



Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative

Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative was passed as a part of the state's 2009-2011 biennial budget process. The WI Working Lands Initiative can be found primarily in chapter 91 of Wisconsin State Statutes. Main components include:

- Expand and modernize the state's existing farmland preservation program
- Establish agricultural enterprise areas (**AEAs**)
- Develop a purchase of agricultural conservation easement matching grant program (**PACE**)
- The goal of the Working Lands Initiative is to achieve preservation of areas significant for current and future agricultural uses through successful implementation of these components.

The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative provides landowners with an opportunity to claim **farmland preservation tax credits** through participation in the program. These tax credits are income tax credits that are applied against tax liability and are available for the 2010 tax year (paid in 2011) and beyond. Farmland preservation tax credits claimed in 2009 will be paid according to the program rules in place prior to July 1, 2009.

Under the Working Lands Program, farmers who claim a farmland preservation tax credit must comply with **state soil and water conservation standards**. The following FPP fact sheets explain the conservation compliance requirements:

- For Farmers in an agricultural zoning district who **continuously claim FPP** credits from tax year 2009 forward
- For farmers treated as **new participants** including those (1) in an agricultural zoning district who do not claim a tax credit in year 2009 or later skip a year in filing a claim, or (2) with new FPP agreement in newly designated Agricultural Enterprise Areas
- For farmers with **farmland preservation agreements** signed prior to July 1, 2009

More information can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) [website](#).