

Farmland Preservation Tax Credits Fiscal Year 2016 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 2016, approximately 1,600 farmers received \$1.0 million in farmland preservation credits under the old law and about 11,700 farmers received \$17.0 million under the new version of the credit. The greatest number of claimants in any county under the old law was 168 in Dane County. The greatest number of claimants under the new law was 1,198 was also in Dane County. In total, in 2016 about \$18.1 million in farmland preservation credits were distributed to 13,376 claimants for farmland covering around over 2.5 million acres.

FARMLAND CREDITS BY COUNTY (*)
 Payments in state FY16 primarily for tax year 2015 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	10	14,192	1,892
Ashland	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Barron	29	24,486	6,825	213	362,570	47,940
Bayfield	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Brown	37	13,869	6,053	547	599,539	78,532
Buffalo	29	33,945	9,203	≤5	s	s
Burnett	≤5	s	s	6	18,661	2,256
Calumet	≤5	s	s	220	272,930	35,332
Chippewa	12	4,849	2,127	16	16,144	2,393
Clark	15	12,596	3,117	177	253,559	38,352
Columbia	59	34,680	9,836	654	990,210	130,384
Crawford	26	28,518	7,632	66	106,939	14,478
Dane	168	84,253	23,833	1,198	1,596,725	209,173
Dodge	77	69,010	11,769	491	689,184	88,625
Door	8	5,304	1,607	39	37,623	4,963
Douglas	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Dunn	15	12,809	3,734	55	116,133	14,831
Eau Claire	11	9,702	1,754	168	282,771	37,036
Florence	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Fond du Lac	62	34,307	7,731	760	1,096,430	144,766
Forest	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Grant	58	26,311	10,624	408	720,233	96,020
Green	48	37,312	10,323	58	66,078	9,179
Green Lake	14	8,957	4,906	177	278,128	37,279
Iowa	39	25,860	9,489	586	1,023,401	135,695
Iron	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Jefferson	15	6,308	1,496	563	711,004	93,362
Juneau	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Kenosha	≤5	s	s	10	10,584	1,411
Kewaunee	62	29,500	9,826	449	573,650	76,322
La Crosse	16	8,086	3,045	210	365,723	47,224
Lafayette	35	30,921	7,230	259	457,230	58,971
Langlade	≤5	s	s	167	329,989	37,097
Lincoln	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Manitowoc	49	26,449	7,112	661	803,113	106,241
Marathon	46	26,449	8,819	182	304,324	40,880
Marinette	≤5	s	s	0	0	0
Marquette	≤5	s	s	29	66,007	8,482
Menominee	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milwaukee	≤5	s	s	11	10,502	1,388
Monroe	16	9,653	2,957	16	28,866	4,389
Oconto	12	6,973	1,896	6	2,245	284
Oneida	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Outagamie	29	11,495	3,277	319	383,161	50,546
Ozaukee	25	8,129	3,172	63	77,064	10,191
Pepin	11	6,272	3,002	6	9,363	1,277
Pierce	16	14,829	3,297	17	21,969	2,951
Polk	10	10,101	2,854	12	18,598	3,110
Portage	6	8,207	1,634	18	20,207	2,693
Price	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Racine	≤5	s	s	26	31,692	4,133

FARMLAND CREDITS BY COUNTY (*)
Payments in state FY16 primarily for tax year 2015 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
Richland	40	28,144	9,276	292	521,337	68,441
Rock	40	27,420	4,753	545	874,942	114,098
Rusk	≤5	s	s	0	0	0
St Croix	17	11,632	4,266	125	176,914	23,348
Sauk	45	31,136	8,062	377	595,486	78,658
Sawyer	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Shawano	36	20,925	6,878	226	271,662	35,769
Sheboygan	62	30,360	6,957	344	445,546	59,169
Taylor	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Trempealeau	83	55,104	16,589	18	22,880	3,085
Vernon	36	27,728	6,396	104	137,709	17,794
Vilas	0	0	0	≤5	s	s
Walworth	21	10,239	3,480	268	386,904	49,545
Washburn	≤5	s	s	≤5	s	s
Washington	21	5,705	3,138	50	60,189	7,920
Waukesha	26	12,453	4,281	53	69,110	8,829
Waupaca	15	8,685	2,081	124	198,911	26,400
Waushara	≤5	s	s	8	11,931	2,054
Winnebago	23	5,625	3,658	78	95,521	12,423
Wood	6	3,196	1,007	13	24,065	3,351
Total	1,630	1,042,051	291,772	11,746	17,014,924	2,238,286

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, FY16.

(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.