



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
 Division of Agricultural Resource Management
 P.O. Box 8911
 Madison, WI 53708-8911
 Phone: (608) 224-4611

2020 Agricultural Enterprise Area Petition

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 guidance¹ provided and submit the following information in support of the petition:²

PETITION CHECK LIST

Submit an electronic copy of the following:

- This completed petition form (including any supporting pages and documentation)
- A map of the proposed AEA (PDF format)
- Spatial location/GIS shapefile data used to create map (emailed ZIP file)
- A signed signature page for each owner of an eligible farm who is signing the petition
- A political subdivision signature page signed by an authorized officer or representative of every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is located
- A signature page for the county conservationist
- Non-petitioner cooperator signature pages or letters of support

A sample timeline for submitting an AEA petition can be found in Appendix A at the back of this document.

PART I:

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Fill out the following information about the proposed AEA. See the Notes below for more specifics.

NAME OF AEA (Note 1) CICERO BLACKMOUR	
COUNTY/COUNTIES IN WHICH PROPOSED AEA IS LOCATED OUTAGAMIE COUNTY	TOWNS, CITIES OR VILLAGES IN WHICH PROPOSED AEA IS LOCATED TOWN OF BLACK CREEK, TOWN OF CICERO, TOWN OF SEYMOUR
TOTAL ACRES IN PROPOSED AEA (Note 2) 45,466	TOTAL NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PETITIONERS (Note 3) 20

Note 1: Choose a name relevant to the petitioners or agricultural resources in the area.

Note 2: There are no size restrictions, however DATCP must give preference to proposed AEAs 1,000 acres or more. DATCP may only designate 2 million AEA acres statewide, therefore it may be required that the proposed boundary be adjusted for designation.

Note 3: An AEA petition must be jointly filed by *at least* 5 eligible farm owners within the boundaries of the proposed AEA, and by each county, town or municipality in which any part of the proposed AEA is located.

2. PETITION CONTACT INFORMATION

Fill out contact information for the main contacts of the proposed AEA.

COUNTY STAFF CONTACT Jason Pausma	EMAIL jason.pausma@outagamie.org	PHONE NUMBER (920) 832-7821
MAILING ADDRESS STREET 320 S. WALNUT STREET	CITY APPLETON	STATE WI
		ZIP 54911
LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVE David Vande Hei	EMAIL ddvandehei@gmail.com	PHONE NUMBER (920) 228-0338

¹ Guidance available at: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AEAPetitionInfo.aspx

² Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was collected, s. 15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.

MAILING ADDRESS STREET N9471 County Rd X	CITY Black Creek	STATE WI	ZIP 54106
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3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Answer the following questions. If “No” is selected for any question, this application is currently ineligible. That question should be addressed prior to submitting the application. DATCP is willing assist you in resolving any issues in order to facilitate an AEA petition.

- a. All parcels in the proposed AEA are located within a farmland preservation area designated in the certified county farmland preservation plan. Yes No
- b. All parcels in the proposed AEA are contiguous*.
*Contiguous means “Parcels that meet at more than one point and are only separated by a lake, stream, transportation or utility right-of-way.” Yes No
- c. The proposed AEA is primarily in agricultural use. Yes No
- d. At least 5 eligible farm owners signed the *Petitioning Landowner Signature Page(s)* Yes No

PART II.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fill in the background information of the proposed AEA. See below for more specific instructions for each subsection

Question 4a. Introduction to proposed AEA

Write a clear, detailed narrative emphasizing the local agricultural community including things like importance of the agricultural or rural identity within the proposed AEA boundaries. This should provide context to the proposed AEA.

The proposed AEA is comprised of three townships (Black Creek, Cicero, and Seymour) and is located in Northeast Outagamie County. The proposed AEA encompasses, and is adjacent to, three municipalities including the Village of Black Creek, Village of Nichols, and City of Seymour (Home of the Hamburger). This region of the County is known for its highly productive agricultural soils as well as its strong agricultural history and culture, with many farms passed down within a family over hundreds of years. It is home to the Outagamie County Fair (135th year) which spans six days and hosts over 40,000 visitors annually. This fair showcases over 8,500 local 4-H, FFA and other youth and adult exhibits, further highlighting the importance of agriculture within the proposed AEA and Outagamie County as a whole.

Land use within the proposed AEA is dominated by agriculture and agricultural related activities, including, among others, a 300 acre sod farm (Black Creek Sod, Inc.), three large dairy CAFOs (Van De Hei Dairy, Birlings Bovines, LLC, and Meadow View Dairy, LLC), and numerous multi-generational small to midsized family farms. Being located within the Lower Fox River and Wolf River Basins, agricultural operations within the proposed AEA are supported by the highly productive soils found in this region, including the Hortonville-Symco, Onaway-Solona, and Shiocton-Nichols soil associations.

Approximately 95% of the proposed AEA is located within the Exclusive Agricultural Zoning District (AED). The establishment of the AED has been a helpful tool in protecting the highly productive agricultural lands found within the proposed AEA from the ever present encroachment of nonagricultural development, and further aids in minimizing potential conflicts between agricultural and nonagricultural land uses. In addition to the AED, designation as an AEA would, without doubt, further assist the County, townships, and local land owners in maintaining the economic viability and operational efficiency of our agricultural industry, as well as provide confidence in future investments of the same. There is a strong desire by the petitioners to preserve this area's highly productive farmland for years to come.

Question 4b. Current Land Use and Land Use Trends

Consider citing existing information or maps from the county's farmland preservation plan or local comprehensive plans.

- i. Describe ALL current land uses (both agricultural and non-agricultural) within the proposed AEA *OR* attach a current land use map and a table or short narrative that explains what the map depicts:

The primary land use within the proposed AEA is agriculture with a secondary land uses including forested wetlands and woodland areas. A majority of all other land uses including Residential, Commercial/Institutional, Industrial, Parks and Rec, are concentrated in and around the existing incorporated areas of the City of Seymour and the Village of Black Creek, encompassed by, and adjacent to, the AEA. Outagamie County 2015 Existing Land Use Map is attached for reference. Townships included in the proposed AEA are outlined in red.

For assistance in creating a land use map, please contact Wednesday Jordan at (608) 224-4611 or Wednesday.Jordan@wisconsin.gov.

- ii. Provide information about land use trends in and around the AEA:

Per the 2018 Outagamie County Growth Report, land use trends countywide reflect a mixture of uses that can be separated into three general categories. The southeast portion of the County hosts a growing metropolitan area consisting of cities, villages and urban towns (Fox Cities). Surrounding the metropolitan area is the suburbanizing/urban fringe, comprised primarily of towns. Outside of the suburbanizing/urban fringe, exists the rural northern half of the County; home to the proposed AEA. This portion of the County consists of towns, scattered with a few small cities and villages and is primarily comprised of agricultural operations, large natural areas, and scattered residential.

Land use trends in and around the proposed AEA reflect a largely agricultural region with some development pressure from the southeastern portion of the County (Fox Cities metropolitan area) and the Green Bay area to the east of the proposed AEA. Most recently, this region appears to be experiencing a slight shift in land use trends regarding the transfer or sale of agricultural land. Compared to previous years, where the transfer or sale of agricultural lands followed a mostly farm to developer pattern, current data is showing an increase in farm to farm transfers and sales. This shift may be attributed to the increasing size of larger dairy farming operations (CAFOs) in this region. According to the USDA Census of Agriculture for Outagamie County, 2017, the average size of farms within the county has increased 18% since 2007, while the number of farms decreased by 14%. It seems that as the number of animal units per operation increase, there is increased demand for additional land for the propagation of feed as well as the distribution of manure nutrients. As such, this region is beginning to experience a market where larger farming operations are beginning to outbid the development community for available agricultural land, and thus reflects a strong demand and continued importance to preserve agricultural land within the proposed AEA and surrounding region to support farming operations and CAFOs.

The following summary includes data from the 2018 Outagamie County Growth Report:

Population Estimate - 2018

Countywide: 186,907 (5.46% increase from 2010 Census)

Proposed AEA: 3,559 (0% Change from 2010 Census)

Building Permits Issued - 2018

Countywide (excluding municipalities)

Residential: 511 permits

Commercial: 44 permits

Proposed AEA – (Town of Black Creek not reporting)

Residential: 18 permits

Commercial: 0 permits

Sanitary Permits Issued - 2018

Countywide: 247 permits

Proposed AEA: No data specific to AEA

Rezoning - 2018

Countywide: 24 rezoning requests; 171.5 acres rezoned out of Agriculture

Proposed AEA: No rezonings

Examples to illustrate trends: number of new septic system applications, county zoning plan, population growth, protected natural areas, etc.

iii. List the main types of agricultural production in the proposed AEA:

Dairy farms, common dairy silage, alfalfa and cash grain (row crops), with some cattle grazing operations. There are farms with lands enrolled in Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) buffer programs as well as buffers through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and Tribal Resource Management (TRM) initiatives.

Examples: common agricultural uses (row crops, grazing, dairy, etc.), State conservation programs (CREP, MFL, etc.), Federal conservation programs (CRP, CSP, etc.), local conservation efforts, etc.

Question 4c. Land Use Controls and Plans in Proposed AEA (check all that apply)

Select all Land Use Controls and Plans in proposed area. Add a short description where applicable.

Farmland preservation zoning ordinance

Subdivision ordinances

Other zoning ordinances (*specify type of ordinances that apply to lands in the proposed AEA. Examples include manure storage, livestock facility siting, or wellhead protection ordinances*) Agricultural Performance Standards and Livestock Waste Management Ordinance.

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the construction, installation, alteration, design and use of animal waste storage facilities and animal feedlots so as to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of residents and transients, prevent the spread of disease and promote the prosperity and general welfare of the citizens of the county. It is also intended to provide for the administration and enforcement of the chapter and to provide penalties for its violation. This chapter also implements agricultural performance standards and prohibitions and provides an outline for their implementation.

The County Board finds this chapter is designed to protect and promote the county's agricultural industry and also to protect and preserve the surface water, groundwater, and soil resources of the county, in order to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the people and communities within the county.

The county permits operation of properly conducted agricultural operations within the county. Individuals purchasing or owning land located near agricultural lands of operation or included within an area zoned for agricultural purposes, may be subject to outcomes arising from such operations. Such outcomes may include, but are not limited to: noises, odors, lights, fumes, dust, smoke, insects, chemicals, operation of machinery (including aircraft) during a 24-hour period, storage and disposal of manure, and the application of chemical fertilizers, soil amendments, herbicides and pesticides. One or more of the outcomes described may occur as a result of any agricultural operation, which is in conformance with existing laws and regulations and accepted customs and standards. Individuals living near an agricultural area should be prepared to accept such outcomes as a normal and necessary aspect of living in a county with a strong rural character and an active agricultural sector. The county has established the land conservation committee to assist in the resolution of any animal waste management disputes that might arise between residents of the county regarding agricultural operations.

The county has adopted an Exclusive Agricultural Zoning District (AED). The intent of the AED exclusive agricultural district is to maintain highly productive agricultural lands in agricultural production by effectively limiting encroachment of nonagricultural development; by minimizing land use conflicts between agricultural and nonagricultural uses; and by minimizing public service and facility costs associated with nonagricultural development. This district is further intended to comply with standards contained in Wis. Stats. ch. 91, to permit eligible landowners to receive tax credits under Wis. Stats. § 71.09, in connection with their agricultural operations.

Purchase of development rights and/or easements (donated or purchased)

Transfer of development rights

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farmland preservation agreements
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative boundary agreements/inter-municipal agreements
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural area protections or conservation program activities (state and/or federal) (<i>specify</i>)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive plan (<i>specify</i>) 2040 Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates approximately 90% of the proposed AEA as "Agriculture and Open Land" which is further described as follows: "Land in open or cultivated state with limited residential development. Residential uses are primarily accessory to agricultural or agriculture related activities (i.e. farmsteads). Residential uses not accessory to principal agricultural activities are limited in number and generally located on unplatted parcels or lots created by minor land divisions". Typical uses for land designated under the "Agriculture and Open Land" transect generally include agriculture, agriculture related uses, and uses accessory to the same; Farm owner/operator home-based businesses and home occupations. In addition to future land use designations, the 2040 Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan includes the following goals/recommendations related to the preservation of agricultural practices and agricultural land. - 2.3: "Consider creating provisions within the zoning code to allow for agritourism based businesses, in areas desired by local communities." - 6.4: "Continue to maintain the Farmland Preservation program. Consider adding a "food systems" element to the next Farmland Preservation Plan update. Explore creating additional Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) when desired by local communities, and when county resources are available." - 6.5: "Continue to educate and provide technical assistance to land owners for best practices for soil conservation and nutrient management, to limit the amount of erosion, phosphorus and other pollutants in our waterways."
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other programs or activities showing a commitment to water quality and/or soil health (<i>specify</i>) There are farms with lands enrolled in CREP buffer programs as well as Buffers through GLRI and TRM Initiatives. This area also falls within the Upper Fox River/Wolf River TMDL which is has just had its plan approved and will be moving in to implementation soon.

Question 4d. Indicate the approximate level of petitioner compliance with state soil and water standards

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nearly all petitioners are in compliance <input type="checkbox"/> More than half of the petitioners are in compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Half or less than half of the petitioners are in compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Few or no petitioners are in compliance* <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance status of petitioners is unknown* *If there is low, no, or unknown compliance in the area please provide additional rational for why this is:

5. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE
Describe the purpose and rational for the creation of this AEA. See below for more specific instructions for each subsection.

Question 5a. AEA goals for agricultural preservation and agricultural development

i. State the main justification for creating the AEA and preserving the agricultural land use: <i>Example considerations include land use conflicts, development pressures, promotion of conservation practices, interest in preserving farmland or rural character of an area, interest in receiving the tax credit, etc.</i> The main justification for creating the proposed AEA includes the realized importance of prime agricultural lands within this region and a strong community interest in protecting them from future development. Because agriculture is vital economically to the area, there are many supporting ag businesses that rely on the local ag economy and farmland preservation. Farmland preservation is a top priority for many families and businesses in the area to ensure the
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transition of viable profitable agricultural operations to the next generation. Farmland preservation is also important to provide stability and predictability to those that want to continue to invest into their agricultural operations and businesses. Having another tool in the form of the AEA to help protect the area and the rural character from future development is very important to families and business owners.

ii. State the specific goals for agricultural development and/or innovation:

Describe specific goals, plans and agreements planned to promote economic sustainability, resiliency or growth within the AEA.

Goal #1: Create a regional sense of place and pride within the agricultural community via the establishment of the proposed AEA.

Goal #2: Explore and expand beyond traditional agriculture and agricultural related uses to allow for increased sustainability and market stability for existing and future agricultural operations within the proposed AEA and county as a whole.

Goal #3: Encourage increased awareness and compliance with Chapter NR 151 "Runoff Management" via Farmland Preservation Agreements.

iii. Describe how does the AEA plan to meet the goals identified above:

Explain how you plan to enact the goals identified for the AEA. Briefly describe ALL activities (include any in person contact with AEA landowners, planned investments, grants, development incentives, cooperative agreements, land or easement purchases, public outreach activities, etc.) with context.

Goal #1: The establishment of the proposed AEA has the opportunity to help create a regional sense of place and pride within the agricultural community which could potentially result in an increased marketability of agricultural products made and/or produced within the AEA. Similar to the "Something Special from Wisconsin" campaign, farmers and agricultural operators within the proposed AEA can start a similar campaign on a local scale.

Goal #2: Incorporate "Agritourism" uses (by way of ordinance amendment/updates) within the County's agricultural zoning districts, including the proposed AEA, to further support economic sustainability and permit additional ag-related uses such as, but not limited to; Farm Wineries, Farm Breweries, Farm Wedding Venues, Farm Restaurants, Agritainment, Agri-Education, Farm based tourism, etc. There is a perceived need for these non-traditional agricultural related uses as farmers continue to face a changing environment and look for additional ways to supplement income. Further, these additional uses may be able to provide increased connection and awareness regarding the importance of agriculture to the general public by way of direct experience.

Goal #3: The proposed AEA will allow interested land owners to pursue tax credits under a Farmland Preservation Agreement (FPA). As compliance with Chapter NR 151 is a requirement of the FPA, our land conservation team will be provided with more opportunities to educate land owners and further improve upon soil and water conservation efforts. In short, the proposed AEA, in connection with an FPA, can help incentivize compliance with Chapter NR 151.

Question 5b. How did you determine the boundary (location and size) of the proposed AEA?

Describe the decision making process and the information used when determining the boundary of the AEA. Factors that could be considered include: watershed boundaries, soil types, agricultural lands, landowner interest, proximity to agricultural infrastructure, etc. Landowner desire to participate should not be the only consideration in drawing the AEA boundary.

The process with which the initial boundary of the proposed AEA was established, included three main criteria. Land included in the proposed AEA had to be; 1) designated for preservation within the Outagamie County Farmland Preservation Plan, 2) located within the Exclusive Agriculture Zoning District (AED), and 3) located within soils designated as "Prime Farmland" or "Prime Farmland Soil (If Drain, If Protected)" per the NRCS Soil Survey. In addition to the the three main criteria, land within the proposed AEA was evaluated against the Outagamie County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designations.

In addition to the three aforementioned criteria, properties were analyzed on an individual basis to see which landowners currently have a Certificate of Compliance (COC) with the county, making them eligible for Farmland Preservation Agreements. There is a significant presence of landowners who currently have a Certificate of Compliance within the

proposed AEA boundary, as depicted in the proposed map of the AEA. A strong presence of landowners with an existing COC further supports strong potential future participation in farmland preservation in the future.

Following the establishment of the initial AEA boundary, modifications and boundary adjustments were made to reflect the location and distribution of Petitioning Land Owners as well as any additional input from public outreach/town meetings.

Question 5c. Current and future activities that may take place within the AEA if designated

Provide specific examples of Current and Future activities within the AEA that might be used to promote future investment, economic development, or other collaboration within the AEA. Include any important collaborators, dates, and locations associated with each activity. Please attach another page if more room is required.

Current Activities:	
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Brief Description of Activity</u>
<i>Ex: Joint community marketing</i>	<i>Ex: Producers in the area have formed a producer cooperative to market their products directly to consumers.</i>
Outagamie County Fair	Annual County Fair (135th year). The fair spans six days and hosts over 40,000 visitors annually. This fair showcases over 8,500 local 4-H, FFA and other youth and adult exhibits from beef, swine, sheep, dairy, rabbits, poultry, woodworking, mechanical sciences, natural sciences, cultural arts, and plants and crops departments.
Outagamie County Annual Breakfast on the Farm	An annual summertime event generally hosted by a CAFO, where local agricultural business sponsors, volunteers and visitors come together to have breakfast on the farm, tour if available, and experience first hand a dairy operation and where their milk, cheese, and ice cream come from.
Future Activities:	
<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Brief Description of Activity</u>
<i>Ex: Field Day - Summer 2021</i>	<i>Ex: Farmer Bob is planning to host a field day with the local LCD at his farm for eligible AEA farms to showcase conservation on the farm and talk about the value of Farmland Preservation Program.</i>
Educational Outreach	Discuss the value of compliance and participation in the AEA in conjunction with Outagamie County Land Conservation.
TMDL Implementation	TMDL implementation may potentially provide opportunities for point sources to do pollutant trading with rural entities, pursue Adaptive Management, or other cooperative ventures.
Future Grants	The county land conservation department will also be seeking additional grant funding sources to implement additional conservation efforts within the area as the Upper Fox River/Wolf River TMDL moves into implementation.

6. OUTREACH

The petition should be developed through a public process, with the help of public meetings or open houses. In the following section, describe the public outreach strategy that was used during the petition process as well as the future process to encourage Farmland Preservation Agreements within the AEA if designated.

Question 6a. Describe all efforts to provide information to and involve the public in the petition process

Describe the public process used to share information about the AEA, establish the boundary, identify farm owner petitioners and notify non-petitioners within the proposed boundary. Provide details on meetings scheduled, mailings, or other information on how the public was made aware of the petition development.

Public Outreach:

Initial education and outreach meeting was held October 8, 2019, at the request of the Town of Black Creek, Cicero, and Seymour. The meeting was a joint meeting held at the Town of Cicero Town Hall and was held in concert with the 2040 Outagamie County Comprehensive Plan update. During the meeting, representatives from all three townships expressed

their continued interest in pursuing the designation of the proposed AEA. A copy of the presentation can be made available upon request.

Following the release of the 2020 petition application in November 2019, County staff began assembling materials, data, and contacts regarding the requirements of the petition. Staff provided an outreach email to the clerks of all three townships on January 3, 2020, announcing the startup up of the petition process and requesting information regarding local agricultural operations, ag-related businesses, and potential petitioners. On January 16, 2020, staff sent an additional outreach email to Outagamie County U.W. Extension and the Outagamie County Farm Service Agency notifying them of the petition startup as well as requesting information for potential outreach opportunities and petition supporting agencies/organizations.

Following initial outreach, staff compiled a draft AEA boundary map using the criteria outlined earlier in this application. Using the draft AEA map, staff created a mailing list and sent out an informational packet and invitation to a public information meeting, which was going to be held on March 17 at the Cicero Town Hall. This initial meeting was cancelled due to COVID. Mailers were sent out to cancel, and re-invite participants to a virtual meeting, held via GoToMeeting.com on June 25, 2020. Here county planning, zoning, and land conservation staff were available to present the AEA proposal and answer questions. Wednesday Jordan from DATCP also presented and answered questions during this virtual meeting.

At the request of the Town of Seymour Chair, county planning staff also conducted an AEA outreach presentation along with a time of Q&A at the Town of Seymour Annual Town Meeting on July 21, 2020.

Lastly, a website was created for the 2020 AEA on Outagamie County's Development and Land Services page, which contained information on the AEA, map, farmland preservation tax credit information, as well as the signature pages for petitioners and non-petitioner cooperators.

Examples: number and dates of public meetings held, number of mailings, door-to-door outreach etc.

Question 6b. Planned Strategy for Encouraging Landowners to Sign Farmland Preservation Agreements

Establish a future outreach strategy to encourage landowners within the AEA to sign Farmland Preservation Agreements.

The county land conservation department will host significant one-on-one onsite visits in the coming years (which is already occurring) to encourage participation in the program and other implementation efforts continue in the project area. County staff will also use existing resources, the AEA county website, as well as working closely with Black Creek, Seymour, and Cicero officials and staff to help get the word out regarding the AEA and farmland preservation agreements, starting in 2021.

As shown in the proposed AEA map, there are already significant conservation efforts amongst landowners shown by the number of landowners who already have a Certificate of Compliance. These landowners are already eligible to sign a Farmland Preservation Agreement, and can be a focus of the outreach strategy in signing up landowners for future FPA agreements in the designated AEA area.

Examples: hosting informational meetings, sending out mailings, conducting one-on-one conversations etc.

Agreement sign-up goal (percent of AEA or number of landowners): 50% of the AEA

What is a reasonable sign-up goal (% or #) for Farmland Preservation Agreements if the AEA is designated?

Question 6c. What can DATCP do to support outreach efforts within the AEA if designated?

Describe any types of assistance DATCP can provide to aid outreach efforts within the AEA if designated. Examples of assistance include informational mailers, educational materials, speaking presentation, etc.

Hold an information meeting(s) at town halls. Hold a class on NMPs. Assist with creating educational mailers and brochures that county land conservation staff could use when meeting one on one with landowners, as well as any informational mailers to send out to landowners.

Continue to next page for details related to Part III – Maps, Part IV. – Signature Pages, and Part V. - Optional

Part III.

MAP AND SPATIAL LOCATION DATA

7. Please send the following to DATCP in electronic form. Additional instructions are provided below.

7a. A map of the proposed AEA, **and**

7b. The spatial location data for the AEA boundary.

Instructions:

7a: Submit a PDF Map showing the proposed area. The map should meet the following guidelines:

- Title with the name of the proposed AEA.
- Clearly delineate the boundary of the proposed AEA. This area:
 - Must exclude all areas not planned for farmland preservation in the county's certified farmland preservation plan.
 - Must follow existing parcel boundaries.
 - Should, to the extent possible, exclude publicly owned lands within the proposed boundary. Omission of road right of ways is acceptable, but not required.
 - Show petitioner parcels as an "overlay" within the proposed boundary, or submit a second map that shows the petitioner-owned parcels.
- Have a map scale that clearly shows the proposed AEA.
- Show political boundaries (county, city, town, village), section lines, section numbers, roads and water bodies.
- Have a map legend that includes symbols for all data represented on the map including political boundaries, section numbers and lines, roads, publicly owned land and water bodies.
- Identify map scale, north arrow, map date and map producer.

7b: Spatial Location Data Guidelines (for proposed AEA boundary used to create the AEA map):

- Be a single polygon boundary of the proposed AEA that follows parcel boundaries.
- Be projected in the WTM83 (meters), NAD83 (1991) coordinate reference system. (Contact the department for the projection file if needed)
- Have a filename that clearly identifies it as the data submitted for the proposed AEA (ex: ProposedAEA_2015.shp).
- Include metadata including data source, producer, contact, and attribute definitions. Metadata should also indicate that the map information is provided as a part of the petition requesting designation of an agricultural enterprise area.
- Be submitted in vector shapefile, Geodatabase layer, or equivalent file format.

If you have any problems meeting these preferred mapping and data standards, please contact DATCP at 608-224-4611 or by email at Wednesday.Jordan@Wisconsin.gov.

Guidelines for

Part IV.

SIGNATURE PAGES

8. Please fill out and sign the required signature pages listed below. All signature pages are attached to the back of the packet with additional instructions for each found below.

8a: At least Five (5) "**Petitioning Landowner Signature Pages**". *Five is the minimum amount of landowner signature pages required to petition for AEA designation; submitting more landowner signature pages is looked on favorably by the evaluation committee because it shows increased support for the petition.*

8b: One (1) "**Political Subdivision Page**" per political subdivision within in the proposed AEA.

8c: One (1) "**County Conservationist Signature Page**" per county within the proposed AEA

8d: All “**Non-Petitioning Cooperator Signature Pages**” or Letters of Support. It is *highly* recommended to obtain several Non-Petitioning Cooperators Letters of Support for the proposed AEA to show community support.

Instructions: The purpose of the signature pages is to show there is adequate support in the area by landowners, local governments and agricultural-related business for designation. See attached “Petitioning Landowner Signature Page,” “Political Subdivision Signature Page”, “County Conservationist Signature Page” and “Non-Petitioning Cooperator Signature Page.”

1. Submit a minimum of five (5) eligible farm owner petitioner signature pages.
 - The amount of petitioners should make sense in light of the boundary size, and there should be a logical distribution of petitioners within the proposed boundary.
2. Submit a signature page for each political subdivision within the proposed boundary. This includes both counties and towns.
3. Submit a signature page signed by the county conservationist for each county included within the proposed boundary.
4. To show support for the petition by agricultural-related businesses, non-petitioning landowners and other community organizations, please submit any corresponding non-petitioning cooperator signature pages. You can also submit letters of support in lieu of non-petitioning cooperator signature pages.
 - A minimum of 3 signature pages/letters of support for non-petitioner cooperators is highly recommended.
 - Examples of non-petitioner cooperators include local UW-Extension educators, Co-ops, conservation groups, agricultural businesses, Producer Led-Groups, agronomists, agricultural suppliers, businesses, non-profits, Land Trusts, Regional Planning Commissions, etc.

Signature pages are found at the end of the application.

Part V.

OPTIONAL

Images from Proposed AEA:

Photos of the proposed AEA may be submitted to provide illustration of the agricultural resources within the community. Photos can be a great way to provide additional context to your petition. Please note, any photos that are submitted to the department may be used in materials related to the AEA program or for the Farmland Preservation Program generally.

Local Resolutions:

Some counties/political subdivisions may want to pass a local resolution supporting the creating of an AEA. A Sample resolution text is included in Appendix B in the back of the application.

Petitioning Landowner Signature Page

A separate signature page, in the following form, must be signed by the owner of each farm. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity. If a farm is jointly owned by a legally married couple, both individuals must sign.

Farm owner (correct legal name(s) or legal name of business entity):

Type of business entity, if applicable (check one):

Individual or married couple

LLC

Corporation

Other (describe)

Partnership

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

Print name: _____

Farm owner address (street, city, zip): _____

E-mail OR Phone Number: _____

I (we) currently claim a farmland preservation tax credit (either under farmland preservation zoning or through a farmland preservation agreement).

Yes

No

Don't Know

I (we) are interested in maintaining our existing farmland preservation agreement or entering into a new farmland preservation agreement. *(Note: To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under a farmland preservation agreement, the farm must meet state soil and water conservation standards.)*

Yes

No

Maybe

Political Subdivision Signature Page

This signature page must be signed by an authorized officer or representative of every political subdivision (county, town, city or village) in which any part of the proposed AEA is included.

Political subdivision name: _____

Type (check one): County Town City Village

Printed name of authorized officer or representative: _____

Title of authorized officer or representative: _____

Authorized signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

County Conservationist Signature Page

All county conservationists for the county or counties in which the proposed AEA is located must sign a signature page. If a single AEA is located across multiple counties, a separate signature page is required for the county conservationist in each county.

County Conservationist name: _____

Authorized signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Non-Petitioner Cooperator Signature Page

Persons other than the petitioners may sign in support of the petition. A separate signature page, or letter of support, may be submitted for each cooperator. An authorized individual may sign on behalf of a legal entity.

Legal name of cooperator: _____

Relevant interest (farm owner, business, nonprofit or community organization, government entity, other):

Principal mailing address: _____

E-mail OR Phone Number: _____

Briefly describe your interest in signing this petition requesting designation of an agricultural enterprise area:

Print name: _____

Authorized signature: _____ Date _____

APPENDIX A. SAMPLE TIMELINE

Timeframe	Activity
December 2019 – January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify coordinator to help with petition process • Identify other potential AEA partners (see Appendix C) • Host public informational meeting(s) on AEAs • Form AEA petition committee • Find mapping assistance • Review certified farmland preservation plan map • Begin to draw boundaries
February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold public meeting(s) to gather input, identify petitioners and get petitioner signature pages • Hold petition committee meeting to work on map and petition content • Start to get signature pages and letters of support
February – March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request DATCP sponsor a petition workshop • Continue to work on petition and to collect signature pages • If passing resolutions, get on agendas to have resolutions passed in April or May
April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work on petition • Continue to collect signature pages and letters of support • Hold petitioner meeting to review petition draft
April – May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host final public meeting on petition content and AEA boundary
May– June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double check petition to ensure completeness • Send final petition to DATCP for evaluation by AEA evaluation team
Summer 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitions evaluated
Fall 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended areas announced • Order designating areas signed by department • Notice of order published in the official state newspaper
January 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designations become effective • Eligible landowners may enter into a farmland preservation agreement

APPENDIX B: SAMPLE RESOLUTION TEXT

The text below is provided as a sample. This text may or may not be appropriate for use by every political subdivision located within the proposed AEA boundary. It is important that the language be reflective of the community which is adopting the resolution.

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

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important component of the (Town, County) economy, landscape, and rural character, and

WHEREAS, the (Town, County) adopted exclusive agricultural zoning and has consistently supported the agricultural industry, and

WHEREAS, the (Town, County) Comprehensive Plan adopted (date) identifies the protection and preservation of agricultural land as a goal of the Plan, and

WHEREAS, the (Town, County) believes that establishment of an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) will further protect agricultural land and enhance the local agricultural economy, and

WHEREAS, the (Town, County) has determined, based on petitioner support and meetings where Agricultural Enterprise Areas were discussed, that there is public support for the AEA, and

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important land use in the (Town, County) and worthy of preservation and support,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby supports the establishment of the (AEA) within the (Town, County).