

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**To:** Jane Anklam, Dave Dumke, Charlie Glazman, Gary Haughn, Nathan Johnstad, Debbi King, Mark Liebaert, Larry Luostari, Sue O'Halloran, Christine Ostern, Jim Streveler, Jon TePoel, Terry White, Robert Wicklund

**From:** Amy Eliot, Consultant

**Date:** January 27, 2016

**Subject:** Farmland Preservation Plan Committee

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 1:30 p.m., at the Amnicon Town Hall, 8985E U.S. Highway 2, South Range, Wisconsin, to update and discuss Farmland Preservation Plan revision process.

cc: Daily Telegram  
Posting  
Andy Lisak

## **Douglas County Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting)**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

1:30 PM -3:30 PM

Amnicon Town Hall

8985 US-2, South Range, WI 54874

Town Hall Phone: (715) 364-2316

Contact for the meeting: Amy Eliot (218) 349-1865

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Welcome and Introductions (List of members attached)
2. Background of the Douglas County Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) (See "Welcome" Attached)
3. Roles and responsibilities of the Douglas County Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee (See "Welcome" Attached)
4. Overview of proposed (draft) FPP planning process and meeting schedule and identify best meeting times and locations for public input sessions (See "Welcome" Attached)
5. Elect a Chair – Keeps the meeting moving and calls votes. Usually doesn't make motions.
6. Background concerning the loss of farmlands:
  - a. Highlights from "Farming on the Edge" report (Attached)
  - b. Brief history and status of Farmlands in Wisconsin and Douglas County
7. Begin identifying information needed to fulfill the list of requirements needed for the FPP revision (See "Welcome" Attached)
8. Other matters related to the planning process
9. Future agenda items and meeting date, time and location

- 1 Nathan Johnstad
- 2 Debbi King
- 3 Mark Liebaert
- 4 Larry Luostari
- 5 Jim Streveler
- 6 Jon TePoel
- 7 Charlie Glazman
- 8 Terry White
- 9 Dave Dumke
- 10 Sue O'Halloran
- 11 Robert Wicklund
- 12 Jane Anklam
- 13 Gary Haughn
- 14 Christine Ostern
- 15 Amy Eliot
- 16 Steve Rannenber (Advisor)

## **Douglas County Farmland Preservation Plan Revision Kick-off Meeting:**

*~ Welcome ~*

*Thank you for joining the Douglas County  
Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee*

### **PROJECT COORDINATOR AND CONTACT:**

Amy Eliot, 14172 East Carlson Rd, Brule, WI 54820 Phone: 218-349-1865 Email: aeliot@uwsuper.edu

### **BACKGROUND**

The WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection agency (DATCP) requires that counties regularly revise their Farmland Preservation Plans (FPP) and stipulates a process for the revision. Douglas County is required to revise its FPP and submit it to DATCP for final approval before the end of 2016. The State has made a grant available to Douglas County to assist with the costs of the plan revision. Douglas County has hired Amy Eliot to coordinate and lead the effort. Amy will be working very closely with Christine Ostern, Douglas County Conservationist and Jane Anklam, UWEX Agriculture and Horticulture Educator and she will report regularly to the Douglas County Land Conservation Committee (LCC).

### **FPP REVISION REQUIREMENTS**

The State has developed a 20-page guide for counties to use in developing/revising farmland preservation plans. The guide includes state's requirements for plan approval, certification and statutory requirements. We will present more information about the FPP revision at our first steering committee meeting, however, the following is a summary of the FPP statutory requirements that we will need to address and include in the final plan:

1. A county policy related to farmland preservation and agricultural development and enterprise.
2. A discussion of the development trends that may affect farmland preservation (population/economic/business growth, housing, transportation, utilities, community facilities and services, energy, waste management, municipal expansion, and environmental protection).
3. A description of:
  - a) Agricultural uses and key ag specialties.
  - b) Key ag resources, including available land, soil, and water resources.
  - c) Key infrastructure for ag. (Processing, storage, transportation, etc.).
  - d) Significant trends and anticipated changes related to ag.
  - e) Goals for ag development.
  - f) Actions to preserve farmland and promote ag.
4. Key land use strategies related to preserving farmland and ag development.
5. Clear rationale and description of areas in Douglas County that will be preserved for ag use.
6. Maps and text.
7. Identification of other county actions and programs used to help preserve farmlands (ex. Comprehensive plans, land and water plans, watershed plans)

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FPP STEERING COMMITTEE**

In order to gain a full understanding of the existing and emerging farmland issues in Douglas County, the FPP should include input from as many people as possible, especially from those inside the industry. In December 2015, the LCC approved Amy's request to organize a steering committee to help provide expert advice and direct the planning process and the Douglas County Board approved the creation of the steering committee on January 21, 2016. The key role and responsibilities of the steering committee will be to:

- Begin meeting in early 2016 and thereafter meet as needed to provide guidance and strategic direction throughout the FPP process. We anticipate meeting 2-4 times as a steering committee. Meeting times and locations will be determined by the committee members. We will be able to meet in the evening or on weekends if needed.
- Help us reach the right people and achieve broad participation in the public input sessions by identifying and contacting our target audience.
- Identify and help gather resources (data, documents, maps, etc.) that will help assess the condition of agriculture/farmlands in Douglas County.
- Identify agriculture/farmland issues to address at the public input sessions.
- Review and finalize the draft meeting schedule; identify best meeting times and locations for public input sessions. Steering committee members will not be required to attend the public information sessions, LCC or County Board meetings.

--PROPOSED (DRAFT) FPP SCHEDULE--

Year 2016	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting</b>		X										
<b>Steering Committee Meetings (1 to 3)</b>		X	XX									
Public Input Sessions begin (3 to 5)				XX	XX	X						
<b>Steering Committee (reviews public comments and approves draft FPP)</b>						X						
Progress updates to LCC			X (Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> 10 am)		X (May 17 <sup>th</sup> 10 am)		X (Jul 19 <sup>th</sup> 10 am)					
Public comment period								X				
Info only presentation to DC Board of Supervisors								X (Aug 18 <sup>th</sup> 6 pm)				
Final FPP draft to LCC/Public Hearing									X (Sep 20 <sup>th</sup> 10 am)			
FPP Resolution presented to DC Board for approval										X (Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> 6 pm)		
LCD submits plan to state												X

# **Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order**

## What Is Parliamentary Procedure?

It is a set of rules for conduct at meetings, that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion.

## Why is Parliamentary Procedure Important?

Because it's a time tested method of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings. It can be adapted to fit the needs of any organization. Today, Robert's Rules of Order newly revised is the basic handbook of operation for most clubs, organizations and other groups. So it's important that everyone know these basic rules!

Organizations using parliamentary procedure usually follow a fixed order of business. Below is a typical example:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call of members present.
3. Reading of minutes of last meeting.
4. Officer's reports.
5. Committee reports.
6. Special orders --- Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.

The method used by members to express themselves is in the form of moving motions. A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue. Individual members can:

1. Call to order.
2. Second motions.
3. Debate motions.
4. Vote on motions.

There are four Basic Types of Motions:

1. **Main Motions:** The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.
2. **Subsidiary Motions:** Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled, and is voted on before a main motion.
3. **Privileged Motions:** Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.
4. **Incidental Motions:** Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

How are Motions Presented?

1. **Obtaining the floor**
  - a. Wait until the last speaker has finished.
  - b. Rise and address the Chairman by saying, "Mr. Chairman, or Mr. President."
  - c. Wait until the Chairman recognizes you.

2. Make Your Motion
  - a. Speak in a clear and concise manner.
  - b. Always state a motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we ..." rather than, "I move that we do not ...".
  - c. Avoid personalities and stay on your subject.
3. Wait for Someone to Second Your Motion
4. Another member will second your motion or the Chairman will call for a second.
5. If there is no second to your motion it is lost.
6. The Chairman States Your Motion
  - a. The Chairman will say, "it has been moved and seconded that we ..." Thus placing your motion before the membership for consideration and action.
  - b. The membership then either debates your motion, or may move directly to a vote.
  - c. Once your motion is presented to the membership by the chairman it becomes "assembly property", and cannot be changed by you without the consent of the members.
7. Expanding on Your Motion
  - a. The time for you to speak in favor of your motion is at this point in time, rather than at the time you present it.
  - b. The mover is always allowed to speak first.
  - c. All comments and debate must be directed to the chairman.
  - d. Keep to the time limit for speaking that has been established.
  - e. The mover may speak again only after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the Chairman.
8. Putting the Question to the Membership
  - a. The Chairman asks, "Are you ready to vote on the question?"
  - b. If there is no more discussion, a vote is taken.
  - c. On a motion to move the previous question may be adapted.

#### Voting on a Motion:

The method of vote on any motion depends on the situation and the by-laws of policy of your organization. There are five methods used to vote by most organizations, they are:

1. By Voice -- The Chairman asks those in favor to say, "aye", those opposed to say "no". Any member may move for an exact count.
2. By Roll Call -- Each member answers "yes" or "no" as his name is called. This method is used when a record of each person's vote is required.
3. By General Consent -- When a motion is not likely to be opposed, the Chairman says, "if there is no objection ..." The membership shows agreement by their silence, however if one member says, "I object," the item must be put to a vote.
4. By Division -- This is a slight verification of a voice vote. It does not require a count unless the chairman so desires. Members raise their hands or stand.
5. By Ballot -- Members write their vote on a slip of paper, this method is used when secrecy is desired.

There are two other motions that are commonly used that relate to voting.

1. Motion to Table -- This motion is often used in the attempt to "kill" a motion. The option is always present, however, to "take from the table", for reconsideration by the membership.
2. Motion to Postpone Indefinitely -- This is often used as a means of parliamentary strategy and allows opponents of motion to test their strength without an actual vote being taken. Also, debate is once again open on the main motion.

Parliamentary Procedure is the best way to get things done at your meetings. But, it will only work if you use it properly.

1. Allow motions that are in order.
2. Have members obtain the floor properly.
3. Speak clearly and concisely.
4. Obey the rules of debate.

Most importantly, *BE COURTEOUS*.

# FARMING ON THE EDGE

SPRAWLING DEVELOPMENT THREATENS AMERICA'S BEST FARMLAND



## AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST'S RESEARCH FINDS:

Loss of farmland to  
development is accelerating

Our highest quality  
farmland is threatened

Our food and open space are in  
the path of development

  
*American Farmland Trust*



# WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR FARMLAND?

**E**ach year you have to drive a little farther out to find it. Slowed by traffic, through tangled intersections, past rows of houses that seem to have sprouted from the field, finally, you can see the bountiful farmland. It wasn't always like this. But for the past two decades we've paved over our farmland for roads, houses and malls. Wasteful land use puts America's farmland at risk, especially our most fertile and productive—our most valuable—farmland.



We're needlessly wasting one of the world's most important resources. Less than one-fifth of U.S. land is high quality and we are losing this finest land to development at an accelerating rate. U.S. agricultural land provides the nation—and the world—with an unparalleled abundance of food. But farmland means much more than food. Well-managed farmland shelters wildlife, supplies scenic open space, and helps filter impurities from our air and water. These working lands keep our taxes down and maintain the legacy of our agricultural heritage. It makes no sense to develop our best land. Instead, we have a responsibility to protect this most valuable resource for future generations.



## Findings:

❖ **Every single minute of every day, America loses two acres of farmland.**

From 1992–1997 we converted to developed use more than 6 million acres of agricultural land—an area the size of Maryland.

❖ **We lost farm and ranch land 51 percent faster in the 90s than in the 80s.**

The rate of loss for 1992–1997, 1.2 million acres per year, was 51 percent higher than from 1982–1992.

❖ **We're losing our best land—most fertile and productive—the fastest.**

The rate of conversion of prime land was 30 percent faster, proportionally, than the rate for non-prime rural land from 1992–1997. This results in marginal land, which requires more resources like water, being put into production.

❖ **Our food is increasingly in the path of development.**

86 percent of U.S. fruits and vegetables, and 63 percent of our dairy products, are produced in urban-influenced areas.

❖ **Wasteful land use is the problem, not growth itself.**

From 1982–1997, U.S. population grew by 17 percent, while urbanized land grew by 47 percent. Over the past 20 years, the acreage per person for new housing almost doubled and since 1994, 10+ acre housing lots have accounted for 55 percent of the land developed.

❖ **Every state is losing some of its best farmland.**

Texas leads the nation in high-quality acres lost, followed by Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina and Illinois. And for each of the top 20 states the problem is getting worse. (See chart inside.)



## STATES LOSING THE MOST PRIME FARMLAND 1992-1997

State	Prime Acres Lost	Increase in Rate of Loss Over Previous 5 Years
TX	332,800	42%
OH	212,200	45%
GA	184,000	66%
NC	168,300	1%
IL	160,900	137%
PA	134,900	23%
IN	124,200	65%
TN	124,000	42%
MI	121,400	67%
AL	113,800	127%
VA	105,000	76%
WI	91,900	70%
NY	89,100	141%
SC	86,200	64%
CA	85,200	15%
MS	84,800	117%
LA	83,700	13%
KY	80,000	58%
AR	71,600	254%
MN	71,600	32%

Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory

The map of the U.S. to the right identifies our best—most fertile and productive—land threatened by development. The red areas represent the high-quality acres in the path of development, the green areas the high-quality acres less threatened. Every state in the nation lost some of its very best land to sprawling development. While this loss is regrettable, it is not inevitable. We know how to save our farmland; we simply must do more. Communities, states and now the federal government are working to protect this irreplaceable resource by:

- ✦ **Stopping the loss of our best farmland through effective planning and smart growth that directs development to less productive land;**
- ✦ **Permanently saving farms through publicly funded agricultural conservation easement programs;**
- ✦ **Supporting farming practices that enhance the environmental benefits of farmland; and**
- ✦ **Expanding efforts to increase the profitability of urban-edge farming.**

### IN EVERY STATE WE ARE LOSING SPECIAL PLACES

**Texas** is the nation's number two agricultural state after California, with over \$13.7 billion in sales. Texas is home to the fertile Rio Grande Valley, which produces grapefruit and vegetables, and the scenic and productive Blackland Prairie. Texas' vast ranchland, which also serves as important wildlife habitat, is threatened by fragmentation from development.

**Georgia's** agriculture is more than peaches and Vidalia onions. But Georgia's 40,000 farms, which lead the nation in production of peanuts, pecans and poultry, are threatened by the state's infamous urban sprawl and its interstates. The beautiful and productive coastal plain, land of farming, fishing and wildlife, can't compete with the movement toward the coast for second homes.

**Michigan's** position between four Great Lakes helps make it the leading producer of dry beans, blueberries, tart cherries, cucumbers and many flowering plants. Yet low-density development across the state challenges Michigan's 46,000 farms. The Little Traverse Bay area has a unique agricultural microclimate, but its beauty creates a tug-of-war between farming and residential development.

**Virginia's** long agricultural history continues today. Agriculture is its top industry, with 41,000 farms covering 34 percent of the state. But all this is threatened by the ever-expanding urban areas of Washington, D.C. and Richmond. Even the farms of the bucolic Shenandoah Valley, rich in American history and in agricultural productivity, are vulnerable to the insatiable demand for land.

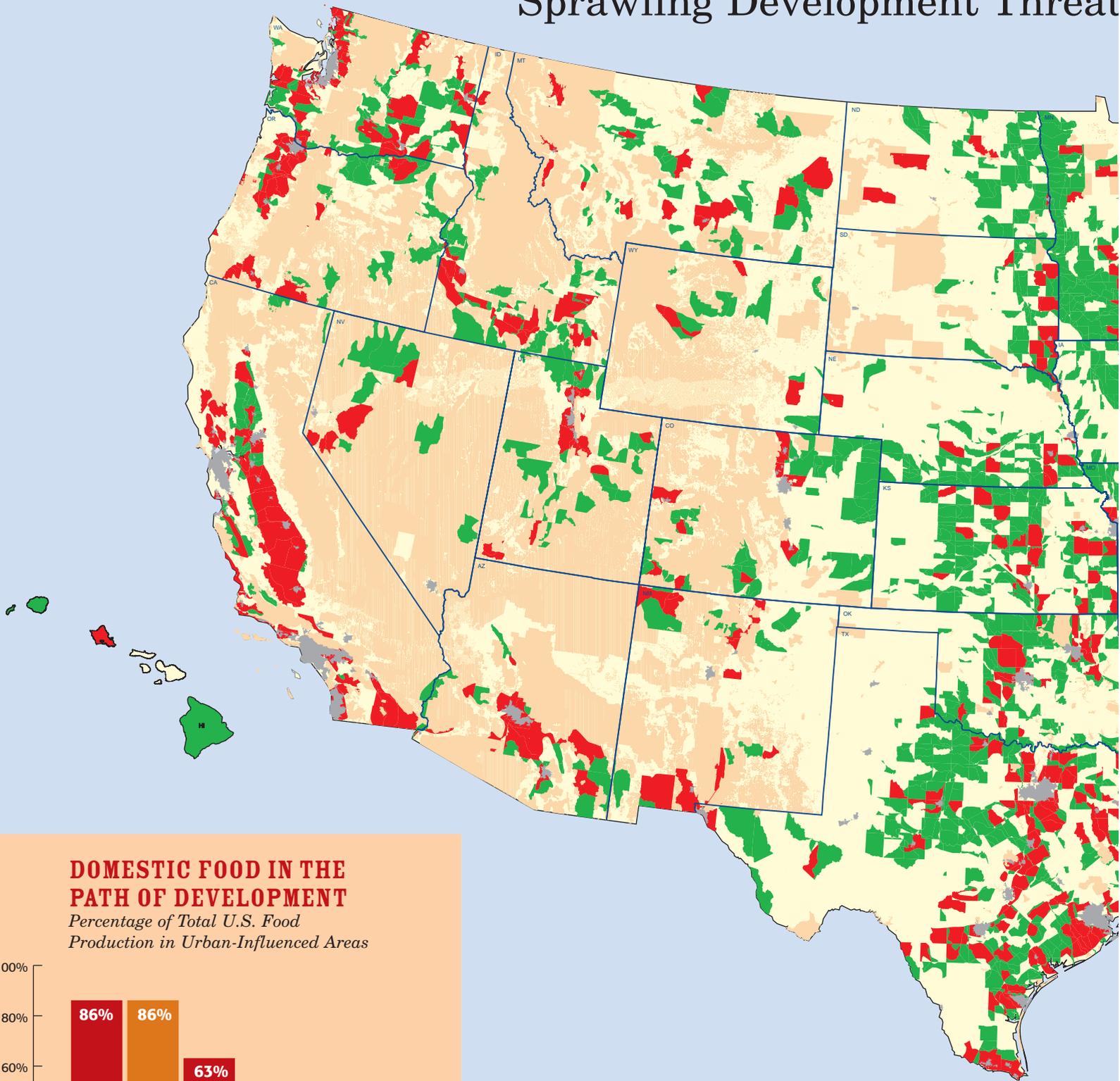
**New York** agriculture is integral to the state's economy and culture. New York is among the nation's leaders in producing milk, apples, grapes, sweet corn, cauliflower and cabbage. Sprawl or large-lot development threatens the Hudson River Valley, one of the most famous landscapes in America; western New York, agricultural engine of the state; and Long Island's North Fork, where farmland protection efforts launched 30 years ago still struggle to succeed.

Go to [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org) to see your state's threatened farmland.

Source: 1997 U.S. Census of Agriculture and state published profile figures

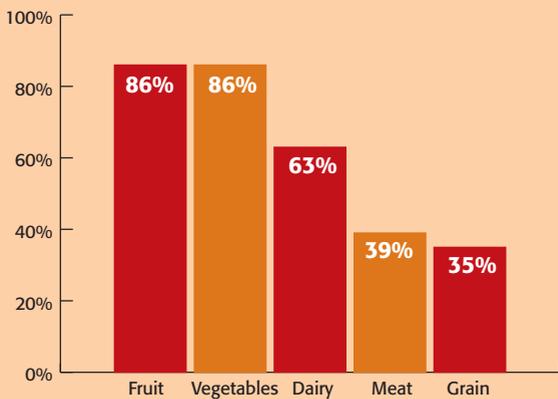
# FARMING ON

## Sprawling Development Threat



### DOMESTIC FOOD IN THE PATH OF DEVELOPMENT

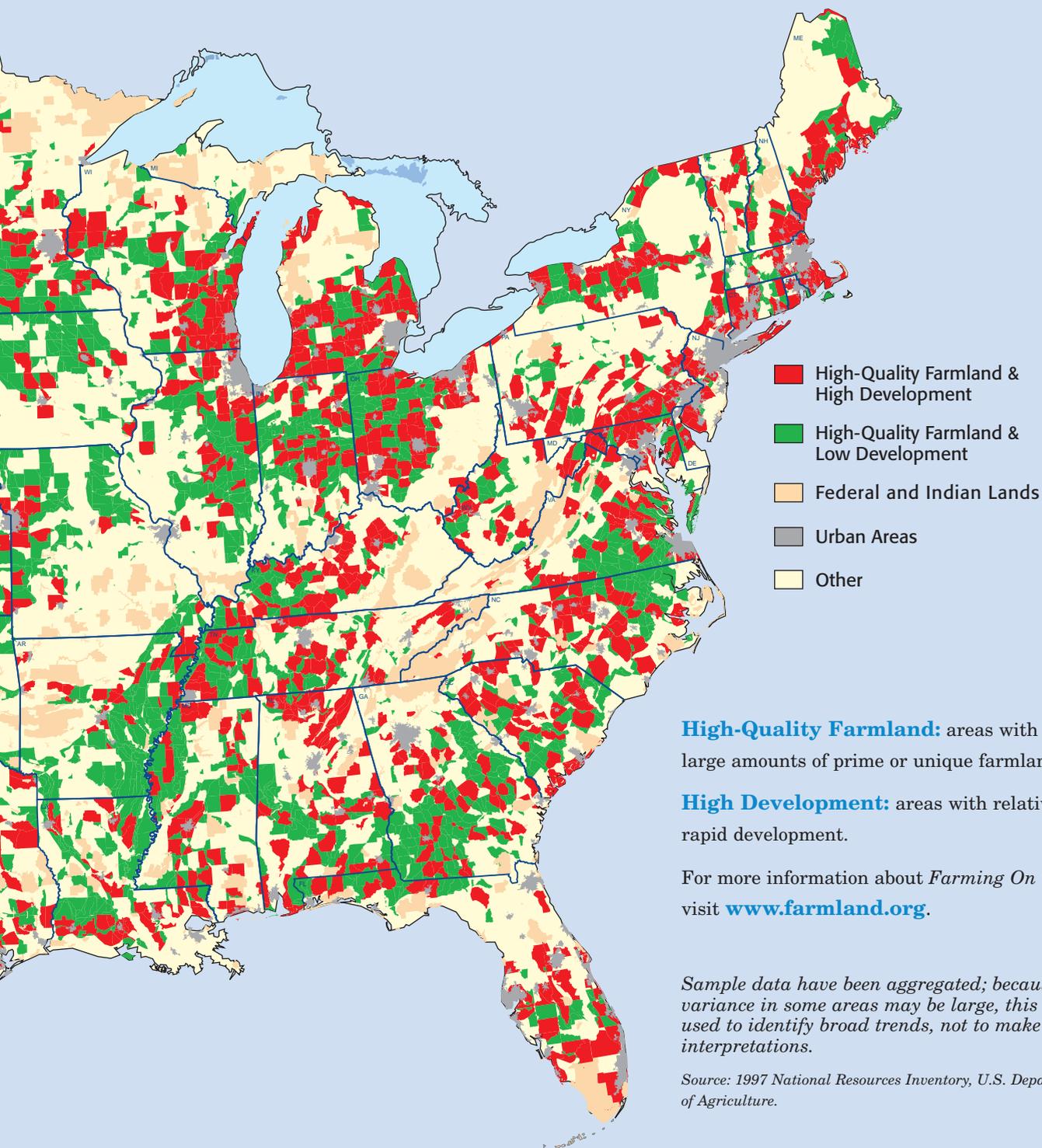
Percentage of Total U.S. Food  
Production in Urban-Influenced Areas



Source: 1997 U.S. Census of Agriculture; USDA's Economic Research Service.

# IN THE EDGE

## Protects America's Best Farmland



**High-Quality Farmland:** areas with relatively large amounts of prime or unique farmland.

**High Development:** areas with relatively rapid development.

For more information about *Farming On The Edge*, visit [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org).

*Sample data have been aggregated; because statistical variance in some areas may be large, this map should be used to identify broad trends, not to make highly localized interpretations.*

*Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory, U.S. Department of Agriculture.*



# HELP PROTECT OUR BEST FARMLAND

**T**o save our best farmland we must build upon the successful work of state and local farmland protection programs—like those in Vermont, Pennsylvania and California. These programs across the country have protected more than one million acres of farmland. **But much more must be done.** Here's what is needed:

## 1. INCREASE FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Currently, more than 5,000 farmers are awaiting funding to permanently protect their land. The federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP) must be fully funded and every state should develop or expand its own purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) program. In addition, we should expand federal and state tax incentives for land conservation.

## 2. EXPAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS THAT SHARE THE COSTS WITH FARMERS FOR PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Farms and ranches produce a wide range of ecological goods and services, from wildlife habitat to water recharge to scenic open space. But there is no compensation for them. Conservation programs, like the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and Conservation Security Program, help share the costs of “growing” these valuable benefits.

## 3. TARGET CONSERVATION FUNDS TO THE MOST VALUABLE, MOST THREATENED AREAS

FPP and other conservation programs should target their funds to the nation's most valuable, most threatened farmland, as identified by states and their conservation partners. To help identify those areas, we must continue improving systems to track and inventory farmland loss, environmental attributes and development threats.

## 4. SUPPORT EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND SMART GROWTH TO STEER DEVELOPMENT AWAY FROM OUR BEST FARMLAND

Communities need to adopt land use plans that designate specific farmland protection areas where development is discouraged. We also must eliminate subsidies that promote sprawl—and expand policies that promote smart growth.

## 5. GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We can't protect our farmland without **you**. Buy local farm products. Support your local farmers' market. Contact your elected officials, zoning board, planning commission—make sure they know you support local agriculture and want your farmland protected. Live near where you work, in an established community. If you own land, protect it with a conservation easement. Vote for officials who will support farmland conservation. For more information, visit American Farmland Trust's Web site at **[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)**.

*The generous support of The New York Community Trust, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Philip Morris Companies Inc., USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the members of American Farmland Trust made the “Farming on the Edge” research possible.*



American Farmland Trust works to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment.

**NATIONAL OFFICE** ✨ 1200 18th Street NW ✨ Suite 800 ✨ Washington, DC 20036 ✨ 202.331.7300

For more information, or to see a map of your state's threatened farmland, go to **[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)**.

*Photo Credits: photo on cover (top) Grant Heilman Photography; construction photo courtesy of USDA NRCS.*