

### **Farmland Preservation Tax Credits Fiscal Year 2015 Program Payments**

Beginning in 1989, Wisconsin provided tax credits to farmers through both the Farmland Preservation Program and the Farmland Tax Relief Program. The Farmland Preservation Program, established in 1977, was aimed at the conservation of Wisconsin farmland and providing tax relief. The Farmland Tax Relief Credit was created in 1989 to provide additional tax relief to owners of farmland. Farmland owners were eligible to claim both credits.

Beginning with payments in 2011 (for 2010 tax year), the Farmland Preservation Credit was revised and expanded and the Farmland Tax Relief Credit was eliminated. Depending on the particular situation, a farmer could claim a farmland preservation credit beginning in 2011 (for tax years beginning with 2010) under the old law (Schedule FC) or under the new revised law (Schedule FC-A). However, a credit may not be claimed on the same farm acreage using both Schedule FC and Schedule FC-A.

Under the revisions to the farmland preservation program, a credit can still be claimed under the old Schedule FC law if, among other considerations, the claimant remains subject to a farmland preservation agreement that was entered into prior to July 1, 2009. Alternatively, a credit can be claimed on new the Schedule FC-A form by a person who owns a farm that is covered by a farmland preservation agreement entered into on or after July 1, 2009 or owns a farm located in an area designated in a certified exclusive agricultural use zoning or farmland preservation zoning ordinance.

One of major differences between the credit under the old law (Schedule FC) and the credit under the new law (Schedule FC-A), is that under the old law the credit is partially determined by the claimant's household income and property taxes. In addition, the maximum credit allowed under the old law (Schedule FC) is \$4,200. In calculating the credit under the new law (Schedule FC-A), neither income nor property taxes impact the amount of the credit. The new law credit is, instead, calculated as a flat payment of \$5, \$7.50, or \$10 per acre, depending on the characteristics of the qualifying farmland. In addition, no limitation is placed on the amount of the credit that may be received under the new law (Schedule FC-A).

In 2015, approximately 2,000 farmers received \$1.3 million in farmland preservation credits under the old law and about 11,500 farmers received \$16.8 million under the new version of the credit. The greatest number of claimants in any county under the old law was 198 in Dane County. The greatest number of claimants under the new law was 1,140 was also in Dane County. In total, in 2015 almost \$18.0 million in farmland preservation credits were distributed to 13,543 claimants for farmland covering around over 2.5 million acres.

FARMLAND CREDITS BY COUNTY (\*)  
 Payments in state FY15 primarily for tax year 2014 claims

County	Old Law - Schedule FPC			New Law - Schedule FPC-A		
	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage
Adams	≤5	s	s	11	12,895	1,713
Ashland	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Barron	34	25,009	8,659	222	374,314	48,134
Bayfield	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Brown	51	18,324	7,747	538	572,288	74,720
Buffalo	39	40,236	12,233	≤5	s	s
Burnett	≤5	s	s	6	15,691	2,092
Calumet	≤5	s	s	221	291,709	37,371
Chippewa	10	4,135	1,490	15	16,217	2,391
Clark	11	8,140	2,293	127	197,585	27,674
Columbia	75	47,866	13,132	635	925,366	120,673
Crawford	29	29,696	7,927	61	92,411	12,461
Dane	198	114,072	31,091	1,140	1,512,913	195,972
Dodge	101	83,584	14,786	480	656,684	83,811
Door	9	5,836	1,733	38	37,646	4,928
Douglas	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Dunn	20	16,076	4,719	54	117,049	14,294
Eau Claire	14	13,920	2,057	168	269,681	35,293
Florence	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Fond du Lac	71	40,422	9,465	750	1,085,790	142,655
Forest	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Grant	66	33,525	13,328	419	760,017	100,110
Green	61	50,597	13,257	59	69,163	9,292
Green Lake	12	6,457	2,333	174	278,052	37,012
Iowa	54	44,470	10,404	627	1,082,196	142,993
Iron	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	8	2,787	968	≤5	s	s
Jefferson	44	19,828	4,790	541	670,229	86,826
Juneau	7	6,371	1,670	≤5	s	s
Kenosha	≤5	s	s	13	12,194	1,597
Kewaunee	75	40,270	11,234	424	567,151	74,207
La Crosse	25	11,082	4,961	186	321,916	41,457
Lafayette	39	32,853	7,543	289	507,562	65,235
Langlade	≤5	s	s	163	324,492	35,613
Lincoln	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Manitowoc	66	36,199	9,195	646	829,537	109,474
Marathon	60	36,877	10,555	198	310,947	41,253
Marinette	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Marquette	7	5,291	1,087	30	69,918	9,388
Menominee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milwaukee	11	6,399	2,225	12	10,112	1,336
Monroe	16	8,775	3,601	17	26,288	3,877
Oconto	14	4,325	2,409	7	4,245	472
Oneida	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Outagamie	28	12,454	3,314	316	372,889	49,145
Ozaukee	35	15,075	3,971	68	87,519	11,266
Pepin	14	8,043	3,552	6	9,763	1,277
Pierce	21	13,516	4,012	15	18,036	2,630
Polk	16	20,337	4,231	16	32,753	4,804
Portage	7	6,889	1,530	22	31,014	4,108
Price	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Racine	≤5	s	s	23	31,941	4,164

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County	Old Law - Schedule FPC			New Law - Schedule FPC-A		
	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage	No of Claims	\$ Amount of Credit	Acreage
Richland	56	44,612	14,670	283	510,138	66,681
Rock	43	30,443	5,429	547	878,220	113,549
Rusk	≤5	s	s	0	0	0
St Croix	17	9,557	4,244	135	177,270	22,870
Sauk	54	48,718	10,581	371	578,221	76,038
Sawyer	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Shawano	40	22,025	7,416	226	289,981	37,662
Sheboygan	81	36,653	8,918	356	470,610	61,757
Taylor	7	6,253	1,482	≤5	s	s
Trempealeau	102	68,662	20,240	14	22,240	2,965
Vernon	58	51,244	10,409	101	139,574	18,057
Vilas	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Walworth	25	12,481	4,733	277	434,281	55,709
Washburn	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Washington	25	6,484	3,041	57	71,419	9,388
Waukesha	23	10,345	3,839	49	67,059	8,631
Waupaca	24	9,331	4,635	21	19,150	2,445
Waushara	≤5	s	s	6	7,059	941
Winnebago	22	6,353	3,290	85	125,028	16,437
Wood	≤5	s	s	10	8,274	1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>1,328,411</b>	<b>359,039</b>	<b>11,524</b>	<b>16,768,870</b>	<b>2,183,949</b>

Notes:

(\*) Information in this table does not incorporate subsequent adjustments to eliminate duplicate entries; amended returns by claimants, and returns based on DOR audits. The total amount of credit reported in this table may not equal to the official credit amount, as reported in the Annual Fiscal Report, Budgetary Basis, FY15.

(1) s - Suppressed, the number of claimants is five or less.

(2) Grand total includes returns for which no county is specified, out of state returns, and trust and estate claimants.