APPENDIX 8

U.S. Soil Conservation Service
Criteria for Farmland Classification
Inventory Criteria

Prime Farmland

Definition:

Prime farmland is land best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and also is available for these uses. (The existing land use could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land but not urban built-up land or water.) It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops economically when treated and managed, including water management, according to modern farming methods.

Minimum Size Area to be Delineated:
10 contiguous acres

National Prime Farmland Criteria

1. The soils have an adequate moisture supply. Included are:
   a. Soils having aquic or udic moisture regimes. These soils commonly are in humid or subhumid climates that have well-distributed rainfall or have enough rain in summer that the amount of stored moisture plus rainfall is approximately equal to or exceeds the amount of potential evapotranspiration. Water moves through the soil at some time in most years.
   b. Soils having sufficient available water capacity within a depth of 40 inches (1 meter), or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep, to produce the commonly grown crops in 7 or more years out of 10.

2. The soils have a soil temperature regime that is frigid or mesic. These soils are at a depth of 20 inches (50 cm), have a mean annual temperature higher than 32°F (0°C). In addition, the mean summer temperature at this depth in soils with a 0 horizon is higher than 47°F (8°C); in soils that have no 0 horizon the mean summer temperature is higher than 59°F (15°C).
3. The soils have a pH between 4.5 and 8.4 in all horizons within the depth of 40 inches (1 meter) or in the root zone if the root zone is less than 40 inches deep. This range of pH is favorable for growing a variety of crops without adding large amounts of amendments.

4. The soils have no water table or a water table that is maintained at a sufficient depth during the cropping season to allow food, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops common to the area to be grown.

5. The soils are not flooded frequently during the growing season (less often than once in 2 years).

6. The soils have a product of K (erodibility factor) x percent slope of less than 2.0 and a product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) not exceeding 60. That is, prime farmland does not include soils having a serious erosion hazard.

7. The soils have a permeability rate of at least 0.06 inches (0.15 cm) per hour in the upper 20 inches (50 cm) and the mean annual soil temperature at a depth of 20 inches (50 cm) is less than 57°F (14°C); permeability rate is not a limiting factor if the mean annual soil temperature is 57°F (14°C) or higher.

8. Less than 10 percent of the surface layer in these soils consists of rock fragments coarser than 3 inches (7.6 cm). These soils present no particular difficulty in cultivating with large equipment.

Within Wisconsin the national prime farmland criteria can be applied to capability units as follows:

1. All capability unit I soils on slopes of less than 2 percent. Examples: Fayette, Judson, Miami, Plano, Spencer.

2. All soils in capability units IIe1, IIe2, IIe3, IIe5, IIe6, IIe8, IIe9, IIIe10, and IIIe11 on 2 to 6 percent slopes. Examples: Fayette, Judson, Miami, Palsgrove, Plano, Spencer.

3. All soils in capability units IIIs1, IIIs2, and IIIs7 on 0 to 6 percent slopes. Examples: Antigo, Penwood, Fox, Norden, Padus, and Tell.

4. All soils in capability units IIw1, IIw2, IIw3, IIw4, IIw5, IIw6, IIw11, and IIw13 on 0 to 6 percent slopes. Examples: Ashkum, Brookston, Marshan, Poygan, Almena, Blount, Curran, Kibble, Manawa, Orion, and Solona.
Unique Farmland

Definition:

Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality and/or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to modern farming methods.

Minimum Size Area to be Delineated:
10 acres

Unique Farmland Criteria

1. The land is presently used for a specific high-value crop, such as cranberries, apples, cherries, and mint.

2. The land has a moisture supply that is adequate for the specific crop grown. The supply is from stored moisture, precipitation, or a developed water management system. Includes all soils in capability units IVs3, IVs4, IVe4, VIs3, VIs4, VIe4, and VIIs8 on 0 to 12 percent slopes that are irrigated.

3. The area combines favorable factors of soil quality, growing season, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, aspect, or other conditions such as nearness to market that favor the growth of a specific food or fiber crop. (Unique areas are not determined by soil properties above.) County committees may designate other areas that they feel are unique to their county.

4. The land does not qualify as prime farmland.

Farmland of Statewide Importance (Other Significant Farmland)

Definition:

This is land in addition to prime and unique farmlands that is of statewide importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops.

Minimum Size Area to be Delineated:
10 Acres

Farmland of Statewide Importance Criteria

1. The land does not qualify as prime or unique farmland.
2. Within Wisconsin the farmland of statewide importance criteria can be applied to capability units as follows:

a. All soils in capability units IIIe1, IIIe2, IIIe3, IIIe4, IIIe5, IIIe6, IIIe7, IIIe8, IIIe9, IIIe10, IIIe11, and IIIe12 on slopes of 1 to 12 percent. Examples: Ahmeek, Iron River, Dakota, Dodge, Fayette, Fox, Freeon, Hixton, Longrie, McHenry, Miami, Norden, Onamia, Onaway, Padus, Palsgrove, Renova, Rockton, Seaton, Stambaugh, Wea, Whalan, Worthen, Boyer, Dickinson, Lapeer, and Wyocena.

b. All soils in capability units IIIs2, IIIs4, and IIIs8 on slopes of 0 to 6 percent. Examples: Casco, Mecan, Menominee, Pence, and Wyocena.

c. All soils in capability units IIIw1, IIIw3, IIIw5, IIIw6, IIIw8, IIIw9, IIIw12, IIw8, and IVw9 on 0 to 6 percent slopes. Examples: Carlisle, Houghton, Seelyeville, Willette, Rifle, Carbondale, Lupton, Richter, Rimer, Fairchild, and Duelm.

3. The area is not a wetland type 3 through 20.

Farmland of Local Importance (Other Significant Farmland)

Definition:

In some local areas there is concern for certain additional farmlands for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance.

Minimum Size Area to be Delineated:
10 acres

Farmland of Local Importance Criteria

Local "prime farmland" committees are determined if there is a need to delineate local farmlands of importance and propose criteria. The proposed criteria should be submitted to the state conservationist for review and approval. After approval the district conservationist will prepare a list of mapping units that meets the criteria or delineate the areas on the soil survey maps.
APPENDIX 9

Glossary
GLOSSARY

Agricultural Land — areas identified on Town Plans as being most appropriate for preservation as long-term farm agricultural land use based upon: soil type, historical use, owner commitment, degree of investment, natural features, parcel size and adjacent land uses. Note: detailed definition may vary from town to town and local plans should be referred to.

Arterial Road — road which provides for rapid movement of concentrated volumes of traffic over relatively long distances between the activity centers.

Certified Survey Map — a map of a land division, not a subdivision, prepared in accordance with Section 236.34, Wisconsin Statutes and Dane County Land Division and Subdivision Regulations.

Collector Road — road which provides for moderate speed movement within large area. It is basically a local road which usually, because of more directness of routing and higher capacity than other local roads, receives a higher volume of traffic to be distributed from or collected toward nearby arterial roads.

Conservancy District — a district defined for zoning purposes in which the intent is to conserve a variety of natural resources and to limit urban uses to certain essential needs.

Environmental Corridor — a linear part of an open space system of natural resource features, such as rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, woodlands and steep slopes. The corridor's major functions are: water resource protection, land resource protection, public health and safety, outdoor recreation, defining urban form, and resource production.

Exclusive Agriculture Zoning — areas delineated on the zoning map of Dane County as A-1 exclusive which generally permits only agricultural or related uses which has been certified by the State Ag Lands Preservation Board as meeting standards of the state law (see also, Transition Zoning).

Extraterritorial Jurisdiction — the unincorporated area within three (3) miles of the city limits of a city of the first, second or third class if said city has a subdivision ordinance or official map, or within one and one-half (1\(\frac{1}{2}\)) miles of the corporate limits of a city of the fourth class or a village, if said city or village has a subdivision ordinance or official map.
Floodplain — the land adjacent to a body of water which has been or may be hereafter covered by flood water including, but not limited to, the regional flood.

Lot — a land area of fifteen acres or less.

Objective — something toward which effort is directed: an aim or end of action.

Parcel — contiguous lands under the control of a subdivider(s) not separated by streets, highways or railroad rights-of-way.

Plat — a map of a subdivision.

Policy — a definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions.

Shoreland Area — all lands in the unincorporated areas of Dane County which are one thousand (1,000) feet from the normal high water line of lakes, ponds or flowages listed in "Surface Water Resources of Dane County" published by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, 1961, and all lands which are three hundred feet from the normal high water line or to the landward side of a floodplain of the navigable reaches of rivers and streams.

Soil Conservation Plan — a document containing material for the conservation of soil and water resources of a unit of land or group of units of land. A conservation plan includes: 1) water, plant, animal and other inventory and management information with needed interpretations and evaluations; 2) record of landowner/landuser decisions contributing to sound land use and conservation treatment; 3) alternatives for sound land use(s) and conservation treatment for which conservation decisions have not yet been made. These include positive statements about critical problems such as erosion, sedimentation, land use and agricultural pollutants; 4) record of understanding as to cooperation between cooperator and Soil Conservation District as applicable. The plan contains all major conservation decisions to assure that the entire unit(s) of land will be used and treated to achieve the conservation objectives.

Strip Development — the development of urban uses, such as housing or commerce in narrow bands, generally one lot deep, along the frontage of roads and highways with individual access to the road.

Subdivision — a division of a lot or parcel of land for the purpose of sale or of building development, where: 1) the act of division creates five (5) or more parcels or building sites of five (5) acres each or less in area; or
2) five or more parcels or building sites of five (5) acres each or less are created by successive divisions within a period of five (5) years.

Transition Areas  - described on page 27 of this plan.

Transition Zoning - A-3 Agriculture District of County Zoning Ordinance. Limitations same as A-1 Exclusive, but area subject to planned urban development.

Urban Development — may refer to the process of converting land to urban use or to the urban uses themselves.

Urban Service Area — area adjacent to existing community determined to be most suitable for expanded urban development. The intent of delineating the area is to designate the most appropriate location for future development at urban densities that will ensure the efficient and economical provision of a full range of urban services.

Urban Services — all services that should be provided within an urban area, with particular reference to facilities that are placed on or in the land as a part of the urban development process. Such services include, but are not limited to, public sanitary and storm sewer, water supply and distribution system, and streets and highways.

Urban Use — all land uses other than agriculture, open space, and farm housing. Urban use includes, but is not limited to, non-farm housing, commerce, industry, and public and institutional uses. Such uses are referred to as urban even if located outside of areas that may be generally characterized as urban.

Wetland — lands in Dane County characterized by high water table, or the presence of surface water at any time during the year, predominantly organic soils, and aquatic vegetation.
APPENDIX 10

Adopting Resolutions
Resolution RPC No. 272

Adopting the Farmland Preservation Plan for Dane County

WHEREAS, the Farmland Preservation Act created by the Wisconsin Legislature as Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides for the preparation of a County Agricultural Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, with the participation of the Dane County Agricultural-Zoning Committee and the Dane County Regional Planning Commission, the towns of Dane County have prepared and locally adopted land use plans, for their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, these plans have been reviewed by the Dane County Agricultural-Zoning Committee, the Dane County Regional Planning Commission and the Dane County Board of Supervisors, and were found to meet the Standards for Review of Town Plans; and

WHEREAS, these plans provide the basis for the County Farmland Preservation Plan of Dane County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Dane County Regional Planning Commission approves and adopts the Farmland Preservation Plan for Dane County as the official guide in preservation of agricultural land in Dane County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Dane County Regional Planning Commission incorporates the Farmland Preservation Plan as a part of the official Master Plan for the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Dane County Regional Planning Commission transmits this Plan to Dane County and all local units of government and establishes an annual review and public hearing process on the Plan, with the first annual review scheduled in April-May, 1982.

October 22, 1981

Date Adopted

Fred A. Raemisch, Secretary
REPORT ON  Res. 221, 1981-82

TO THE DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

DATE November 24, 1981

ADOPTING THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN FOR DANE COUNTY

The Farmland Preservation Act created by the Wisconsin Legislature as Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides for the preparation of a County Agricultural Preservation Plan.

With the participation of the Dane County Agricultural-Zoning Committee and the Dane County Regional Planning Commission, the towns of Dane County have prepared and locally adopted and use plans, for their respective areas.

These plans have been reviewed by the Dane County Agricultural-Zoning Committee, the Dane County Regional Planning Commission and the Dane County Board of Supervisors, and were found to meet the Standards for Review of Town Plans; and these plans provide the basis for the County Farmland Preservation Plan of Dane County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors approves and adopts the Farmland Preservation Plan for Dane County as the official guide in preservation of agricultural land in Dane County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Farmland Preservation Plan for Dane County be transmitted to the State Farmland Preservation Board for its review and approval.


The Agriculture-Zoning Committee recommends adoption of Res. 221.

Adopted
Dec 31 1981

Chairman
Secretary