical services and also floor space to house their increased custom services which today are primarily the hauling and application of liquid and semi solid dairy

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manure. Gruetts Inc. employs 20 full time and 30 seasonal employees at their farm equipment, repair and custom manure application service.

Foremost Farms is a dairy processing plant and has recently completed a significant remodeling project, added production capacity, and upgraded their waste treatment handling process. The waste process now reduces waste product discharge and captures more of the solids from the cheese making process so the solids can be sold instead of being treated as a waste product.

Two other local cheese processing plants in the AEA have added equipment, and one, Sargento, also just completed a major expansion, and is expected to double production within the next few years.

Agri Partners is a 600 voting member farmer owned, \$40 million cooperative that employs 40 full time and 30 part time people. They recently added 2 millions bushels in storage and are adding 500,000 bushels of grain storage in 2011. Also, Agri Partners moved their headquarters from the City of De Pere in Brown County to the City of Brillion located at the eastern edge of the AEA.

A local pumper (Phil's Pumping and Fabrication) located within the AEA employ 20 full time and 35 seasonal employees which supply custom manure hauling, pumping and application services throughout the AEA and surrounding area. This business is expanding its fabrication operation.

Holsum Irish Dairy and the Elm Dairy sites now take waste products from nearby Briess Industries (a malting products industry in the City of Chilton). This relationship lowers the cost to Briess Industries, saves the nearby City of Chilton sewage treatment costs, and the higher energy feed stock spikes the digesters at Holsum to create more methane.

A local produce dealer expanded operations and now sells to a local farm market just outside the AEA.

A new fish farm is being built at the northeast portion of the AEA. The farm will raise and process fish, have sheep for shearing, and a small pond for youth in the area to go fishing. The farm will be equipped with its own small scale wind energy system.

Slightly more than five years ago an educational petting farm opened to the public. Children can experience a real farm, ride a horse, pet the animals and pick pumpkins. The facility expanded this year by purchasing an old one room schoolhouse across the road. The facility will be revitalized so as to teach about the rich past and rural education of the area.

The building supply yard in Potter, which primarily serves the farms, tripled its layout and increased employees.

A local contractor who does flatwork for the farmers recently added laborers to meet demand.

Potter recently attracted a custom vinyl sign maker, 'Venom Vinyl', who is now making the truck signs for many of the farms in the AEA.

The local excavating firm which does the majority of the excavation work in the AEA just expanded operations by purchasing a semi-truck to haul forages for the large farms.

In the past three years an internet service provider company opened in Hilbert. Their mission is to serve rural communities the 'big' companies don't serve. 'Bug Tussel' now offers internet service to the entire AEA. Also in Hilbert a computer repair company opened its doors about the same time, the majority of their clients being farmers.

The meat market in Brillion (eastern edge of the AEA) upgraded their building and showcase area.

Lastly, a milking equipment dealer has expanded operations by increasing products and services.

Adjacent to the AEA Area:

Fox Valley Technology College, the regional education center (in nearby Appleton), has expanded to support the agricultural needs of the community. They now offer training and classes specifically targeted towards farmers and farm services. In adjacent Chilton classes are also offered at the FVTC branch center.

As mentioned above a local cheese processing plant immediately to the west of the AEA has added more equipment. Another cheese facility, this one to the south, repackages and distributes cheese and added additional retail space this past year.

The Riesterer & Schnell Farm Equipment retailer (Chilton) has added floor space for more sales and floor space for more mechanical services.

Holsum Elm Dairy operates two dairies in the AEA. There are 4 manure digesters on the two Holsum Dairy operations. These digesters are manufactured by GHD, and sold by D&D Distributors. GHD and D&D are located in nearby Chilton.

Two years ago LDS (Lisowe Dairy System), in Chilton, built a new facility.

A local financial institution (in Chilton) recently expanded services to teach farmers accounting and computer skills.

In neighboring Brown County, Arla in Hollandtown has added processing capacity. They process milk from the AEA.

Modern Dairy, Kaukauna, a dairy equipment supplier, has expanded.

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8. Explain how designation of an AEA may do the following:

- a. promote future agricultural and related investment and cooperation within the AEA;
- b. support or encourage agricultural economic activity within the broader community.

a. Calumet County has a significant amount of sharing and cooperation among land owners, crop growers, and livestock operators. This includes joint marketing, buying and selling of forage feed for dairy (Calumet County markets more forage, percentage wise, than any county in Wisconsin), the sharing of expensive farm equipment, and joint purchasing of rail products. A successful AEA will help strengthen and expand these cooperative relationships. The area can be marketed to others in the AEA wanting to share such services, and also marketed beyond its borders to outlying farmers or new businesses wishing to partner on commodities or services.

The joint purchasing of fertilizer and nitrogen by rail, as well as the exporting of crops by rail, have kept the railroad in business in Calumet County. The subject AEA lands alone are major contributors to the success of the rail in that two lines run through the area and load at the alfalfa mill in the heart of the AEA and at the two cooperatives bordering the AEA lands. A strong farm base will help keep the railroad in service in the county, and in turn help keep prices down for the transport of goods and crops. As long as the rail is viable, the area can be marketed to rail dependant businesses. (It should be noted the area would remain strong if the rail were to leave, but as long as it is present it will be a major part of cost effective farming in the AEA).

Cooperative agreements outlined elsewhere in this application illustrate the unique bond dairy producers and crop farmers share. These relationships extend beyond the AEA boundary, but are quite strong within the AEA boundaries (see the attached map illustrating farmers subject of the

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petition and the land they rent). There are also many other unique cooperative arrangements that support farmers in the AEA, such as the relationship Briess (a malting firm) has with farmers. Briess buys barley from local farmers, and a local farmer in turn processes waste from Briess. Briess also employs several hundred folks from the small municipalities as well as housewives or children from the farms. Such relationship is typical in the small, friendly ag community.

It is fairly typical to see custom contracts for manure and manure applications or for the custom planting of corn. Keeping land available for agriculture, and implementing as many tools as available to help protect the land and ensure farmer profitability, will aid in promoting the area and the agreements its open to pursuing.

b. The AEA has a very profitable green space. This green space is used for crops, manure application, cattle, etc. As illustrated in this application, farms in the area have expanded and invested in their operations resulting in more jobs and increased economic activity. Partners, such as the Agri Partners Cooperative has expanded and created jobs, Gruetts (which sells manure haulers and spreaders) has expanded, as has three of the counties seven cheese processing plants (two of which are at the AEA borders). The AEA will ensure a reliable farm base for at least fifteen years, thereby resulting in companies continuing to invest in agriculture.

The designation and tax credit will help farmers remain profitable and encourage reinvestment in an area they know is reserved for agriculture. The partnerships with others outside the AEA for manure spreading, municipal sewage spreading, and crop production helps neighboring farms and communities outside the area. In addition all other agri-businesses in the region should benefit from knowing there is a reliable farming area set aside solely for agriculture. As neighboring communities develop residentially and their agricultural lands consumed, the importance of the reserved AEA will become increasingly important.

Significant investments have been made on the farms and in the surrounding area. Investments are expected to increase if designated an AEA. The marketing potential will be invaluable as Calumet County, the towns, and farmers and businesses promote the area 'Open for Agri-Business'. Calumet County's strategic plan indicates a strong support for agriculture and to promote it as a critical part of the county's economic development potential.

Supporting this AEA petition is critical to the county's economic health. Typically the county sees an agricultural dollar rollover five to seven times. This current trend is expected to continue, if not increase as the area grows with larger and more profitable farms, as well as attracting new or enhanced agri-businesses. Simply, in Calumet County if a dairy cow sells \$3000 worth of processed milk per year, it totals \$15,000 to \$21,000 in total economic activity. In that Wisconsin processes over 90% of all milk produced, the market for the farmers and potential for economic activity is great.

Most recent data (2002) reveal agriculture in Calumet County provides jobs for 2407 people. That number comprises over 13% of county's total workforce. Since the 2002 data was collected the number one factory employer in the county closed its doors, meaning agriculturally related jobs have become even more important to the county.

Agriculture contributes over \$338 million in economic activity and contributes over \$68 million to the county's total income. With a successful and supported farm base, these numbers should increase. As of 2002 the top commodity was dairy (\$52 million in sales), and since the AEA houses several thousand dairy cows, the AEA should help support their continued profitability. The AEA also has a significant amount of cropland. With grains bringing in over \$11 million in sales, preserving the land for grain production will help keep the area, and the county economically strong.

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9. Indicate the approximate level of petitioner compliance with state soil and water standards.

Nearly all petitioners are in compliance

- More than half of the petitioners are in compliance
  - Half or less than half of the petitioners are in compliance
  - Few or no petitioners are in compliance
  - Compliance status of petitioners is unknown
- 

10. If the proposed area is designated as an AEA, what steps will be taken to encourage farmland preservation agreements between landowners and the department?

Farmers signing the petition will play an active role in communicating with other agricultural land owners in the AEA the benefits to the farmer, community, and environment by signing an agreement. The petitioners have made a commitment to become advocates of the program with a goal of having 75% of all eligible land in AEA enrolled in the program within five years via signed agreements.

In addition County UW Extension and Land and Water Conservation staff will hold a meeting to promote the benefits of agreements. Lastly, County Planning staff will prepare a press release on the AEA and benefits of the agreements, mail a letter to each agricultural land owner in the AEA encouraging an agreement be entered into with DATCP, and send posters promoting the agreements to each town involved to post at their town hall. Thereafter as each county department interacts with land owners in the AEA they will promote the benefits of the agreements.

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11. Describe the level of non-petitioner cooperator support for the petition.

Although only five farmers needed to sign the AEA petition, 17 farms (representing 27 entities) have committed their 6100 acres to the AEA already--a sign of significant support for the program. These farmers also rent over 3800 acres of land in the AEA as well. Many of the remaining landowners in the AEA area are keenly interested in the AEA but are waiting for other farmers to enter into agreements before they sign an agreement.

As for area agri-businesses, such as the cooperative, lending institution, and ag-service businesses, all spoken to eagerly look forward to the AEA and its goal of protecting the land while attracting investment. Unfortunately, due to the timing of this application, the petitioners did not obtain many letters of support. If more letters are requested, the petitioners ask they be given time to obtain the needed letters.

Please see the attached letters of support from the businesses organizations which submitted letters to date.

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12. Are there any other compelling reasons to choose this AEA proposal from among competing AEA proposals?

The Calumet County UW Extension Ag Educator has compiled significant data and prepared a powerpoint presentation entitled "Where Have all the Crop Acres Gone". The presentation was given not only at state level meetings, but locally to the County Board of Supervisors, committees and to

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farmers. The presentation has brought a new awareness to the public on the need to save land for dairying.

This powerpoint presentation compares Wisconsin to our five neighboring states of Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan as to our land in farm losses, crop land losses and harvested crop acre losses from 1987-2007. Wisconsin had the highest percentage of crop acres lost and also the highest absolute acres of crop land lost during that 20 year time frame. The study also compares several Wisconsin counties with counties in the five other states and shows the comparative losses which include comparisons with population density, income and population gains. An additional disturbing fact was that not only did Wisconsin lead these five states in total crop acres lost but it was the only state of the six states that had a net loss in total animal units raised for food production as well. All the other states stayed the same or gained significantly in the total livestock being raised and fed. All states did, however, lose numbers in beef and dairy cattle while poultry and hogs increased dramatically.

The fact that dairy cattle need a very large land base to provide for the forage and energy needs, and also to apply large amounts of liquid dairy manure, means that non-agricultural land pressure does really impact the dairy industry. The 'Hilbert Ag Land on Track' AEA is one of the most concentrated dairy production systems in the United States and maintaining the land base is crucial for this significant industry to prosper and grow.

In addition, the amount of six generation farms make this area unique, as does the strong interdependence of those multi-generational farms. Farmers in this AEA don't act independently—they share fields, equipment, and ideas. They work together to influence the Chicago Board of Trade and cohesively meet on a regular basis.

There are two railroad tracks that come into the county. One continues east, the other heads south and terminates (it then backs up the track). The fact that rail lines still traverse the area, and even backs up solely to support the agriculturally related businesses, shows the strength of the farms and importance the rail plays to the farmer. This is unique in that most rails bypass areas they can not provide a thorough service to rather than back up a terminated track.

The fact that Calumet County has been the second fastest growing county in the state for the past decade intensifies the need to assist farmers in protecting their land from unwanted development. An AEA designation is one way to prevent sprawl into the heartland.

Lastly, businesses have been investing in the area and with a stable farm base it is predicted this trend will continue. The farmers are committed to farming the land; the county is committed to assisting in developing and maintaining infrastructure and developing marketing plans; the area needs the support of the State of Wisconsin.

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### **PART III. MAP AND SPATIAL LOCATION DATA**

Please send all of the following information, in electronic form, to: [DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov) (enter "AEA Petition" in the subject line):

1. A map of the proposed AEA, **and**
2. The spatial location data for the AEA boundary.

Please follow the map and spatial data guidelines found in Part III of the guidance document.

### **PART IV. IMAGES FROM PROPOSED AEA (OPTIONAL)**

If desired, petitioners may submit high resolution images taken from within the boundary of the AEA. Photos should help to depict agriculture and agricultural-related land use described in the petition.

Please follow the image submission guidelines in Part IV of the guidance document.

## **PART V. SIGNATURE PAGES AND LOCAL RESOLUTIONS**

Submit appropriate documentation from all landowner and political subdivision petitioners. See attached "Landowner Signature Page" and "Cooperator Signature Page."

In addition, every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the AEA is included must submit as part of the petition a copy of a resolution stating that the local government is petitioning the state to designate the AEA as described in the petition. Sample resolution text is included in Appendix A of the guidance document.

Please follow the signature page and resolution guidelines in Part V of the guidance document.

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF CALUMET  
CERTIFIED COPY**

I certify that this is a true and exact copy of  
the original of which I am legal custodian for  
the County Clerk of Calumet County.

Signed by

Beth A. Hauser

County Clerk or Deputy County Clerk

2-15-2011

Date

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-43  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE  
AREA (AEA) WITHIN THE TOWNS OF BRILLION, CHILTON, RANTOUL  
AND WOODVILLE, CALUMET COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Motion:	Adopted: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1 <sup>st</sup> <u>Connors</u>	Lost: <input type="checkbox"/>
2 <sup>nd</sup> <u>Stillman</u>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>
Yes: <u>20</u> No: <u>0</u>	Absent: <u>1</u>
Number of votes required:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Majority	<input type="checkbox"/> Two-thirds
Reviewed by: Dawn Klockow Corp Counsel	

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting applications for the designation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, Agriculture is an important component of the Calumet County economy, landscape, and rural character; and

**WHEREAS**, The County has consistently supported and encouraged area agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, The County updated their Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, The County identified preservation of agriculture in their Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan adopted in May of 2007, and also in their Farmland Preservation Plan adopted October of 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, Calumet County believes that establishment of an Agricultural Enterprise Area will protect the local agricultural economy and rural heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, The farmers petitioning the State of Wisconsin, along with support from their respective Town Boards, have demonstrated that there is public support for the Agricultural Enterprise Area; and

**WHEREAS**, The proposed boundaries of the Agricultural Enterprise Area are depicted on Exhibit A, attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, The choice to participate in activities and programs related to the Agricultural Enterprise Area will be at the sole discretion of the individual property owner; and

**WHEREAS**, The continued preservation of land in agricultural use will help support jobs in the agricultural industry, attract new agri-businesses, and control sprawl; and

**WHEREAS**, Agriculture is an important area land use and worthy of preservation and support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Calumet County Board of Supervisors hereby support the designation of an Agricultural Enterprise Area entitled "Hilbert Ag Land on Track" within the Towns of Brillion, Chilton, Rantoul and Woodville.

	YES	NO	A
1 BARRIBEAU			
2 BROCK			
3 BUDE			
4 CONNORS			
5 DRAHEIM			
6 GREEN			
7 HOPFENSPERGER			
8 KOENIG			
9 LAUGHRIN, P.			
10 LAUGHRIN, T.			
11 LEONHARDT			X
12 MUELLER			
13 PRESCOTT			
14 SCHWOBE			
15 SCHUH			
16 SOMMERS			
17 STECKER			
18 STENKLYFT			
19 STIER			
20 STILLMAN			
21 TAYLOR			

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2011.

**INTRODUCED BY THE PLANNING, ZONING  
AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

*Alice Connors*

Alice Connors, Chair

*Duaine Stillman*

Duaine Stillman

*Ralph Prescott*

Ralph Prescott

*Joel Taylor*

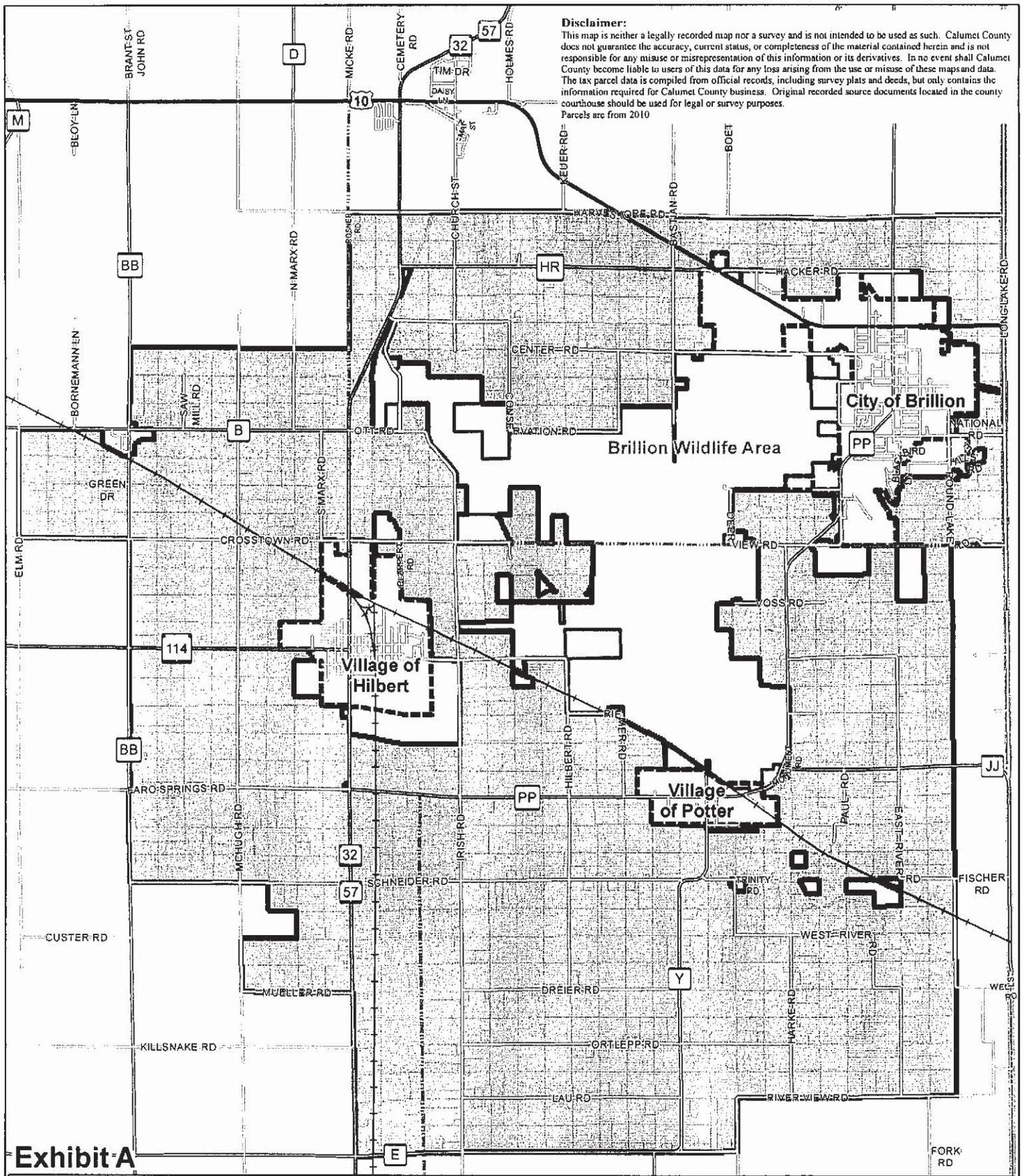
Joel Taylor

**COUNTERSIGNED BY**

*W. Barribeau*

William Barribeau, County Board Chair

**Disclaimer:**  
 This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. Calumet County does not guarantee the accuracy, current status, or completeness of the material contained herein and is not responsible for any misuse or misrepresentation of this information or its derivatives. In no event shall Calumet County become liable to users of this data for any loss arising from the use or misuse of these mapped data. The tax parcel data is compiled from official records, including survey plats and deeds, but only contains the information required for Calumet County business. Original recorded source documents located in the county courthouse should be used for legal or survey purposes.  
 Parcels are from 2010



**Exhibit A**

# Hilbert Ag Land on Track

## Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Petition



0 2,000 4,000 6,000 8,000 Feet

Map Date: January 31, 2011

- Railroads
- Federal Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Local Roads
- Municipal Streets
- Parcels
- Public Lands
- City Boundary
- Village Boundary
- Town Boundary
- County Boundary
- Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)

RESOLUTION NO.2011-02

IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA (AEA)  
WITHIN THE TOWN OF BRILLION, CALUMET COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting applications for the designation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an important component of the area economy, landscape and rural character; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brillion has consistently supported and encouraged area agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brillion has adopted farmland preservation zoning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town identified preservation of agriculture in the Town of Brillion Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brillion believes that establishment of an Agricultural Enterprise Area will protect the local agricultural economy and rural heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Brillion has determined, based on petitioner support and previous meetings where AEA and other farmland preservation tools were discussed, that there is public support for the AEA;

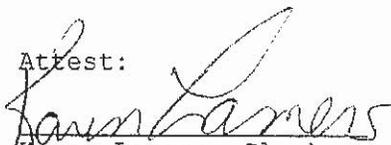
**WHEREAS**, the continued preservation of land in agricultural use will support jobs in the agricultural industry, attract agricultural related businesses, limit incompatible land uses, and help curb residential sprawl; and

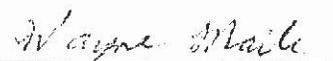
**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an important area land use and worthy of preservation and support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF BRILLION**, that the Town Board does hereby support the designation of the "Hilbert Ag Land on Track" Agricultural Enterprise Area partially within the Town of Brillion.

Adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011.

Attest:

  
Karen Lamers, Clerk

  
Wayne Maille, Chairman

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-1

IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA (AEA)  
WITHIN THE TOWN OF CHILTON, CALUMET COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting applications for the designation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important component of the area economy, landscape and rural character; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chilton has consistently supported and encouraged area agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chilton is in the process of adopting farmland preservation zoning; and

WHEREAS, the Town identified preservation of agriculture in the Town of Chilton Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chilton believes that establishment of an Agricultural Enterprise Area will protect the local agricultural economy and rural heritage; and

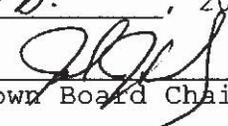
WHEREAS, the Town of Chilton has determined, based on petitioner support and previous meetings where AEA and other farmland preservation tools were discussed, that there is public support for the AEA;

WHEREAS, the continued preservation of land in agricultural use will support jobs in the agricultural industry, attract agricultural related businesses, limit incompatible land uses, and help curb residential sprawl; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important area land use and worthy of preservation and support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF CHILTON, that the Town Board does hereby support the designation of the "Hilbert Ag Land on Track" Agricultural Enterprise Area partially within the Town of Chilton.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of Feb., 2011.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Board Chair

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO.2011-01**

**IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA  
(AEA) WITHIN THE TOWN OF RANTOUL, CALUMET COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting applications for the designation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an important component of the area economy, landscape and rural character; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Rantoul has consistently supported and encouraged area agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Rantoul is in the process of adopting farmland preservation zoning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town identified preservation of agriculture in the Town of Rantoul Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Rantoul believes that establishment of an Agricultural Enterprise Area will protect the local agricultural economy and rural heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Rantoul has determined, based on petitioner support and previous meetings where AEA and other farmland preservation tools were discussed, that there is public support for the AEA;

**WHEREAS**, the continued preservation of land in agricultural use will support jobs in the agricultural industry, attract agricultural related businesses, limit incompatible land uses, and help curb residential sprawl; and

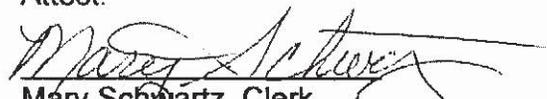
**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an important area land use and worthy of preservation and support;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF RANTOUL**, that the Town Board does hereby support the designation of the "Hilbert Ag Land on Track" Agricultural Enterprise Area partially within the Town of Rantoul.

Adopted this 7th day of February, 2011.

  
Eugene Mertz, Town Chairman

Attest:

  
Mary Schwartz, Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2-2-11

IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA (AEA)  
WITHIN THE TOWN OF WOODVILLE, CALUMET COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting applications for the designation of Agricultural Enterprise Areas throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an important component of the area economy, landscape and rural character; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Woodville has consistently supported and encouraged area agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Woodville has adopted farmland preservation zoning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town identified preservation of agriculture in the Town of Woodville Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Woodville believes that establishment of an Agricultural Enterprise Area will protect the local agricultural economy and rural heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Woodville has determined, based on petitioner support and previous meetings where AEA and other farmland preservation tools were discussed, that there is public support for the AEA;

**WHEREAS**, the continued preservation of land in agricultural use will support jobs in the agricultural industry, attract agricultural related businesses, limit incompatible land uses, and help curb residential sprawl; and

**WHEREAS**, agriculture is an important area land use and worthy of preservation and support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF WOODVILLE**, that the Town Board does hereby support the designation of the "Hilbert Ag Land on Track" Agricultural Enterprise Area partially within the Town of Woodville.

Adopted this 2nd day of Feb, 2011.

Daniel Neal  
Town Board Chair

Attest:

Ellis Patterson  
Town Clerk