

DANE COUNTY  
**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

# 2022 Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan

## Appendix 1: Summary of Public Opinion Surveys

Recommended for introduction to County Board  
by the Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee:  
September 16, 2022

# APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS

## I. Landowners with Conservation Compliance Certificates

### 1. Population Surveyed

Due to the private nature of tax records; recipients of Farmland Preservation Tax Credits cannot be outright identified for survey purposes, however attributes of eligibility can be used to identify both those who receive the tax credit, as well as those who are eligible and choosing not to participate in the program. This population provides critical insights into the 2022 recertification efforts as it helps identify barriers to participation in the program.

Survey Participants were identified using the LCC's records of the issuance of Certificates of Compliance- a eligibility factor for receiving Farmland Preservation Tax Credits. A total of 1200 farms were identified.

#### A. Survey Distribution:

This survey was sent out in mailer form; a double-sided postcard mailed directly to the address given with the certificate of compliance record. The mailer included a typed out web link, a QR code for access through a mobile device, as well as a phone number that allowed for interested respondents without internet access to respond to the survey with assistance of Planning and Development Staff.

#### B. Survey Engagement:

This survey was designed to be engaged with in a variety of means- to accommodate the needs and ability of the intended population. As per the 2017 Ag Census- 19% of farms within Dane County lack internet access. To accommodate this, two offline means of access were established. These consisted of a phone number for recipients to call, upon which the option to take the survey over the phone with a staff member was presented, or otherwise receive a mailed copy of the survey in the mail. Of the total 158 responses received, 33 were by offline means, representing 21% of total responses, mirroring the 2017 Ag Census results regarding internet access.

## 2. Summary of Results

### A. Community of Residence:

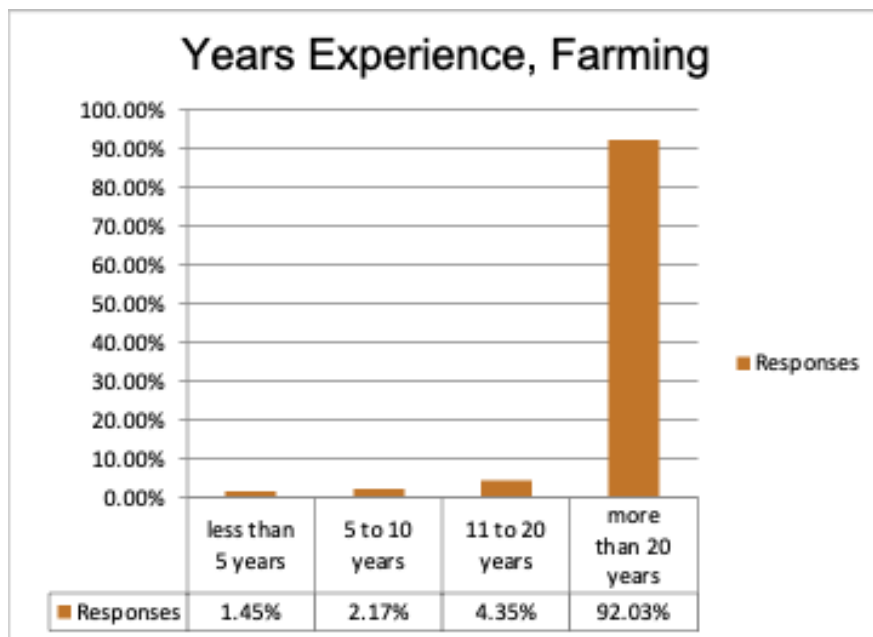
Surveys were distributed to 1200 farms that had been issued certificates of compliance.

Of these 1200 surveys, 158 responses were gathered for a participation rate of 13%.

The highest represented community was Vienna, followed by Dane, Cross Plains, and Berry. The total breakdown of community respondents by community can be seen to the left.

### B. Farming Tenure:

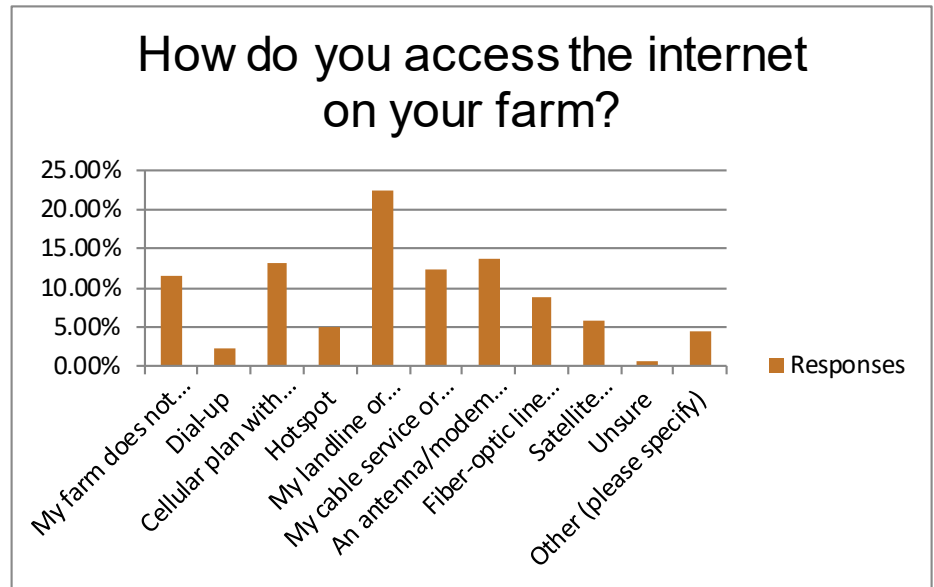
Of the 138/158 Respondents who chose to answer this question, most were career farmers, with 92% of respondents references at least 20 prior years of farming experience



Town, Village, or City of Farm	Count
Black Earth	1
Dunn	1
Edgerton	1
Hampden	1
Leeds	1
Mazomanie	1
Rutland	1
Waunakee	1
Albion	2
Cottage Grove	2
Deforest	2
Fitchburg	2
Mt. Horeb	2
Oregon	2
Verona	2
Deerfield	3
Medina	3
Springfield	3
Westport	3
Dunkirk	4
Marshall	4
Windsor	4
Perry	5
Pleasant Springs	5
Primrose	5
Blue Mounds	6
Christiana	6
Montrose	7
Roxbury	7
Sun Prairie	7
York	7
Berry	8
Cross Plains	8
Dane	9
Vienna	10

### C. Internet Access

As indicated by the 2017 Agriculture Census, only 81% of Dane County Farmers have access to the internet on site. In collaboration with the Dane County Broadband Task Force there were several questions added regarding internet quality and access for farmers.



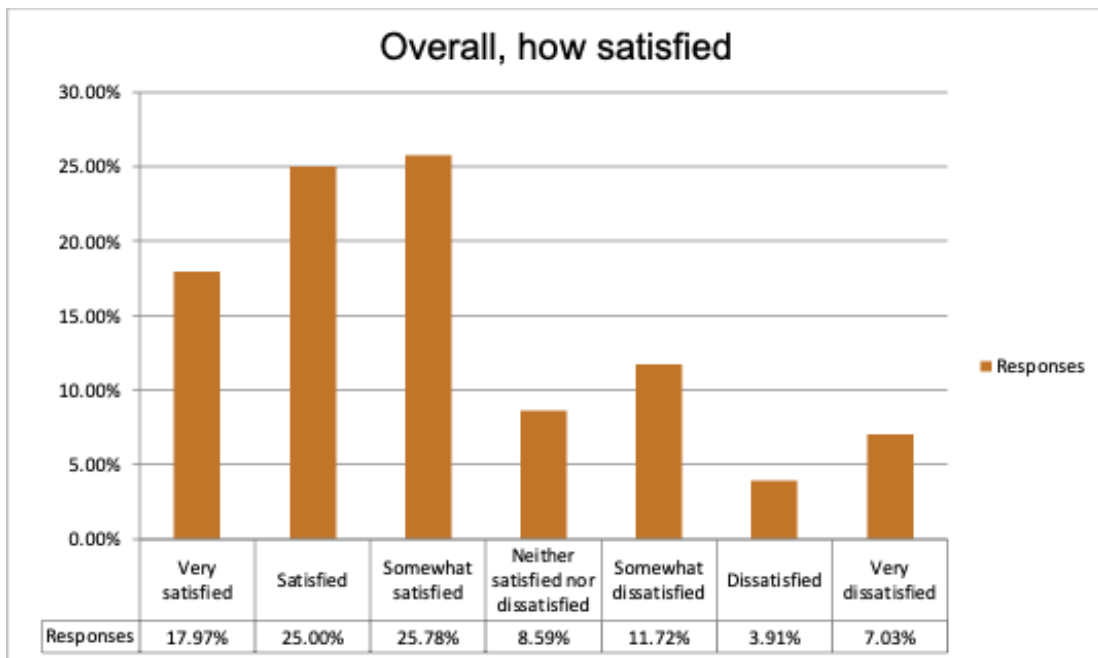
Answer Choices	Responses	
My farm does not have internet access	11.59%	16
Dial-up	2.17%	3
Cellular plan with my phone (AT&T, Verizon, US Cellular, T-Mobile, etc)	13.04%	18
Hotspot	5.07%	7
My landline or digital subscriber line (DSL) (AT&T, Spectrum/Charter, Frontier, MHTC, TDS, Century Link/Lumen, etc)	22.46%	31
My cable service or cable modem (Spectrum/Charter, AT&T, TDS, etc)	12.32%	17
An antenna/modem or fixed wireless (Bug Tussel, Litewire, Netwurx, UpNetWI, etc.)	13.77%	19
Fiber-optic line (MHTC, AT&T, Earthlink, TDS, FiberNet, etc.)	8.70%	12
Satellite (HughesNet, Starlink, Viasat, etc.)	5.80%	8
Unsure	0.72%	1
Other (please specify)	4.35%	6

### D. Other (Please Specify) Provided Answers

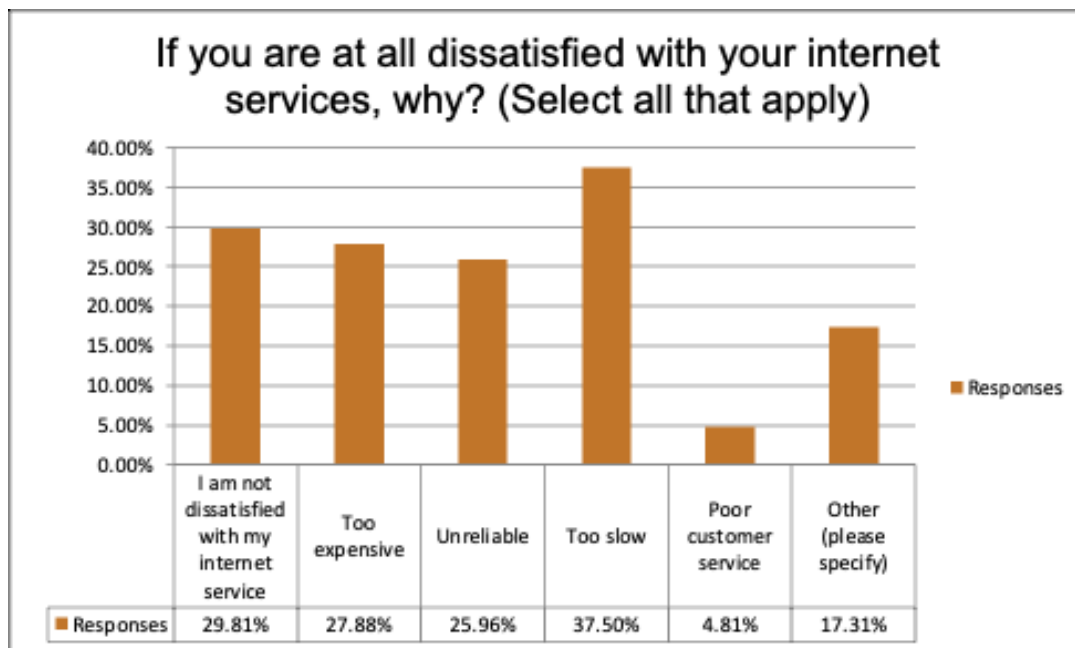
I don't use a computer // wife has limited ability	Upnet Wisconsin Line of Site dish
Have access but do not own a computer	Upnet WI line of site dish
Both Cellular plan and cable service	Steal wi-fi from town

### Satisfaction With Internet Access

Dane County Farmers surveyed showed an overall satisfaction with their internet service, with over 65% of respondents indicating some level of satisfaction with their internet service.



For those who indicated any degree of dissatisfaction, the following options were presented.



those who selected Other (Please Specify) the following responses were collected. The primary concern revolved around technological literacy and the high cost of rural internet access.

Too early to tell	Do not know how to use a computer	Don't have a need for a computer
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Don't use it	Only cellular available.	13 miles from state capitol should have better internet.
Internet available, choose not to subscribe	NO options/choice for internet - dead zones with Us cellular phone service	We also have a connection at the adjoining house. and connection [connection] there is spotty.
Too expensive because internet is slow.	Don't have internet [Internet]	No competition for fiber to drive down prices in my area!
Frontier couldn't get to their place.	One of reasons they moved to town. Could get wifi from town hall. Fiber optic may never come to his area.	Also slow.
not unlimited	Verona is now offered 1 gig internet and we are still at 4MB for the last 10 years. There should be a law to keep all of Dane county in parity with the provider's best service. Maybe the worst should be 1 tenth of the best the provider has. Today, we farmers just suffer and lose out on many opportunities. Also, I pay Dane County tax rate, but get none of the services. Please do something for us.	Small screen

### E. Rating Questions:

Survey Participants were given the following prompts in a grid, and asked to choose from varying levels of support for each statement for their community with the following directions: 'The following are several statements that suggest choices about future directions for the town, village, or city in which you farm. Please rate each.'

The statements were as follows:

1. My town, village, or city should be a low density community
2. My town, village, or city should promote more commercial development
3. My town, village, or city should promote the preservation of farmland
4. Town, village, or city land use policies should be strengthened to better guide growth
5. Most new development should occur adjacent to areas which are already developed
6. Farming is an important part of my town, village, or city's future
7. Agricultural businesses should be promoted
8. Farmers and other rural landowners should be able to sell their land for any type or amount of development
9. Farmers and other rural landowners should be able to sell their land for a limited amount of development.
10. Land use conflicts between agriculture and residential development are a problem in my community.

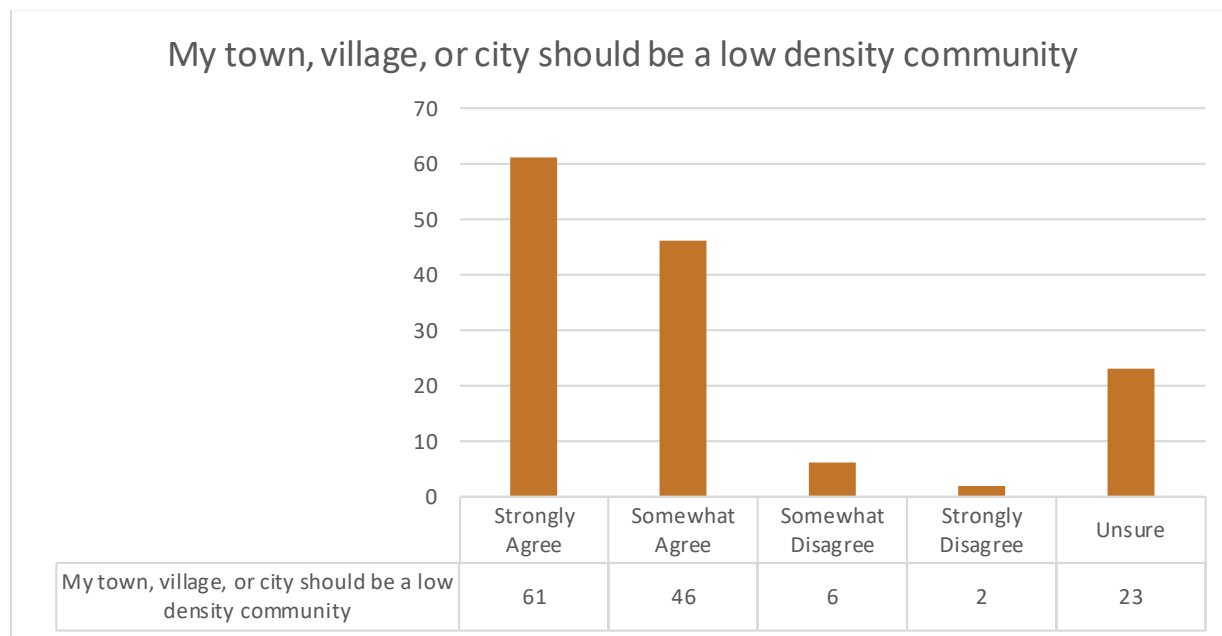
11. Land use conflicts between commercial and residential development is a problem in my community
12. Housing affordability is a growing problem in my community.
13. It is important to coordinate the town, village, or city future land use plans with those of surrounding towns, cities, and villages.
14. My town, village, or city should pursue High Speed Internet Service.

## F. Key Takeaways:

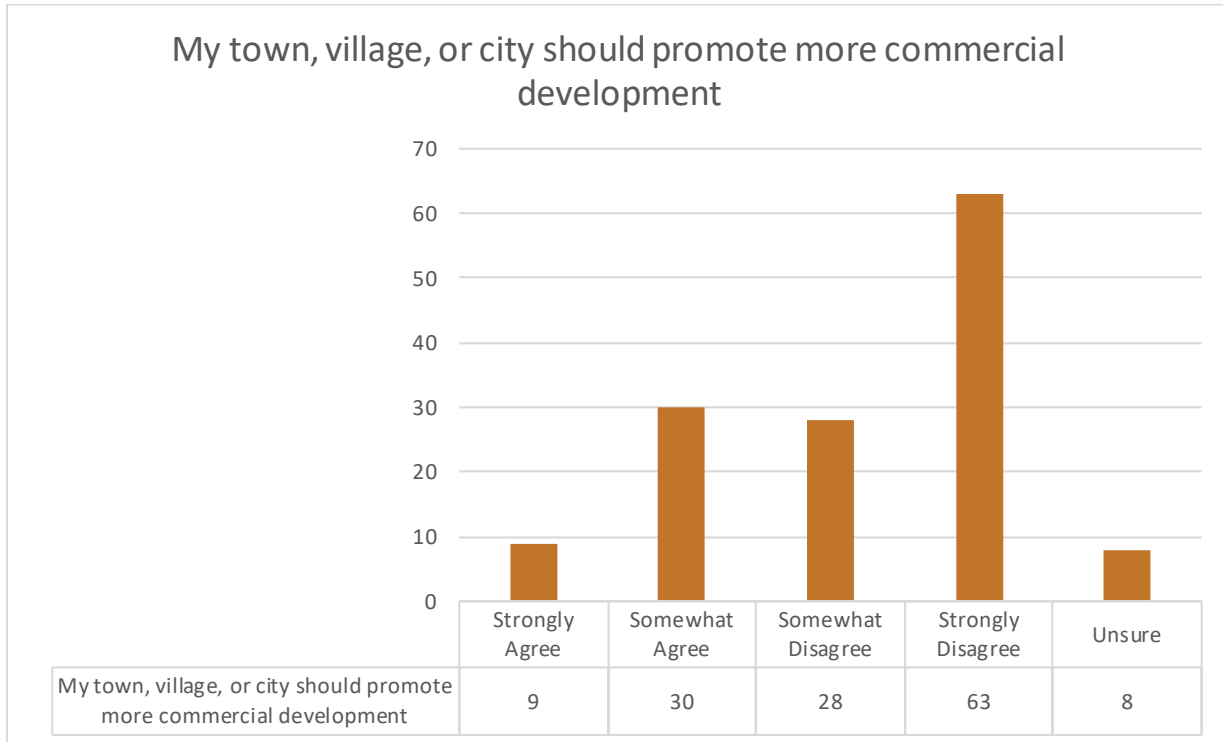
The rating questions revealed a large sense of unsureness within the surveyed Dane County Farmers, with the average 'Unsure' response being 9% across the 14 statements presented. This rating also displayed a strong level of support for agriculture in rural communities, however this became more fractured when it came to statements regarding development and land use conflicts.

## G. Rating Charts, by Question

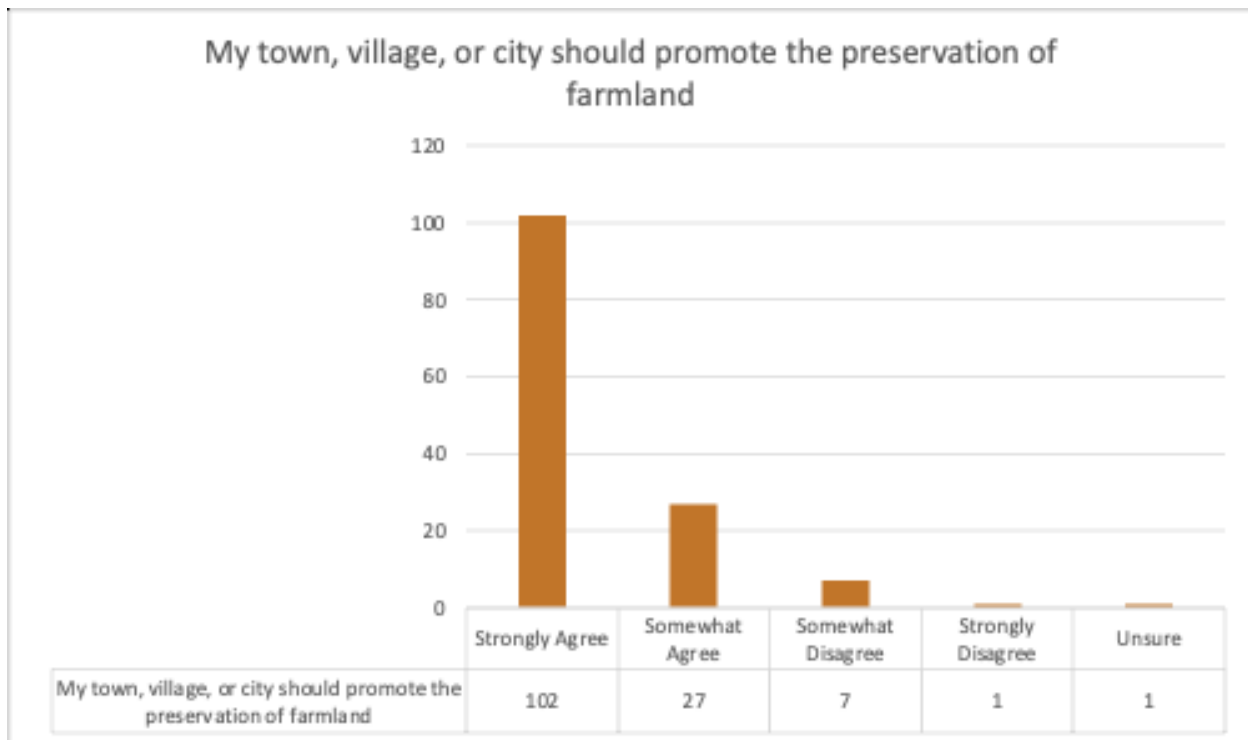
### (1) Density



## (2) Commercial Development

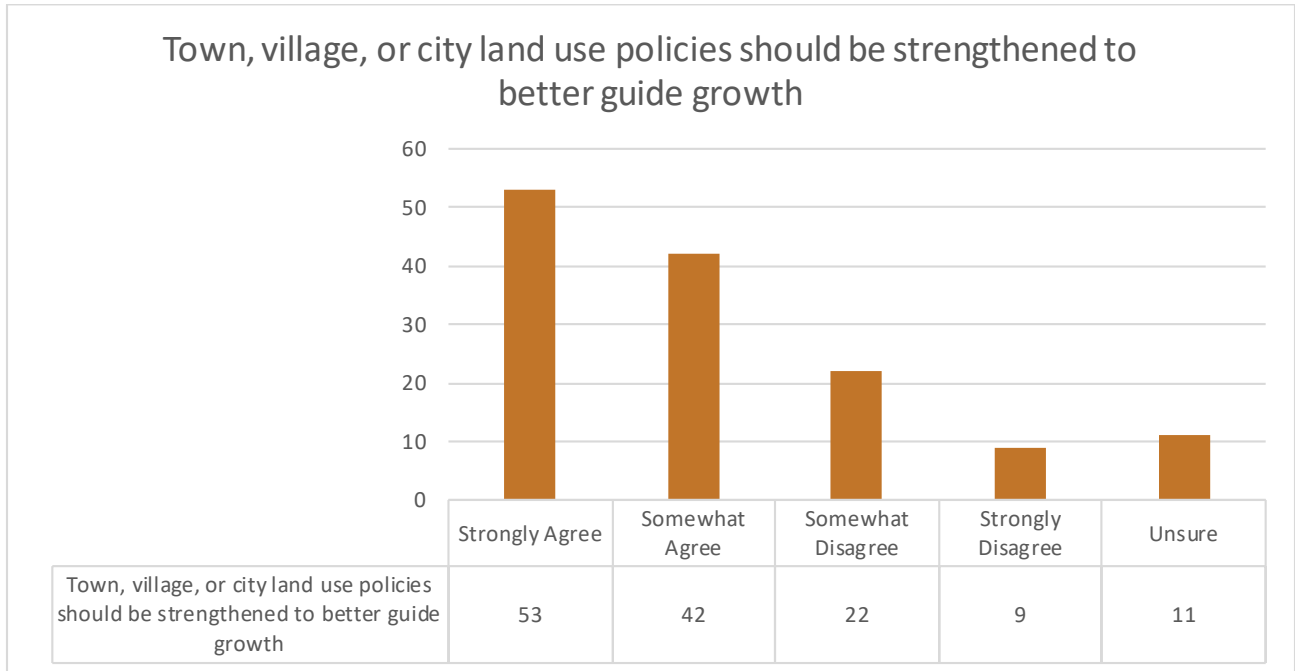


## (3) Farmland Preservation

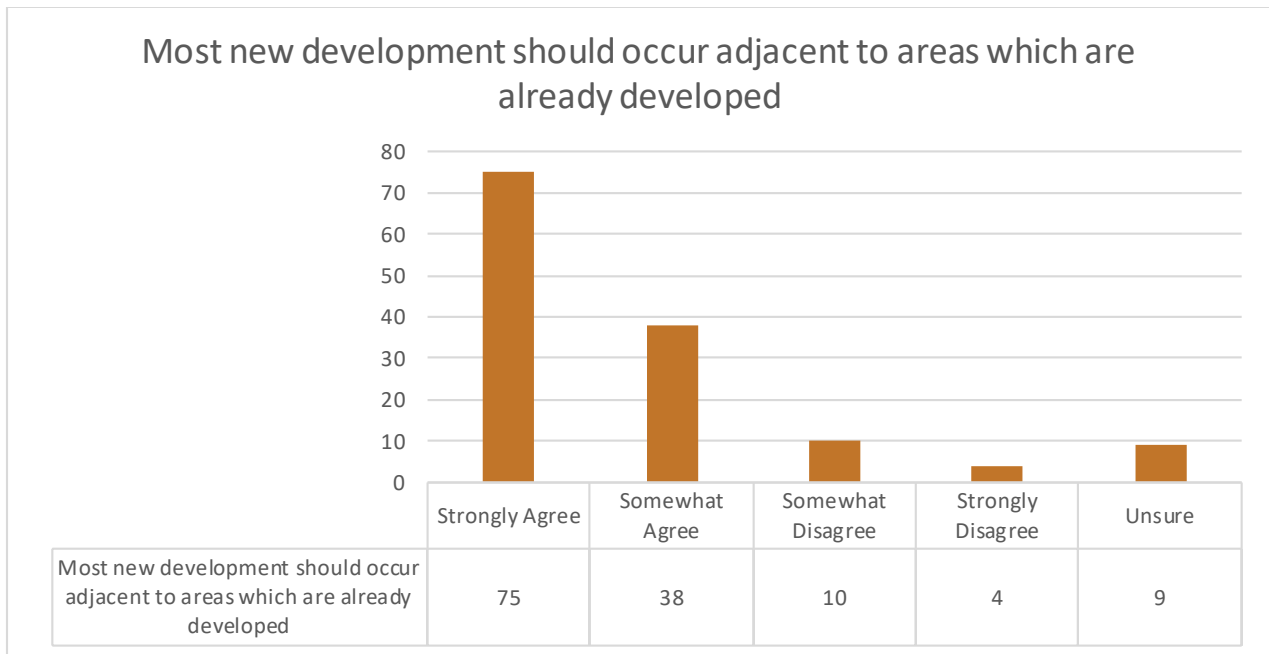




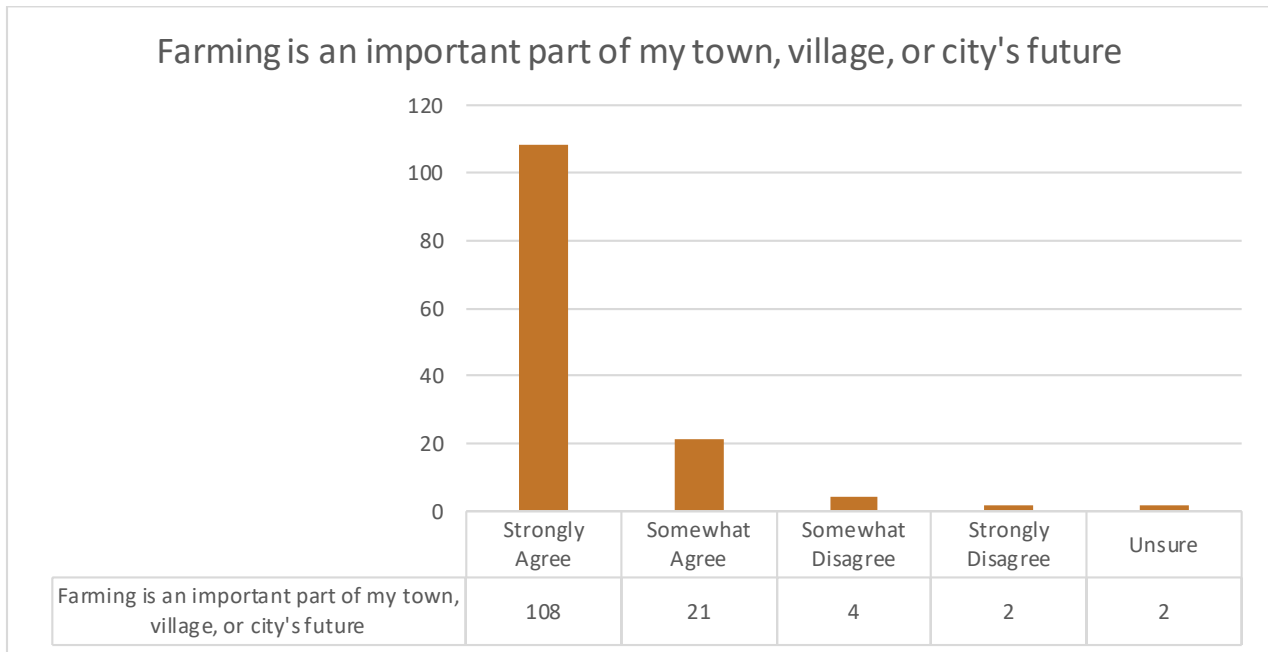
**(4) Strengthening Land Use Policies**



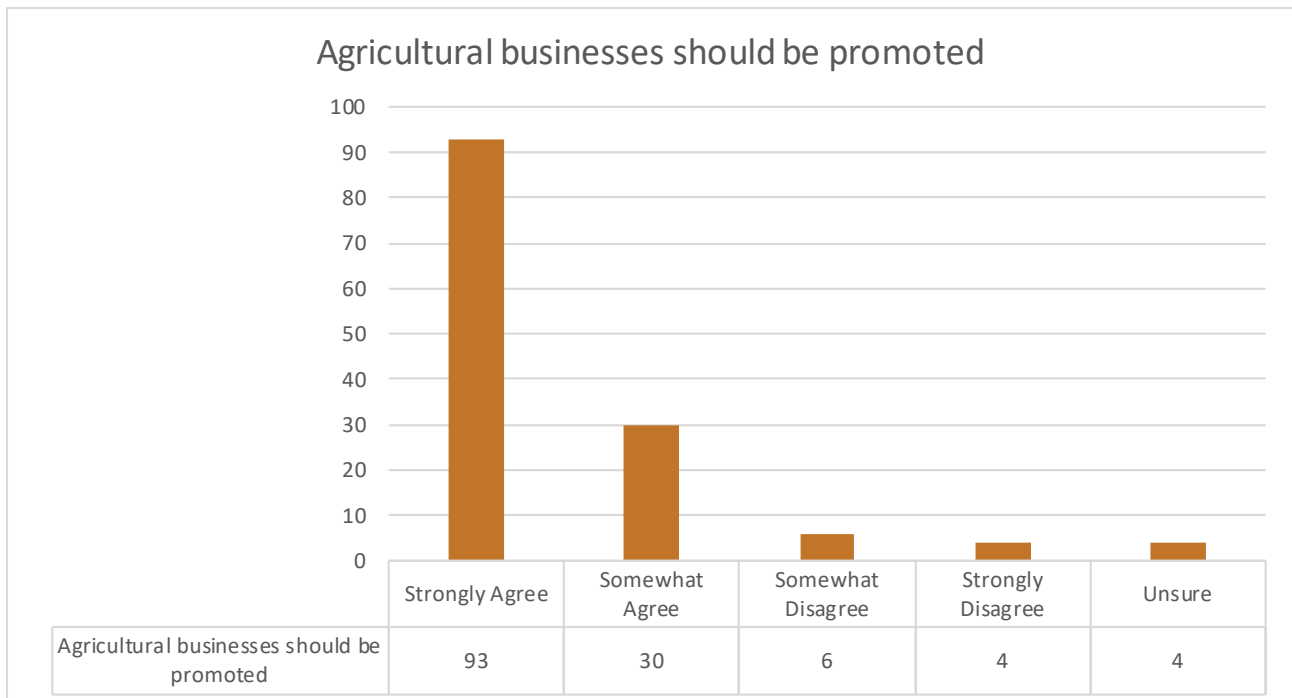
**(5) Development Areas**



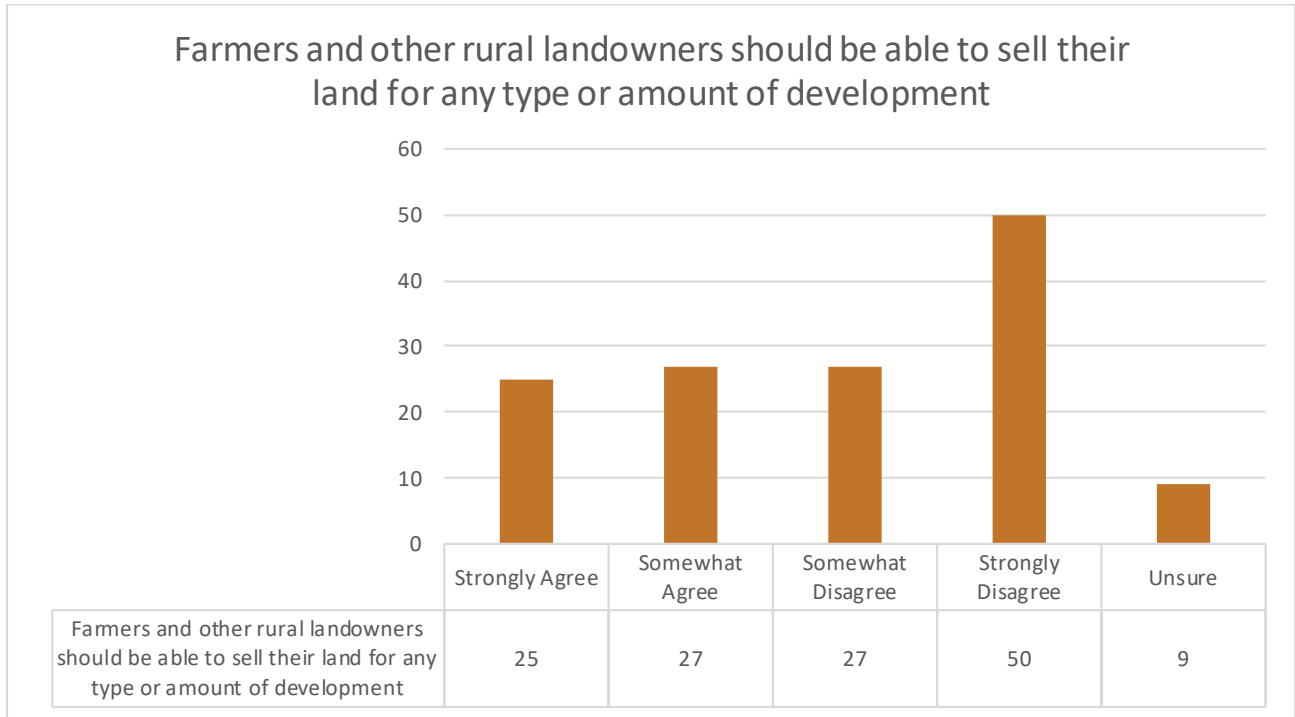
**(6) Value of Farming**



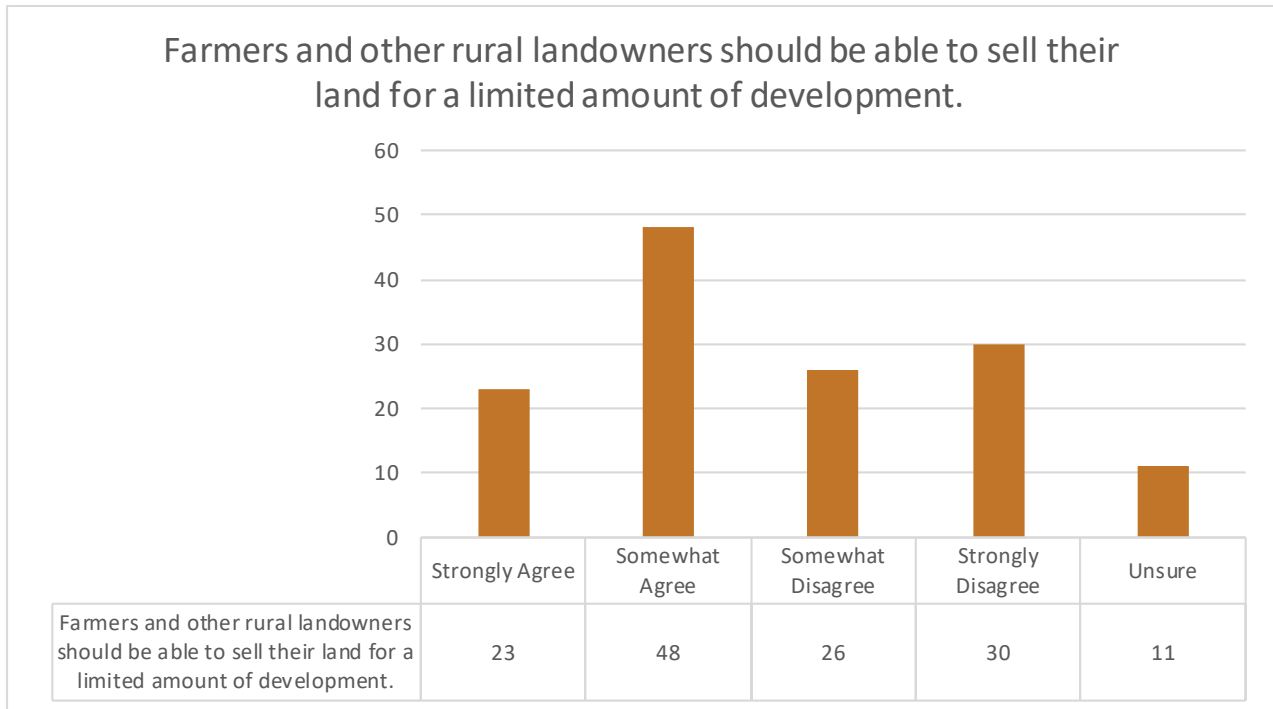
**(7) Promotion of Agricultural Business**



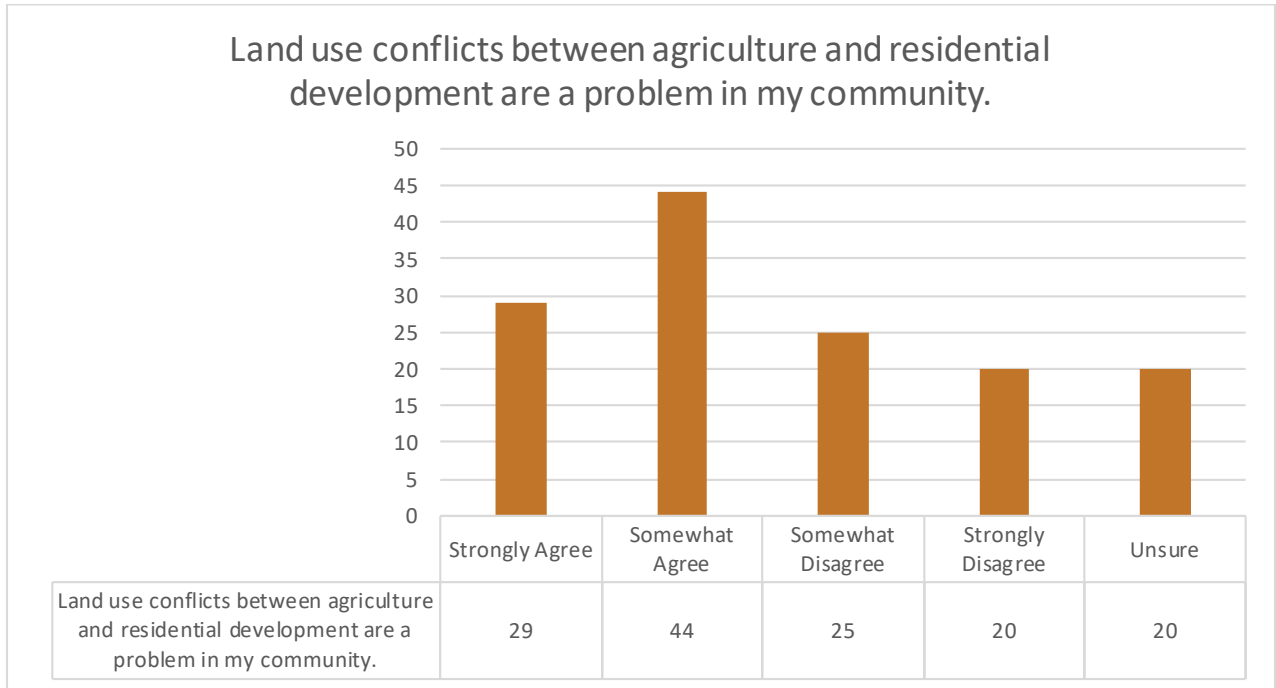
**(8) Selling Farmland for Unrestricted Development**



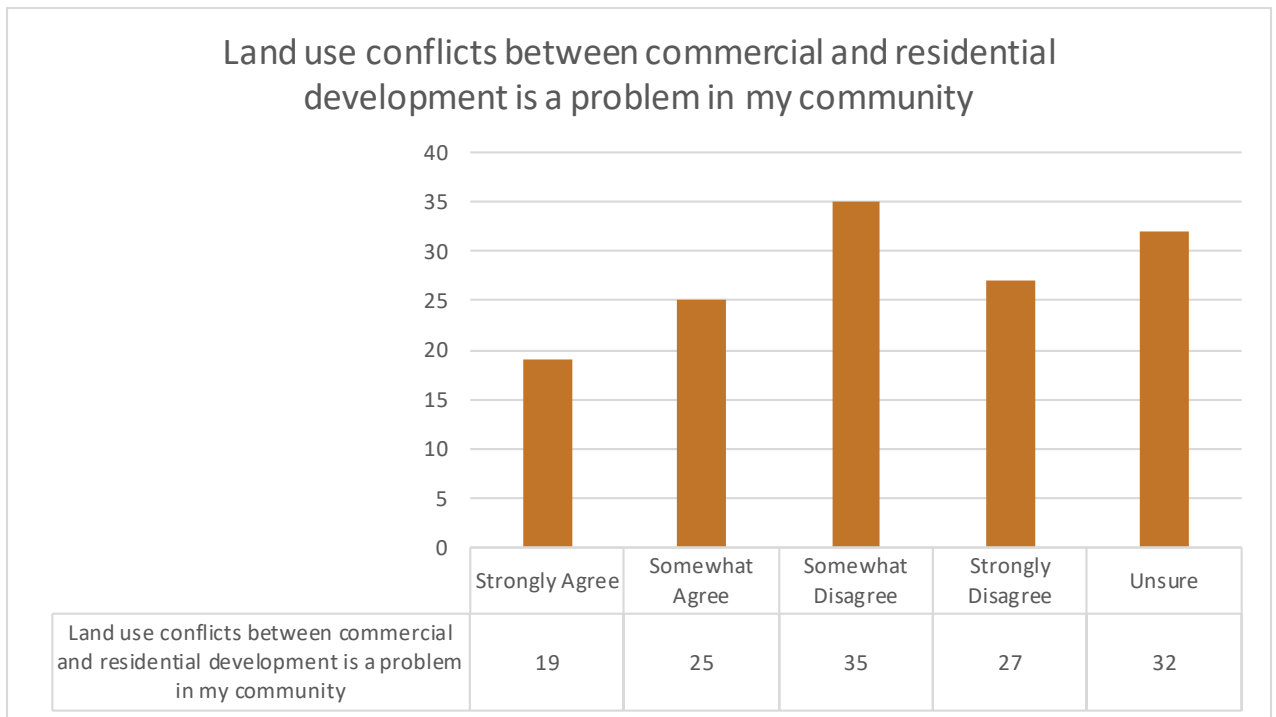
**(9) Selling Farmland for Limited Development**



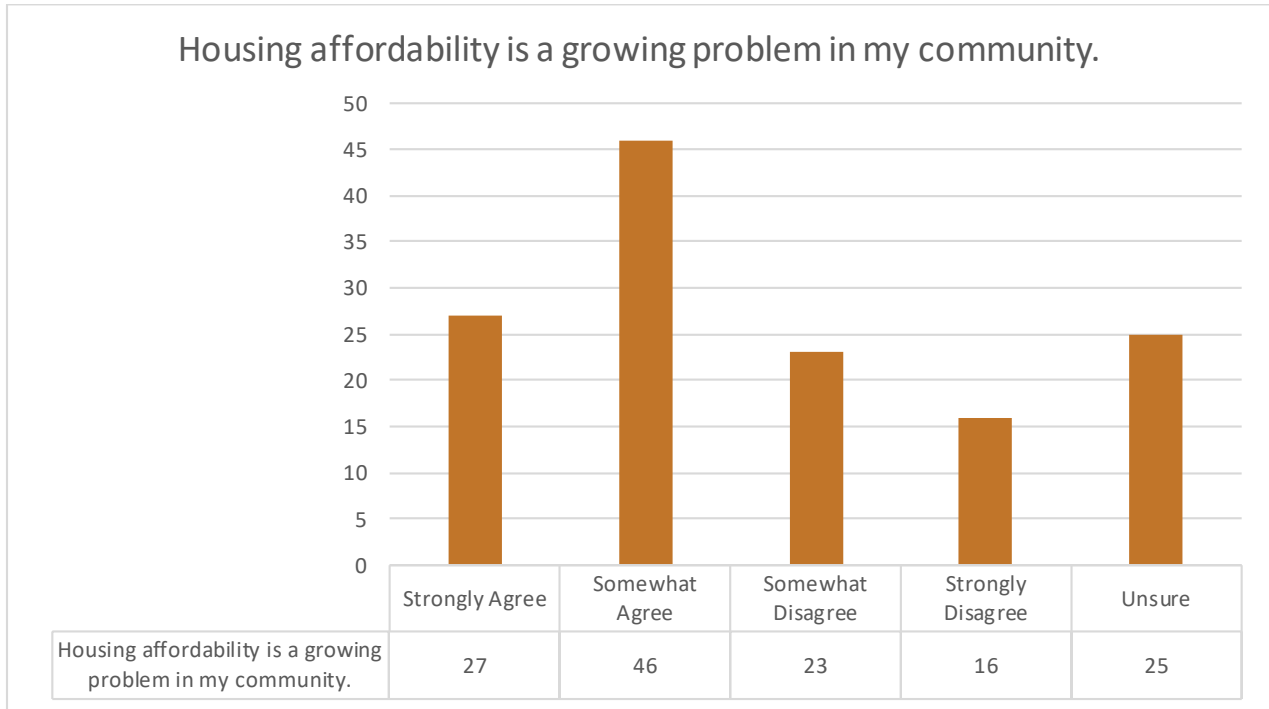
**(10) Land Use Conflicts (Residential and Agricultural)**



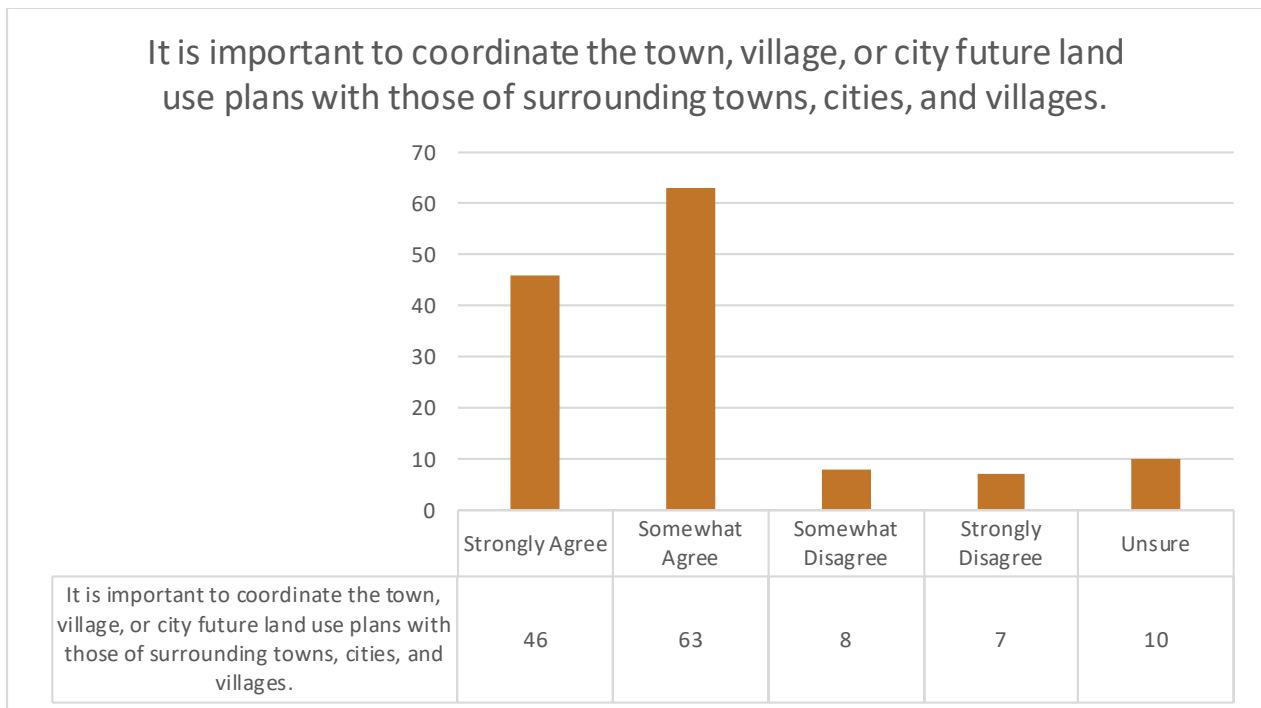
**(11) Land Use Conflicts (Commercial and Residential)**



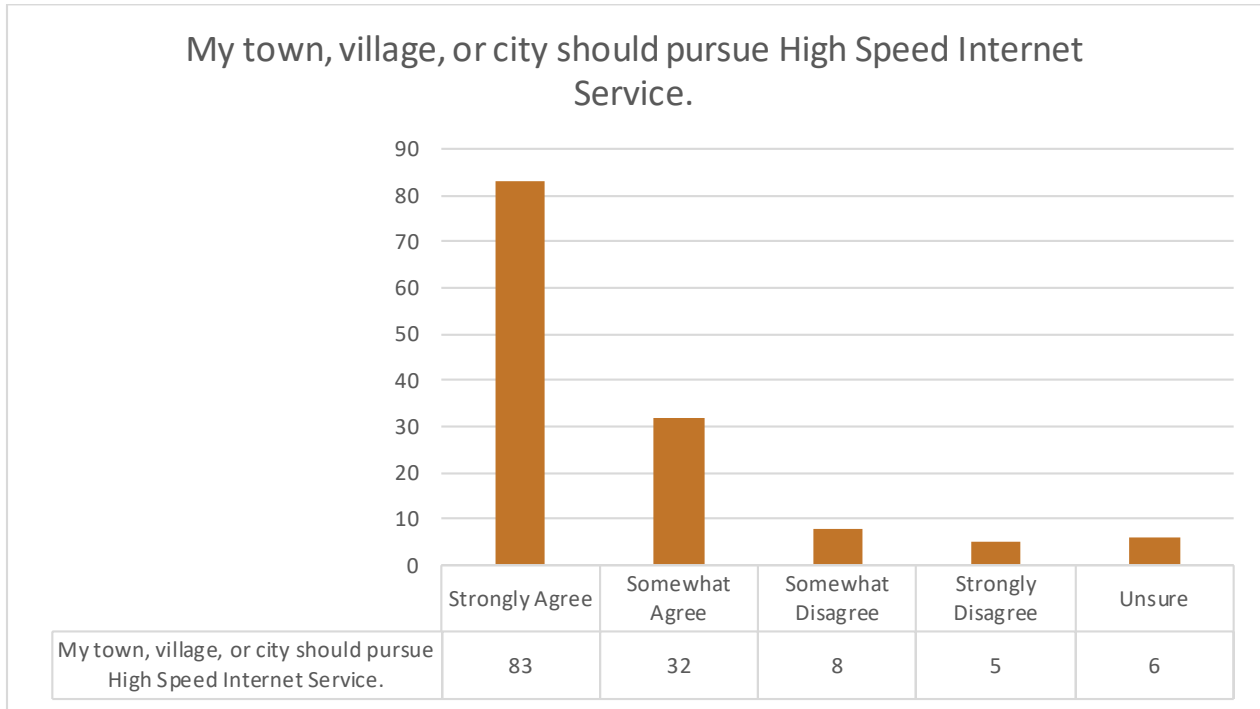
**(12) Housing Affordability**



**(13) Coordination with Other Communities**

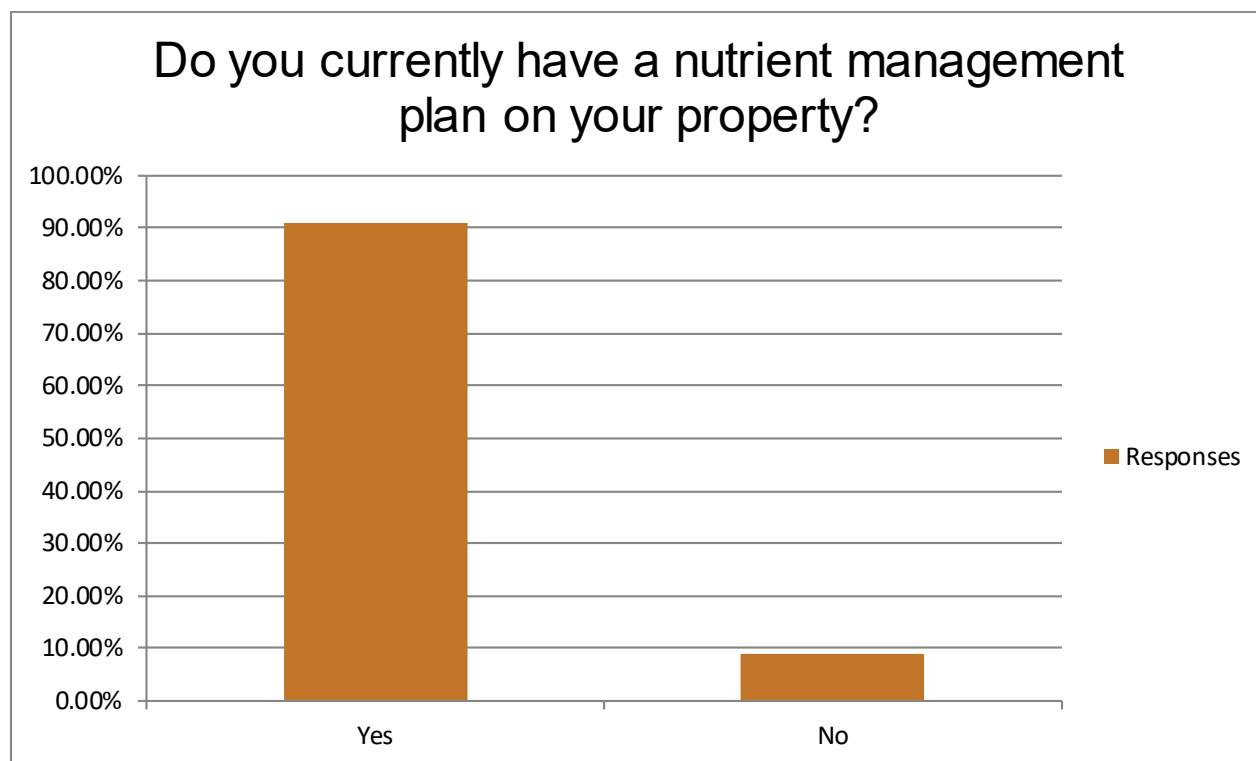


**(14) High Speed Internet**



**(15) Nutrient Management Plan:**

As one of the core requirements for being eligible for Farmland Preservation Tax Credits is having a nutrient management plan. To better understand any last step barriers for farmers wanting to be a part of the program, questions regarding nutrient management plans were asked. Of the 136 surveyed farmers who responded to this question, 91% had a nutrient management plan on their property.



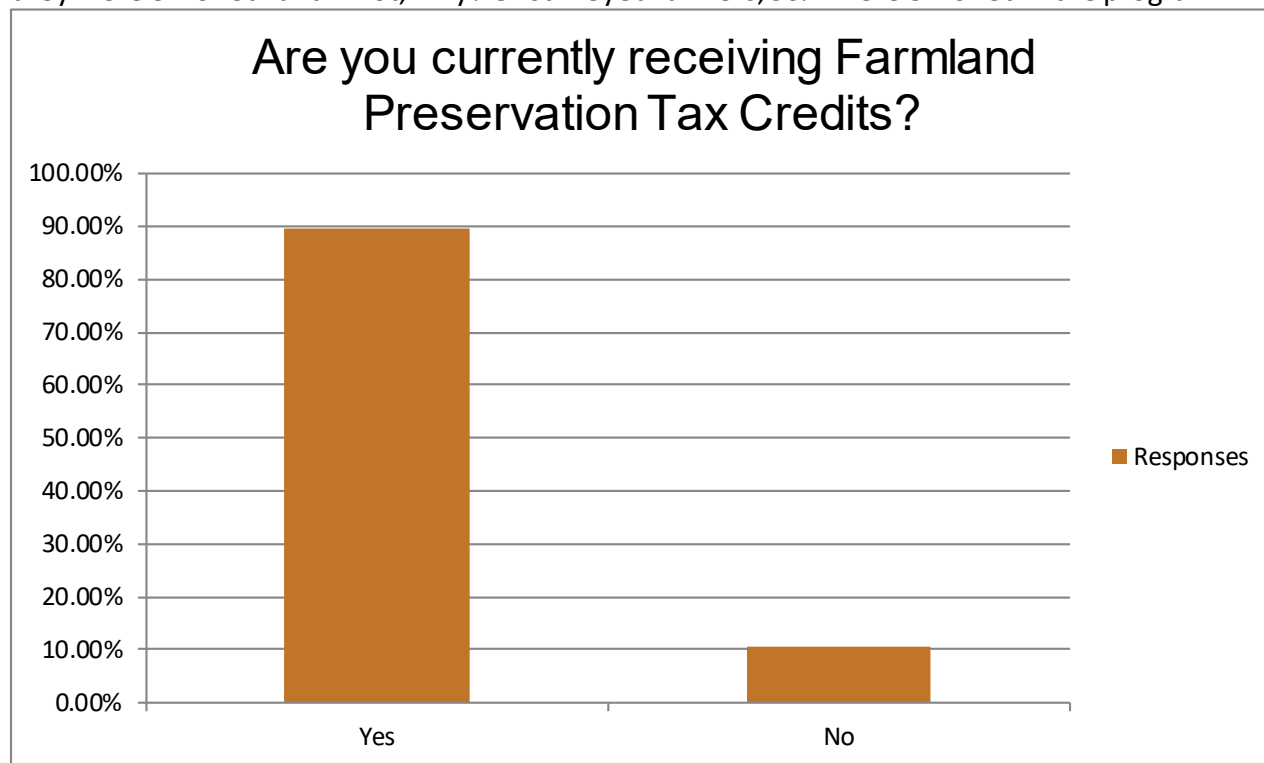
For those who didn't have a nutrient management plan, the following responses were collected: the primary themes identified revolved around cost, and confusion regarding the program.

Unsure if on nutrient management plan	Use renters management plan	Yes, but it is too expensive
Most of my land is enrolled in CREP or CRP, Riparian buffer, native prairie grasses or simply food plots for deer, turkey, pheasants	I don't, but my neighbor who rents my land, does.	Dropped out of farmland preservation. Already properly use nitrogen creditting and soil testing
No longer has cattle, land in CRP	Only own 3.5 acres, not currently farming	I just signed a new 10-year CRP contract and have not developed a plan for the property yet.
In CRP program, so nutrient management plan is not required. No cropping occurring.	Rented land in past. Going back to own production. Not sure what renter had. Will do no-till and other practices to limit soil loss.	Very small-scale operation with less than 30 sheep and goats.
Not sure if new tenant has plan or not. Previous tenant had one for dairy operation.	I am a very small farm. I plant per local conservation plan recommendations.	way to expensive to get one for the payback from land preservation

Not worth the headache of writing a plan to earn \$200 when it cost \$500 to write the plan	I do have a plan	no livestock
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**(16) Recipients of Farmland Preservation Tax Credits:**

Alongside this, not all surveyed farmers were receiving farmland preservation tax credits- yet most were eligible to apply. To understand barriers to enrolling, farmers were directly asked if they were enrolled- and if not, why? Of surveyed farmers, 90% were enrolled in the program.



Farmers who identified as not receiving Farmland Preservation Tax Credits cited program confusion, as well as the high cost to be in the program and the tax credit value, which has not been adjusted.

Unsure if receiving tax credits	I may drop it (due to cost of nutrient management plan)	Split residency in past
I don't think we qualify	not worth the hassle for the little amount you get paid	Dropped out of the program
Only own 3.5 acres, not currently farming	I am not sure	I was not aware this was available.
They expired and I am not sure how to renew them.	THEY WERE DISCONTINUED	Haven't looked into this option yet.



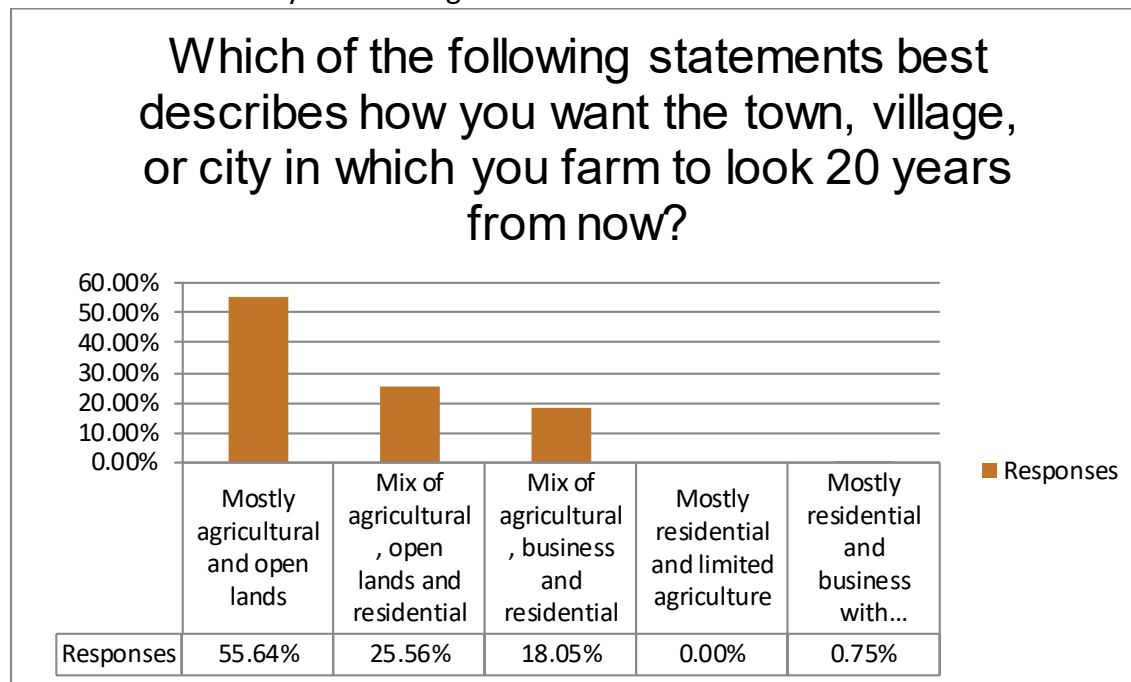
Some land not in Farmland Preservation and in non FP zoning.	Had plan did not like telling my renters how to farm	don't have a nutrient plan because of the expense. If I do it my self the form is way to complicated and time consuming.
Benefits verses cost of being in the program. Also people overseeing program have no idea of costs in todays economy		

**(17) Future Planning:**

Surveyed farmers were asked several questions regarding the future of their community, and various questions regarding the type of development (farm and non farm) they would support in their communities.

**(a) How Do You Envision Your Community 20 Years in the Future?**

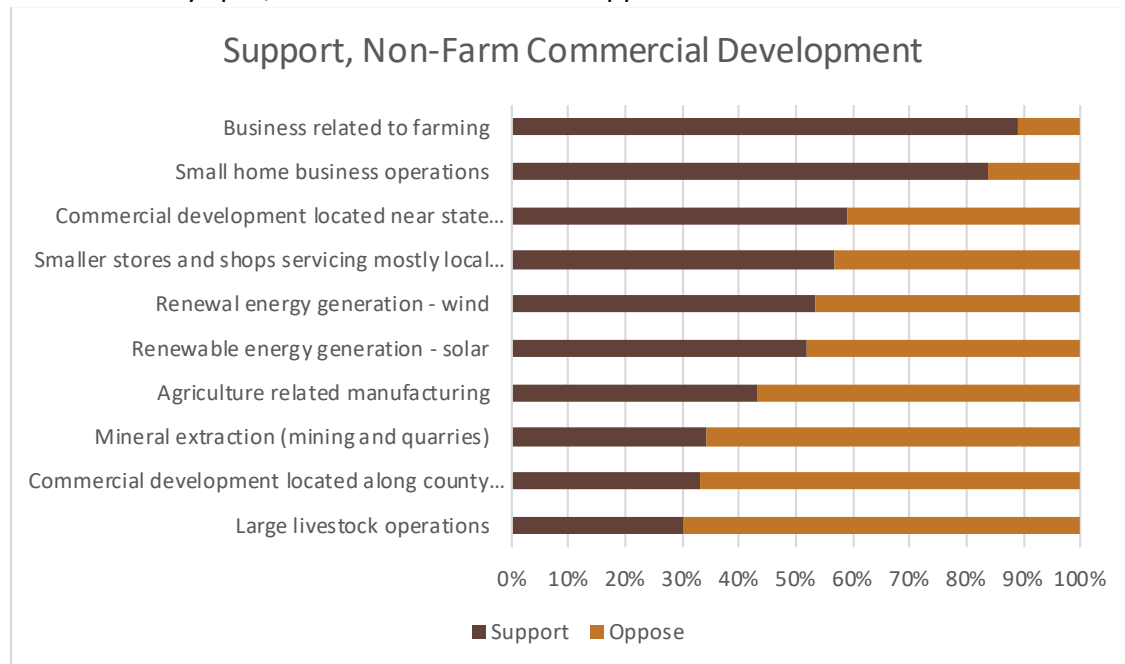
Most of the farmers surveyed indicated a strong preference for the preservation of their communities as firmly rooted in agriculture.



**(b) Non-Farm Development:**

Farmers were asked to indicate either their support or opposition to various forms of non-farm commercial development in their communities.

Two areas of specific focus were both statements regarding renewable energy, both of which were narrowly split, but showcased overall support.



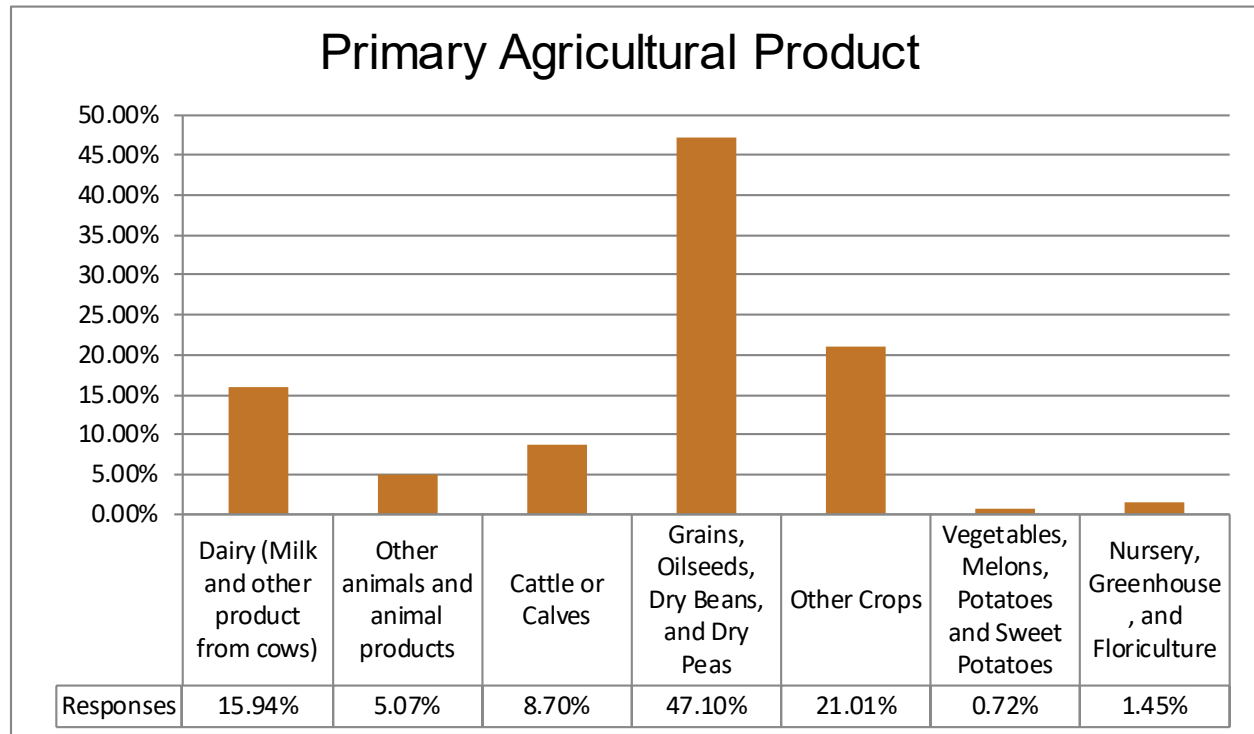
Which type of non-farm commercial development would you support in the town, city, or village in which you farm?	Support	Oppose
Large livestock operations	39	91
Commercial development located along county highways	44	89
Mineral extraction (mining and quarries)	45	86
Agriculture related manufacturing	56	74
Renewable energy generation - solar	67	62
Renewal energy generation - wind	69	60
Smaller stores and shops servicing mostly local residents	78	59
Commercial development located near state highways	76	53
Small home business operations	113	22
Business related to farming	116	14

**(18) Farm Characteristics:**

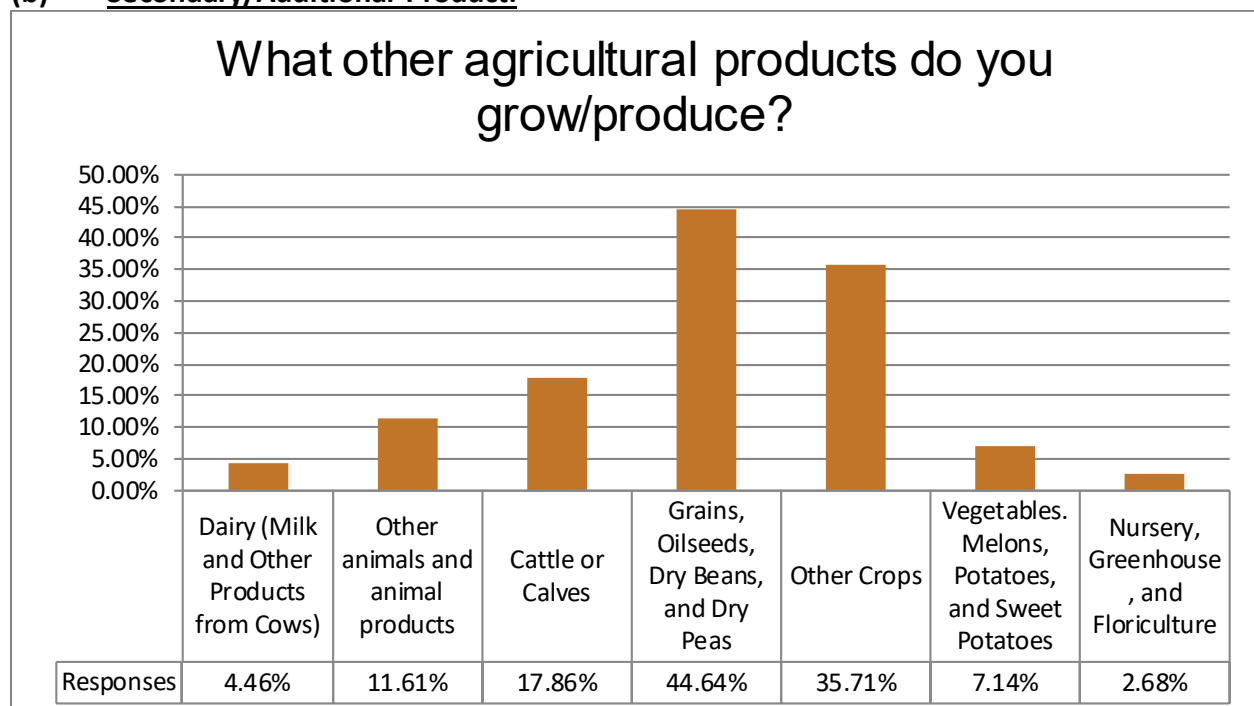
To gauge a better indication of the type and size of Dane County farms eligible for enrollment in Farmland Preservation, a series of characteristic questions were asked, ranging from crop type to total acreage.

**(a) Product Types:**

When asked what their primary crop was, the surveyed farmers displayed a strong preference Grain, oilseeds, Dry Beans, and Peas- with 47% of respondents indicating this as their primary crop. This aligns with Dane County as a whole, with the 2017 Ag Census showing 36% of the 2017 Dane County Agriculture Market value being attributed to this category.

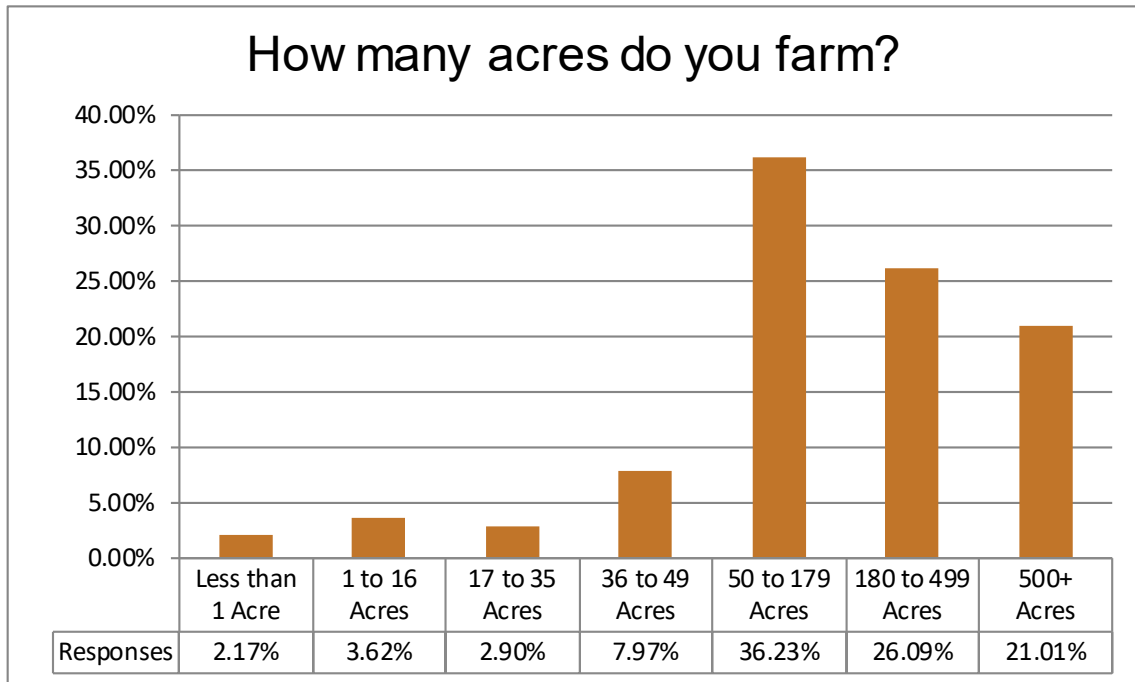


**(b) Secondary/Additional Product:**



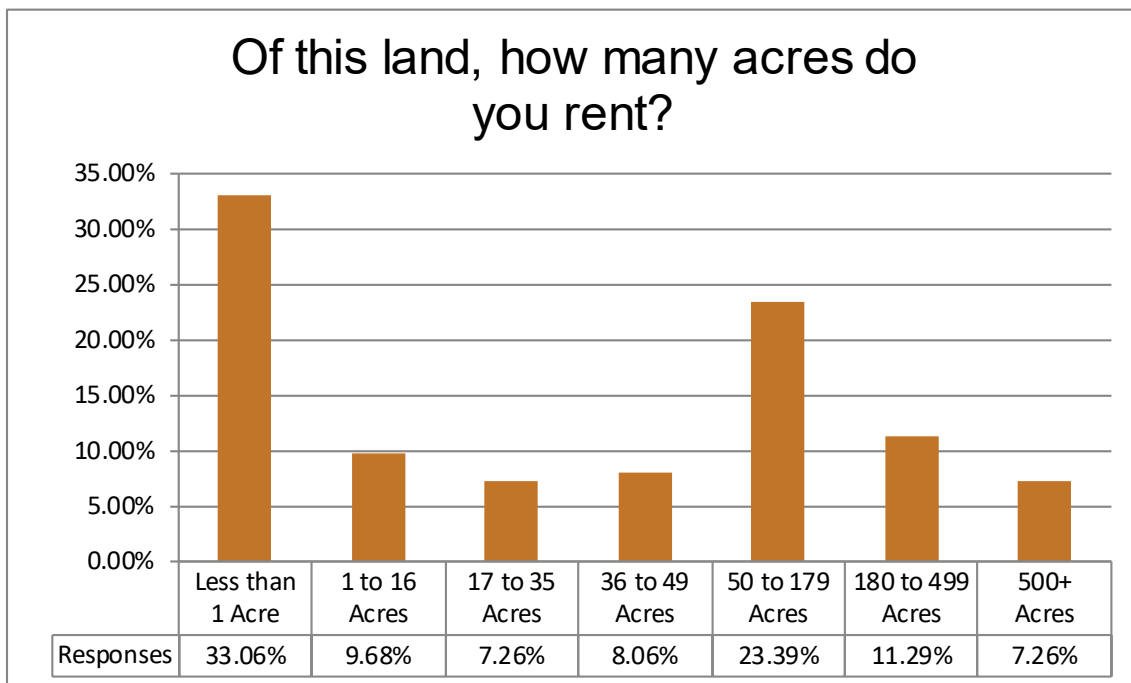
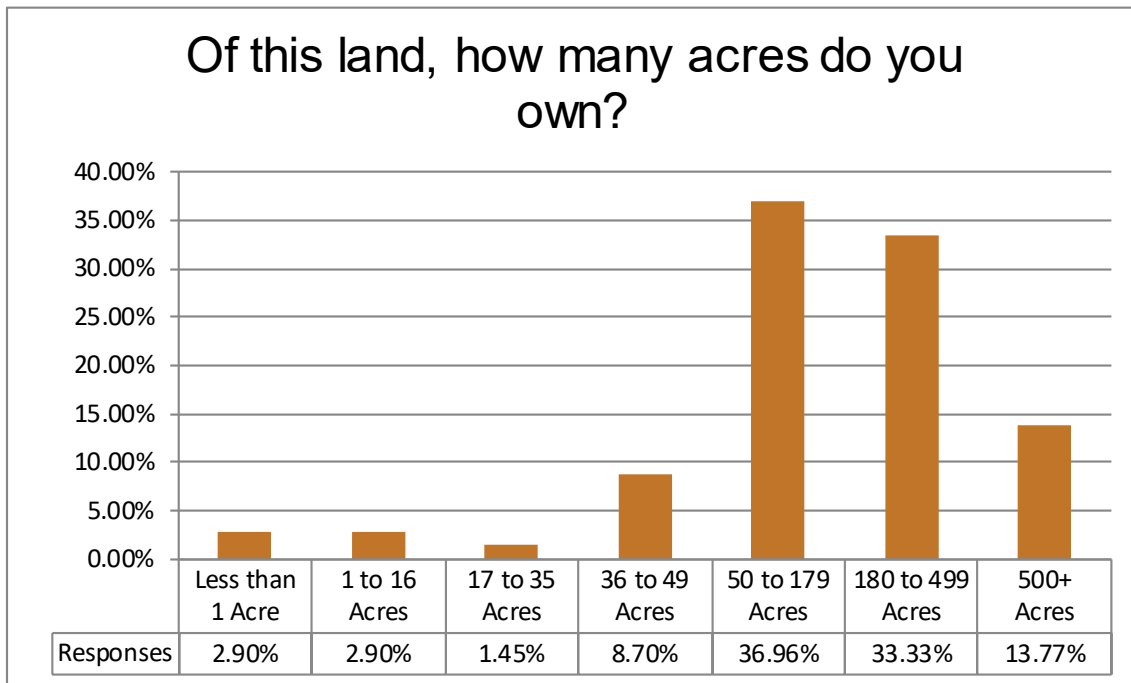
**(c) Farm Acreage:**

Surveyed farmers were asked to indicate the total size of the land that they farm, using preselected intervals provided by Planning and Development staff. Unlike product type, these responses did not align with the 2017 Ag Census results, however skewed more towards larger farms instead of smaller (1-50 acres) like Dane County as a whole.



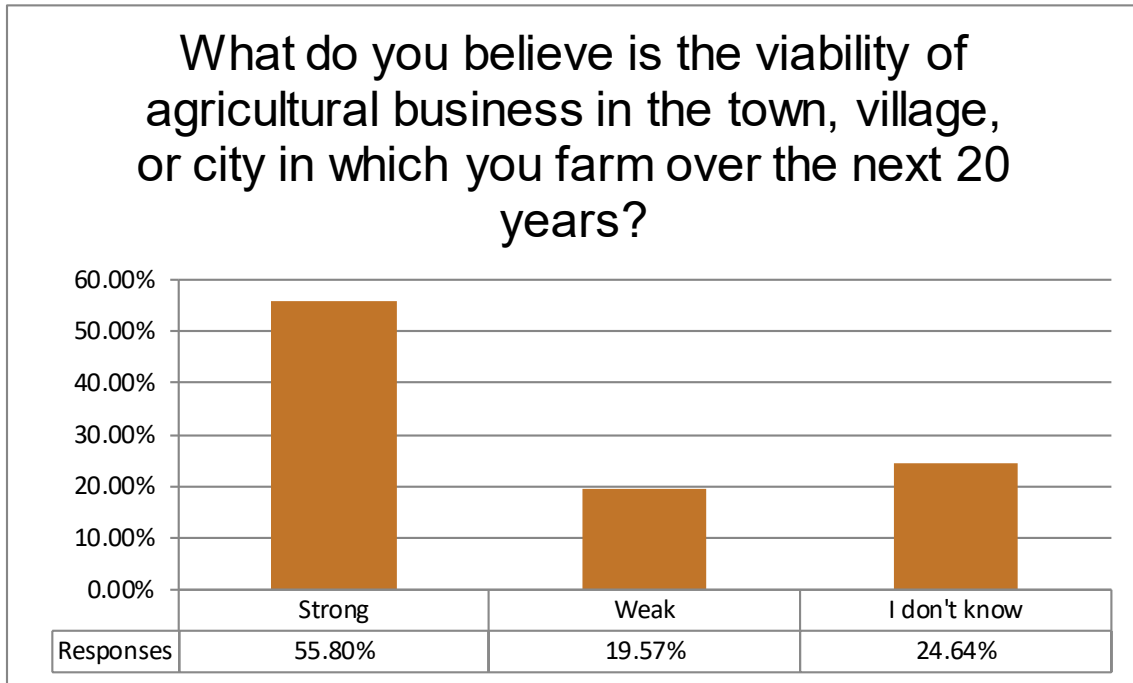
**(d) Renting Vs. Owning**

When surveyed, the farmers showcased a lesser preference for renting, with most land being owned.



**(19) Long Term Feasibility, Farming**

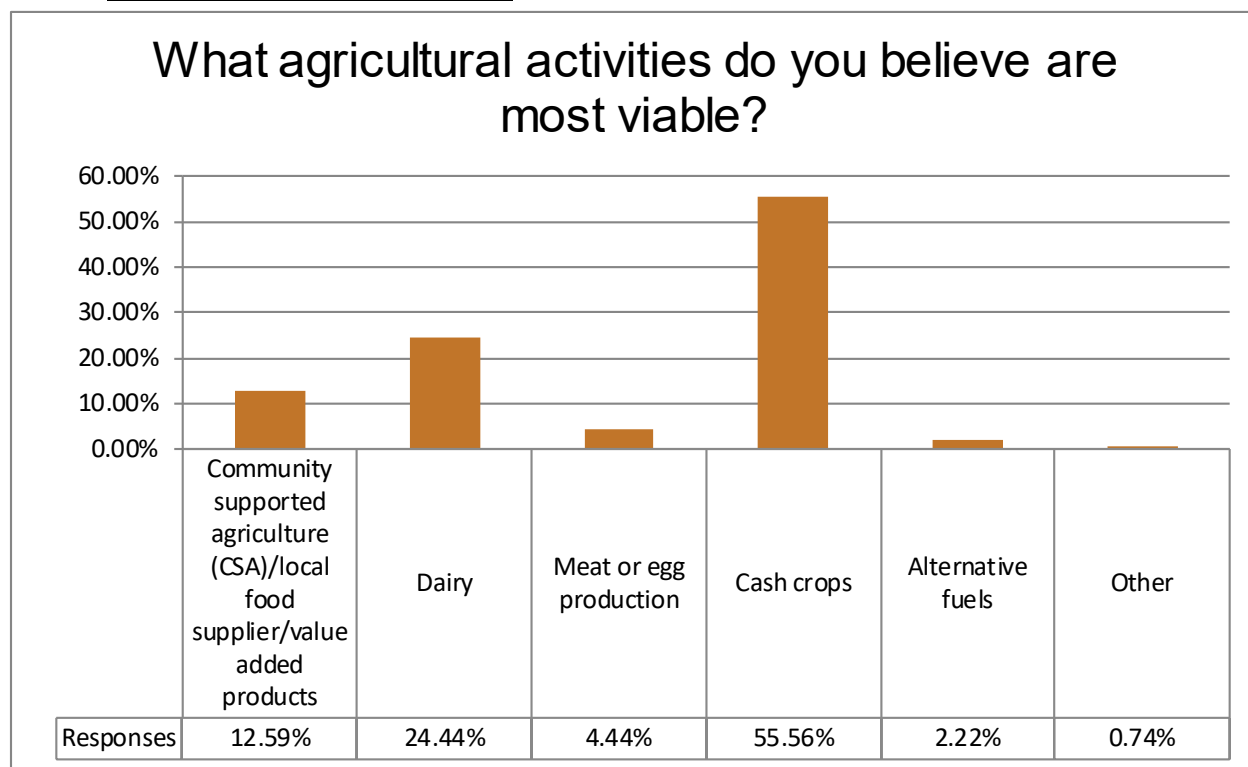
When asked, there was much ambiguity present for the farmers surveyed when the question of the viability of agriculture in their community in the next 20 years, with ‘unsure’ being the second highest category.



**(a) Viability, Products:**

When asked to identify agricultural activities that they viewed as most viable for farming, cash crops was heavily favored, followed by Dairy and Value Added/Community Supported Products.

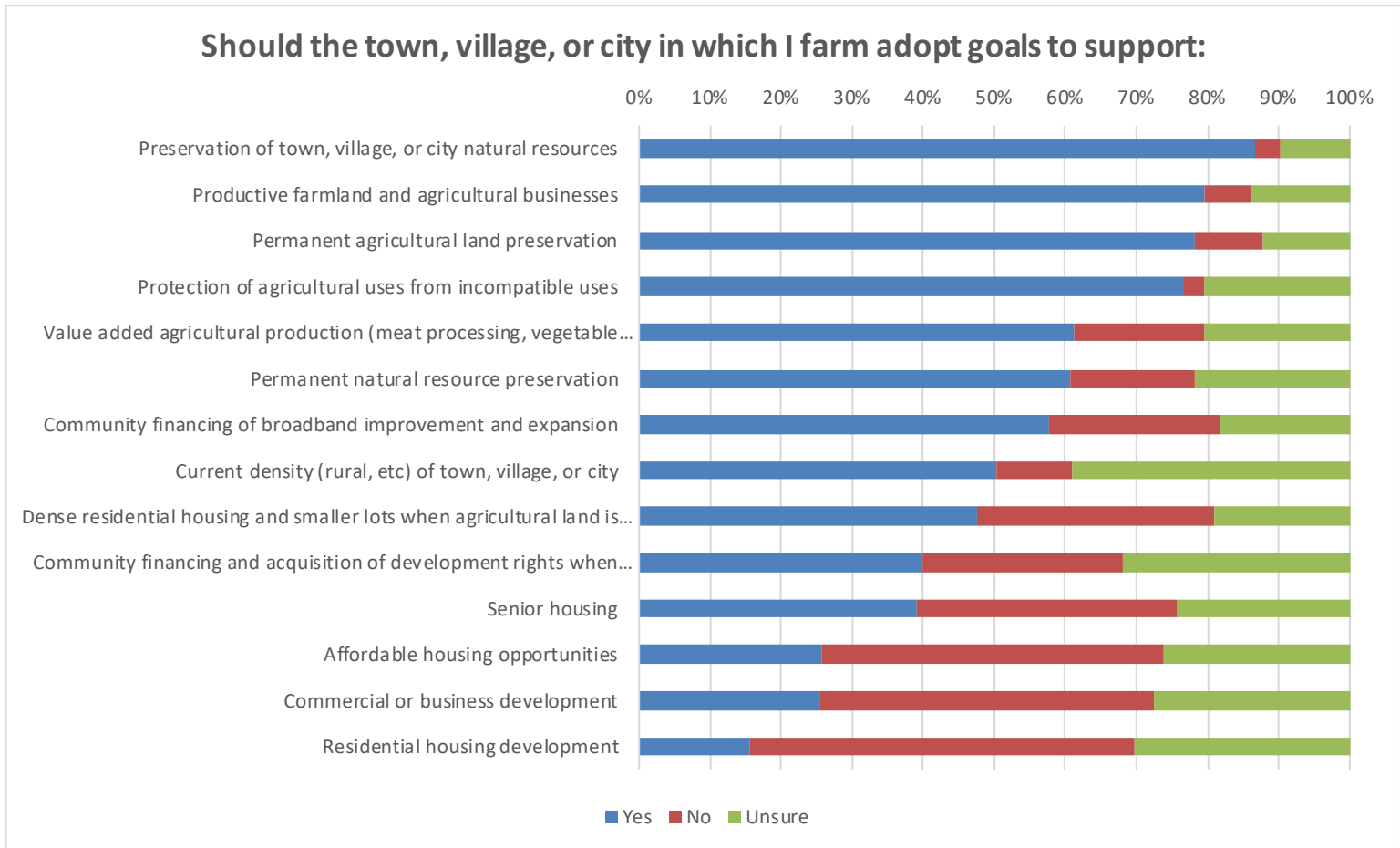
**(b) Community Goals and Support**



Farmers were asked to indicate their support for their community adopting goals to support various initiatives. The full list of statements can be seen below:

Preservation of town, village, or city natural resources
Productive farmland and agricultural businesses
Permanent agricultural land preservation
Protection of agricultural uses from incompatible uses
Value added agricultural production (meat processing, vegetable processing and storage, small scale local food production)
Permanent natural resource preservation
Community financing of broadband improvement and expansion
Current density (rural, etc) of town, village, or city
Dense residential housing and smaller lots when agricultural land is preserved
Community financing and acquisition of development rights when agricultural land is preserved
Senior housing
Affordable housing opportunities
Commercial or business development
Residential housing development

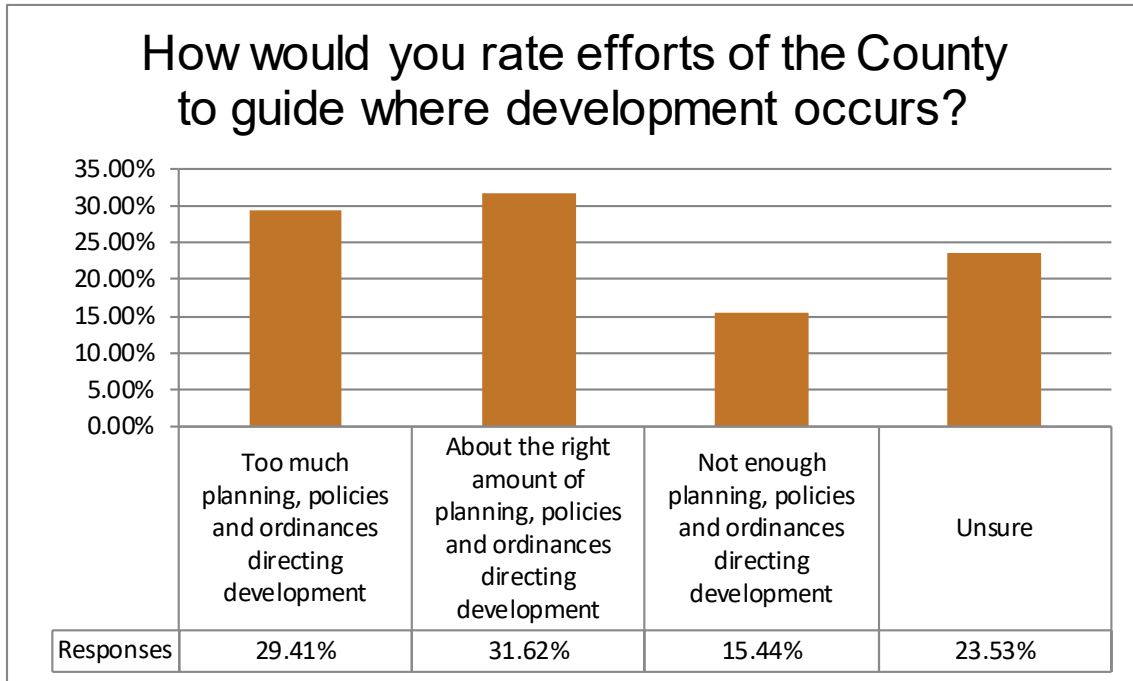
When asked about future directions of their communities, surveyed farmers again were unsure, with each prompt showing a 22% 'unsure' response. The following shows the breakdown of responses, from most supported to least.





**(20) Planning and Development Performance**

To ensure that Dane County Planning Development is engaging in meaningful dialogues with communities, the following question is added to ensure that Dane County Planning and Development can get a gauge of performance from those who are directly affected by planning.



**(21) Short Answer**

Survey respondents were encouraged to leave a short answer response, to share anything else regarding the 2022 Farmland Preservation Plan Recertification with Planning and Development Staff.

Common themes that were covered was regarding the high cost of entry into the Farmland Preservation Program, as well as confusion and frustration with the process.

The 62 responses collected were then categorized by Planning and Development Staff and organized into the table below:

Short Answer Responses (By Category)	
<b>Broad Support</b>	
Recertify Farmland Preservation	
Thank you	
Only that we beleive it is a valuable tool for the preservation of farmland in our area.	
Please recertify the Farmland Preservation Plan. Please Please Please	
Continue to keep the current Farmland Preservation Plan in effect.	
Reiterated that things should not change	

It is an important tool to maintain agriculture opportunities.
I myself have a strong value in keeping farmland
help save farm land
we have been active in the Farmland Preservation program for years and hope to continue
<b>Renewable Energy</b>
I really don't know enough about all the topics talked about here. One thing I don't want to see wide open flat fields used for solar panels. Use land that is can't be farmed or put them on houses or farm buildings and silos. I really don't care for wind energy.
It is important to support solar and perhaps wind energy projects. Not only is that type of energy needed, but such efforts will preserve land at the same time. A double win.
Solar energy and diverse farming are all viable in the future. Family farm since 1941, want to preserve it, and neighbor's lands. Town, village and Mount Horeb don't work together. Would rather preserve than develop. Opposed to ATC line that takes portions of farm. Haven't received Farmland Preservation income tax credits since 2016 on mother's lands. DOR has not responded to tax accountant.
Large solar energy farms will change nature of the area, allow some landowners to purchase more land than others. Drainage issues with urban and suburban development in Koshkonong. Rural landowners pay into drained districts, while cities do not, even though they are creating impact.
Koshkonong Solar is incompatible with Farmland Preservation, Land Use plans. Need stronger county involvement in these situations.
They let the solar farm pass in Christiana. How is this farmland preservation? Not right taking all this good farmland for this. Those crops give off oxygen and use co 2. They took 6400 acres of that away. Makes no sense for that to happen.
<b>Prices</b>
Larger payment [likely referring to value of tax credit]
Don't charge farmers for anything more.
Farming is good lately, because commodity prices are high. As long as farmers make money, they won't want to sell off for development. All types of agriculture are good and should be supported. New lots should be smaller and higher density and use less land for buildings.
FP preservation is doing good job. FP tax payments are not enough, and should be higher. It's an important goal.
Process Improvements // Planning Frustrations
Farmers gave up many potential housing sites when their respective Township entered into FPP. Now many of these townships are allowing non farmers more density. Seems almost criminal!
The recertification process should be leaned out, streamlined and simplified. It is overly onerous and bureaucratic now.
Keep the FPP process simple. We all have enough problems to deal with. Concerning Question 22, I see a lot of residential development (houses, apartments, condos) being developed on prime farmland and especially between Madison and Pine Bluff. Your policies

<p>are not working because that development should be done within Madison, not on prime farmland.</p>
<p>Permits take too long to build a house. Shouldn't take a year.</p>
<p>The county has gotten out of hand when it comes to farmers trying to expand. I can see it for large animal housing but all the hoops to go through to just put up a shed is crazy. This is how crazy your people have gotten....I can mopboard plow a field and don't have to put up a stilt fence but put up a shed on level ground with great drainage and we have to waste money on permits for flood control and drainage beside putting in a stilt fence. It makes no sense!!! You make rules to make sure you got to keep your jobs.</p>
<p>I wish I understood more about it.</p>
<p>When a farmland preservation contract expires the farm owner should be notified. That is the least that state and the county should do.</p>
<p>I would like to see take place the recertification the Farmland Preservation Plan. But if you wish to innovate and create new direction engage us in a broad approach to the problem with a solution. You asked a question in this survey about the community supporting financing the purchase of development rights. This is a good overall simple solution. If the reduction in development is offset in some way to offset the reduction in the tax base. In our Town already we several issues with the purchase of private lands by the County for parks with causes a reduction in our tax base. But if development is guided to adjacent municipality we also loose tax revenues. How can this be resolved so as to benefit rural preservation. This is such an important consideration for ag land, open land to allow for ground water recharge, and natural resources areas such as having wetlands for flood protection. The CRP and CREEP Programs encourages this. With an increase in development more runoff takes place and during more frequent extreme 100 years rainfall events the costs are extremely high. Promote on rural open private lands wind generation to support local communities. there are so many benefits to cheaper energy and a more secure plan for the future.</p>
<p>Internet // Network Connectivity</p>
<p>No cell phone coverage along Highway 19 and other parts of the Town of Berry. Everyone wants to build on the best land.</p>
<p>3 fiber optic lines going past house, but none can connect to nearby houses. Uses land lines, but cell tower within 150 feet of house. Smaller solar arrays that are not as visible would be fine. Local topography not good for wind power. Electrical transmission lines, wind turbines and solar panels need to be replaced after 20 years, or should be removed once decommissioned. Costs should be borne by utility that constructs these projects. Money should be set aside shortly after construction for removal or maintenance. Permitted residential densities should be lower than 1:35 acres. Tax credits make it possible for me to keep nutrient management plan on property.</p>
<p>Not interested in internet. Costs too much. Thought residential development near him was done, but now there's new houses near him. Not of all town is farmable. Does what he can for soil erosion, but in big storms there's a limit to what you can do. Property taxes going up, even though new development going in at higher rate. Mill rate still going up. New residents want better roads and costing existing residents. When new residents move into agricultural areas, traffic conflicts start between farm equipment and autos. New residents should</p>

<p>respect farm equipment on roads. Land in Dane County 15-year set-aside for \$150/acre, lump sum payment created increase in income tax. If paid out over time, each year, would be more attractive. Too many rules and regulations associated with set-aside program. Too many restrictions on cutting and seeding, and oat cover crop. Use money to feed hungry and homeless, rather than parks and habitat. Worried about retirement with only Social Security to support. New landowners sticking new houses in the middle of farm fields: should they be eligible for CRP and other programs? Urban landowners driving up the price of farmland.</p>
<p>Rainwater // Manure Management // Nutrient Management</p>
<p>Monitor the larger farms on nutrient management plans instead of picking on small farms that they know will pass the directive.</p>
<p>Impact of manure hauling on roads. Winter time spreading of manure, impacts on Maunasha River. Shouldn't spread when ground is frozen. Not enough enforcement. Horse manure piled next to the ditch. 25 acres in CREP.</p>
<p>have a conservation plan where the large crop farmer can not open whole farms from fence row to fence row with no conservation practices abserved</p>
<p>Uses cover crop of rye. Unhappy with large cow operations that haul liquid manure.</p>
<p>Unchecked annexation and development is a huge problem. Land owners are not being protected from the surge in rainwater discharge. Volume is what matters, using flow rate is a JOKE.</p>
<p>Reward conservation producers will history of conservation (strip till, minimum till, and no till). Increase farmland preservation credits</p>
<p>Along with the farmland preservation plan include the testing of our waters. the larger farms spread so much manure sometimes - that one year I could smell the manure in my drinking water. What needs or could be done to address this? To make sure all water is safe for all living things. The protection of the water supply should be a priority. I feel this needs to be addressed at all levels working together. Farmland preservation is a great place to start. Thank you</p>
<p>Feelings about large livestock depends: 1,000 OK, but 10,000 probably not. Should be sized so land can handle.</p>
<p>Open up tieling on workable wet lands</p>

<p><b>Land Use Conflicts</b></p>
<p>Dane County has too much park land, is all about Madison and not the rural parts of the county and farmers</p>
<p>I feel the current plan is acceptable and should include sustainable agriculture on smaller acres and forest cropland, trees are a natural resource that takes in what we exhale and provides what we inhale. Park land should not consume farmland! parks should be created in a natural resource protection area ie: rivers, transition area or land that cannot be tilled for farming.</p>
<p>Coordinate with other communities, limited representation for rural landowners in City of Fitchburg. CSA crops will continue to be strong due to proximity to metro area. On board of credit union for CSA, because banks won't finance. Labor-intensive, but profitable. Likes Dunn PDR program. Rural internet should be expanded, and city or other entity needs to</p>

require or subsidize. City comprehensive plan needs policies for preservation of rural areas. Rural area preservation not included in recent discussion about comprehensive plan updates.
Building up, not out. Farmers shouldn't build in the middle of good farmland. New residents anti-agriculture in the future, weren't brought up. Some farmers leave manure on roads or at times when traffic is high. Discourtesy between farming and urban residents. County and state roads need to be taken care of. What happens if solar farms or wind farms, if they are decommissioned, or company goes bankrupt. In farming for sanity. Worked elsewhere for health insurance. Democracy means self-discipline, people should police themselves
Each community should value undeveloped land and have a plan to keep it that way or improve upon it by planting trees, grasses, and other native plants. I know Urban expansion is inevitable, but efforts should be made to expand out from existing areas or areas that least impact the local marshland, rivers, lakes, and drinking water. A good balance of business, ag, and residential can hopefully be attained.
Broad Negative
I cant stand anything associated with dane county and their employees right now
It is obvious everyone hates everything a farmer does, so make it a fast merciful death.
Misc.
No
No
No
no
No
NO
no
NO
No
no
NO
No
No
No
My husband passed away 4 years ago. Please update records

## II. Identified Stakeholders

### 1. Population Surveyed

The stakeholder survey was designed to allow for stakeholder groups who were unable to meet with the Farmland Preservation Team to share their opinions and thoughts regarding the 2022 recertification as well as broader thoughts on farming in Dane County.

#### A. Survey Distribution:

This survey was sent directly through email communications to the list of stakeholders identified by Planning and Development Staff as well as the Farmland Preservation Steering Committee- the total list of email recipient organizations can be seen below:

1000 Friends of Wisconsin	DATCP	REAP
American Farmland Trust	Family Farm Defenders	Rooted
Dane County Beekeepers Association	Farm Services Agency (Dane County)	Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
Dane County Cities and Villages Association	Farmers of the Upper Sugar River	WI Berry Growers Association
Dane County Towns Association	Groundswell	Wisconsin Farmers Union
		Yahara Pride Farms

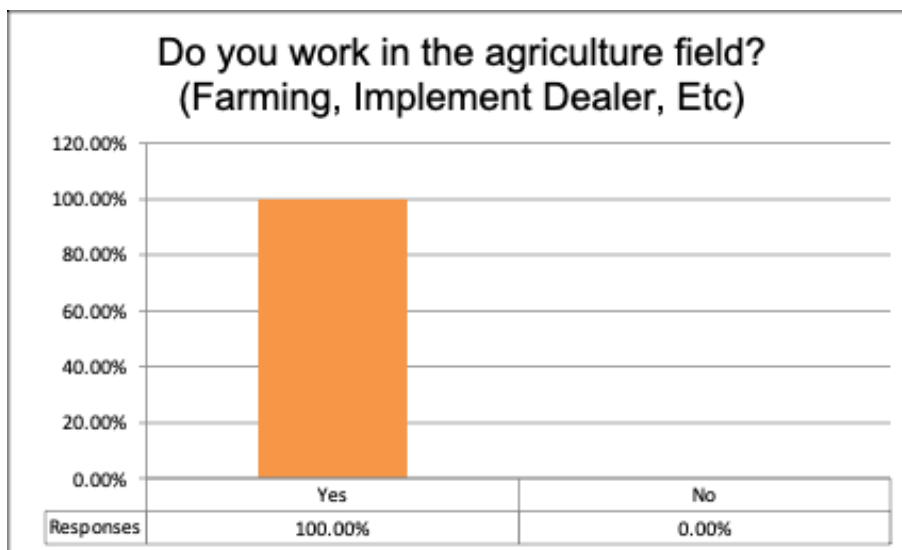
#### B. Survey Engagement:

The Farmland Preservation Plan Stakeholder Survey returned a total of 4 responses. This was expected due to the direct interaction with other stakeholder groups through meetings with Dane County Staff, or presentations given at Steering Committee meetings.

### 2. Summary of Results

#### A. Involvement in Agriculture Field

As expected, all stakeholder respondents indicated their work was within the broader agriculture industry.



### B. Organization Title

Organizations who responded to the stakeholder survey were as follows:

Groundswell Conservancy	Yahara Pride Farms
Dane County Cities & Villages Association	Redford Farm

### C. Ranking Statements

Identical to the public survey, stakeholder groups were asked to rank their agreement regarding future choices impacting directions of Dane County Farming Communities.

Similar to that of the public survey, surveyed stakeholders indicated opposition to reuse of agricultural buildings for alternative uses. Due to the low number of responses, less of the 'Unsure' response was seen.

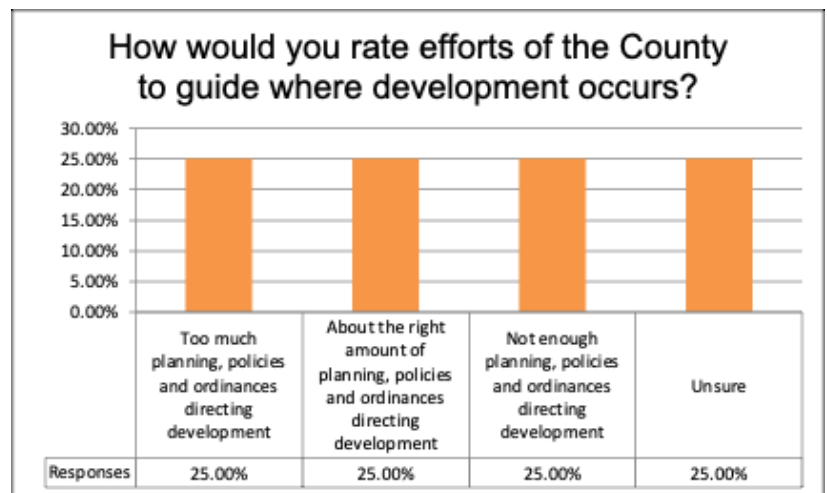
The list of statements can be found below:

Dane County's farming communities should be low density residential
Dane County's farming communities should promote more non-agriculture commercial development
Most new development should occur adjacent to areas which are already developed
Dane County's farming communities should promote the permanent preservation of farmland
Dane County's farming communities should restrict policies to better guide growth
Farming is an important part of the future of Dane County's farming communities
Agricultural businesses should be promoted in Dane County's farming communities
Farmers and other rural landowners should be able to sell their land for a limited amount of commercial development
Land use conflicts between agriculture and residential development are a problem in Dane County's farming communities

Land use conflicts between commercial and agricultural development is a problem in Dane County's farming communities
Housing affordability is a growing problem in Dane County's farming communities
It is important to have coordinated land use plans with surrounding communities
Farmland affordability is a growing problem in Dane County's farming communities
Dane County's farming communities should pursue High Speed Internet Service.
Dane County should be using taxpayer dollars to preserve farmland and natural resources
Nonmetallic mining should be allowed in Dane County's farming communities
Existing agricultural buildings can be used for non agricultural purposes (landscaping companies, barn venues, RV storage, etc.)

### D. County Performance

To ensure that Dane County Planning Development is engaging in meaningful dialogues with communities, the following question is added to ensure that Dane County Planning and Development can get a gauge of performance from those who are directly affected by planning. Of the four respondents, responses were evenly split.



### E. Future of Farming, Dane County

Respondents were asked their feelings (oh behalf of their organization) on the future of farming within Dane County over the next 20 years. Responses can be seen below:

Development is spreading out in all directions. Residential subdivisions are taking away farmland. If we keep going the current direction we're on, we will have problem producing enough food for our community.
Agriculture is strong is Dane County
Christiana Township is being a target to many corporations and solar development will harm agriculture.

### F. Further Questions

Respondents were asked to share any further comments and questions they had regarding Farmland Preservation or Dane County Farming with Planning Staff. Responses can be seen below:

Does the plan include farming succession? With the average age of farmers and inevitable ethnic demographic changes, we need to make sure those who want to be farmers can afford
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to do so. And there are programs accessible for the farmers to be successful -- does the plan look at dismantling/overcoming barriers to farming?
More information
We know that our farms are in danger.

## III. General Public

### 1. Population Surveyed

The general public survey was designed to measure sentiment of broader Dane County residents, as opposed to the more narrowly targeted farmer survey. This

#### A. Survey Distribution:

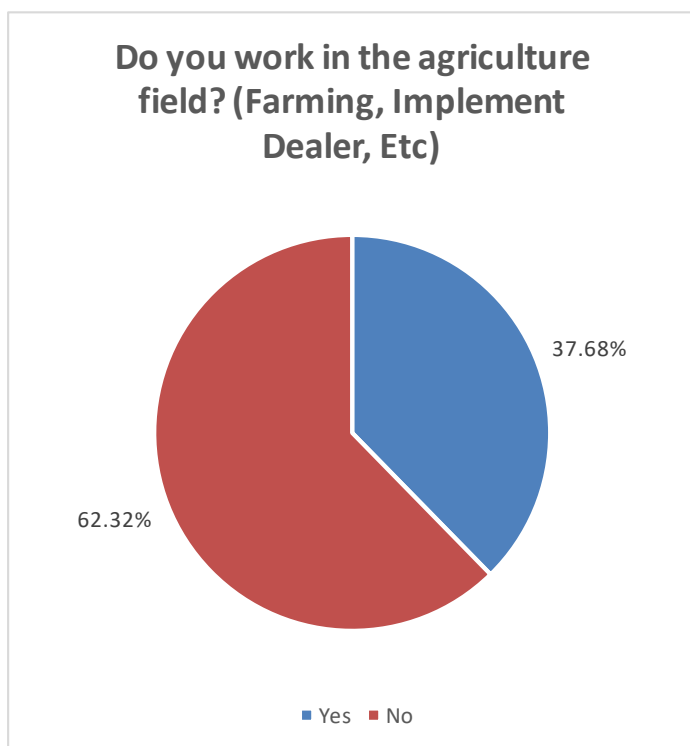
This survey was made accessible through the Department of Planning and Developments website, on the Farmland Preservation Plan webpage. All responses collected were via the link published, with 100% of respondents being from online means.

#### B. Survey Engagement:

The Farmland Preservation Plan Public Survey returned a total of 72 responses, with the bulk of respondents residing within Madison.

## 2. Summary of Results

Of the Public Survey's Respondents, all were received online. Similar to the Farmland Preservation Farmer survey, participants were asked their community of origin. 40% of respondents indicated that they were residents of Madison, with the other 60% being comprised of smaller representations, between 1-3 persons. Respondents were also asked their connection to agriculture as employment. 62% of respondents indicated that they are **not** employed in the agriculture field.



### A. Guiding Development

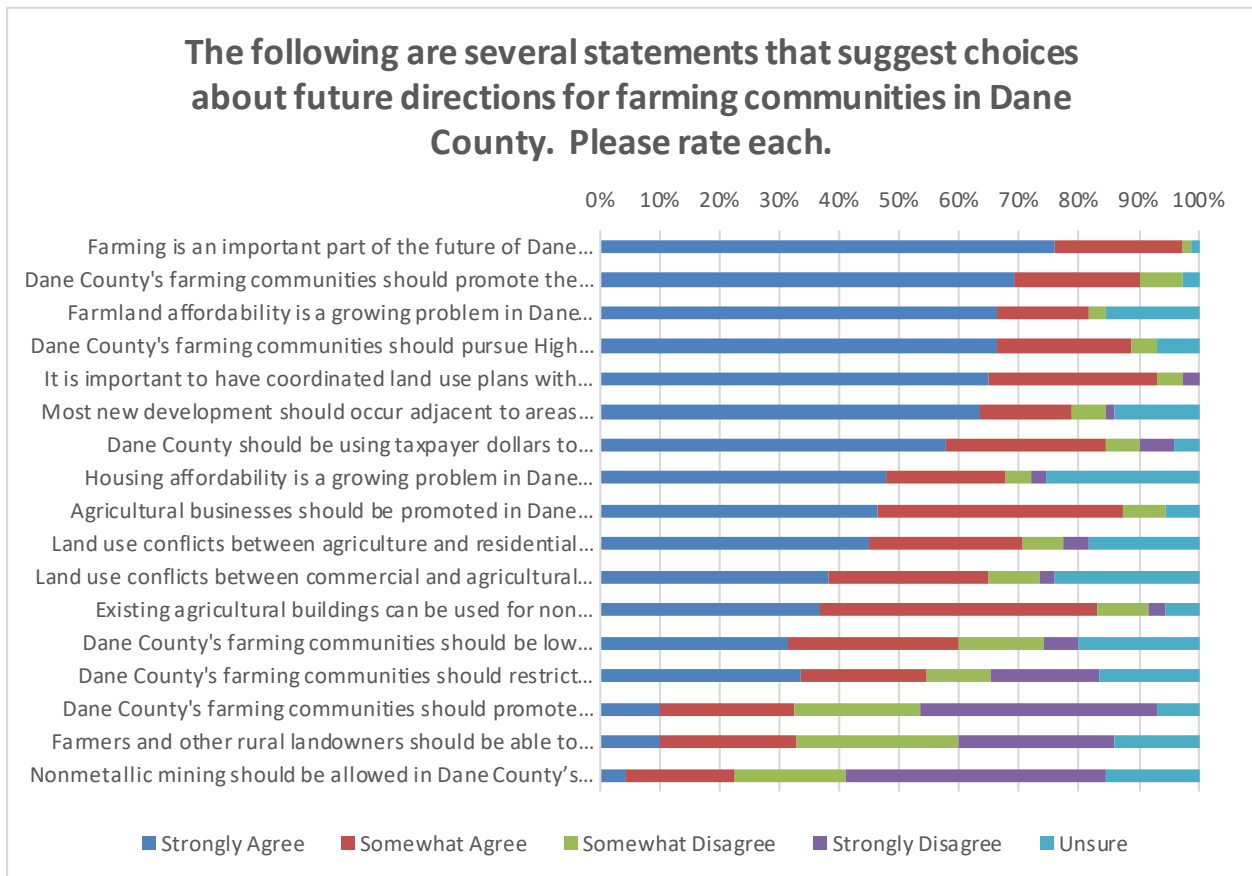
Survey respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for farming practices in Dane County's farming communities. The statements were as follows in the table below:

Farming is an important part of the future of Dane County's farming communities
Dane County's farming communities should promote the permanent preservation of farmland
Farmland affordability is a growing problem in Dane County's farming communities
Dane County's farming communities should pursue High Speed Internet Service.
It is important to have coordinated land use plans with surrounding communities
Most new development should occur adjacent to areas which are already developed

Community Name	# Responses
Albion	1
Berry	1
Black Earth	1
Brooklyn	1
Cottage Grove	2
Cross Plains	1
Dane	3
Dunkirk	3
Dunn	1
Madison	29
Mazomanie	1
McFarland	2
Medina	1
Middleton	3
Monona	3
Mount Horeb	1
New Glarus	1
Oregon	1
Perry	1
Roxbury	1
Rutland	1
Springdale	2
Springfield	2
Stoughton	1
Sun Prairie	3
Verona	1
Windsor	1

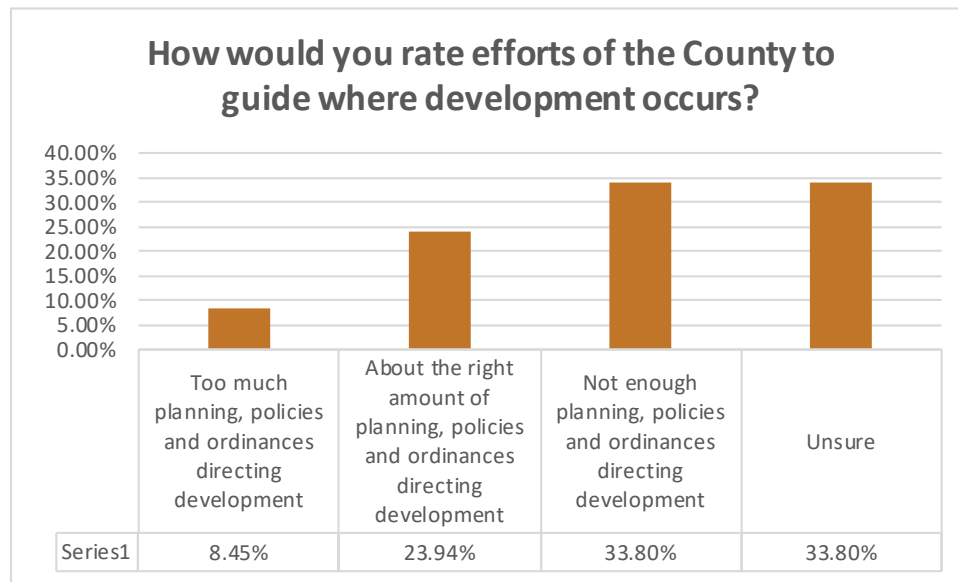
Dane County should be using taxpayer dollars to preserve farmland and natural resources
Housing affordability is a growing problem in Dane County's farming communities
Agricultural businesses should be promoted in Dane County's farming communities
Land use conflicts between agriculture and residential development are a problem in Dane County's farming communities
Land use conflicts between commercial and agricultural development is a problem in Dane County's farming communities
Existing agricultural buildings can be used for non-agricultural purposes (landscaping companies, barn venues, RV storage, etc.)
Dane County's farming communities should be low density residential
Dane County's farming communities should restrict policies to better guide growth
Dane County's farming communities should promote more non-agriculture commercial development
Farmers and other rural landowners should be able to sell their land for a limited amount of commercial development
Nonmetallic mining should be allowed in Dane County's farming communities

There was again a noticeable level of uncertainty in responses, with an average 12% of responses being 'Unsure'. The public survey returned support for agriculture in the county, with a specific notice to opposition to reuse of agricultural facilities for nonagricultural use.



## B. County Performance

To ensure that Dane County Planning Development is engaging in meaningful dialogues with communities, the following question is added to ensure that Dane County Planning and Development can get a gauge of performance from those who are directly affected by planning. This once again showed a high degree of uncertainty, with the largest group of responses being tied between 'Unsure' and 'Not enough planning, policies and ordinances directing development'.



Survey Respondents were invited to provide short form answers on how they viewed the future of agriculture in Dane County in the next 20 years. Of the 63 responses provided, Planning and Development Staff sorted and organized them into the table below:

<b>(1) Future of Farming</b>
<b>(a) Loss</b>
Urban sprawl is an issue; increasing traffic issues with farm equipment, increased light pollution and driving up land costs to new farmers.
I am concerned that valuable farmland will continue to be turned into residential development.
We have lost way too many small farms to high prices and not enough subsidies for them.
I'm concerned about the rate at which good farmland is being consumed for commercial development, and feel that we should be more aggressively protecting land from development, as well as encouraging urban agriculture even in smaller towns.
I'm worried about sprawl. We need to protect farmland from development. And encourage diversification and production of products to be consumed locally.
Small Scale
make land more accessible to small growers as land is very hard to obtain for the small market farmer, help the small family farms come back
The cost of farmland is prohibitively expensive and is preventing younger people from starting to farm, expand operations or to be able to take over the family farm. Housing developments are creeping too far outside of our small towns and greater density needs to be encouraged. Programs needs to be created to allow farmers to retire without having to sell off lots for McMansions or split acreage into 10-acre residential lots.
Encourage small family farms and discourage development and big agribusiness that destroy the environment.

I hope that people start to value nutrition and sustainability more in order to pay agricultural workers better wages.
We need to have local food options from food grown close to us. I hate all this commercial and residential development that steals land from wildlife and destroys nature.
Reduction in farming as the general production of food, increases in farming as either a lifestyle choice, or to support the desire for niche high-quality (generally expensive) foods in madison (farmer's market, organic, etc).
I would hope Dane County would support small (50 acres or less) locally owned farms, especially those using sustainable methods, rather than large corporate enterprise
There is a future for continuing the tradition of farming in Dane County with good planning. Farmers should be encouraged to adopt best practices to reduce the negative effects of tilling, over-fertilization and manure spreading. Tax incentives and financial help to adopt best practices and plant berms of beneficial plants in border areas would be great for both residential and farming land owners. I live in a residential area that borders farming, and if the field edges were maintained and best practices adopted in the farming, I would be pleased to have them next door. Organizations that pair homeowners with those who own farmland could be a good start in the dialogue. The tension will exist as residential areas are developed here in Dane County. Encouraging good compromises between the two types of land uses would be a great help to everyone.
Small and new farmers cannot afford farmland, even to rent. The handful of rich or established farmers snap up all farmland, especially where manure spreading is concerned. Digesters should be more widespread and take manure from more farmers, leaving land for new farmers to attempt to rent/buy. Encouraging manure produced in the watershed to leave the watershed simply pushes the problem elsewhere, and leads to extensive hauling on rural roads not meant to handle daily haul with large farm rigs. Also, manure spreading elsewhere is not considerate for those who purposefully live where large dairies are not prevalent (not small family herds- large 700+ dairies).

<b>(b) Cost</b>	
I think it will decline because people constantly Want to build and farmers don't make any money. Sad and scary	
Land is already way too expensive so farming is being pushed out of Dane County for all but the wealthiest farmers or those who already own land. Without protections on farmland, values will continue to increase and development will continue to encroach until nearly all the farmland is developed.	
Land Use	
Cities and Villages are taking too much farmland for housing	
Too much farmland is becoming housing and industrial parks.	
The cost of real estate is prohibitive and the farming community has an aging population problem. We should be using grants to help young farmers establish themselves, especially those who are looking to build sustainable and organic farming practices on tired land.	
Land is like gold. Good, healthy, living soil is even more valuable. Farming, at it's best, is a hard journey. Without community, support and appropriate policy it's almost impossible. Restoration agriculture can be the future.	

We need mixed use farm land. People need homes and strict townships and villages stand in the way. Yes, it's nice to have open spaces, but where will people live?

Currently, there seems to be a battle between preserving the status quo (preserving all farmland and conventional ways of doing agriculture) and allowing development to sprawl uncontrolled. I think the solution is somewhere in between.

Farming is an important part of our local economy and identity, and will continue to be vital to our regional well-being over the next 20 years and beyond. However, there is a need for more housing; and conventional farming practices are a significant contributor to water quality issues we experience in the region and climate change issues we are increasingly facing everywhere. While preserving quality farmland is important, there also needs to be more of a push toward sustainable agriculture practices that do more to protect water quality, improve soil health, and reduce emissions contributing to climate change. If done right, there is great potential for the farming industry to be a leader in our efforts toward a more sustainable and resilient future.

**(c) Pro-Agriculture**

I think agriculture is an indispensable asset for Dane County, not only for the revenue it generates and the beauty it creates, but also because it makes Dane County an enormous resource for a new generation of farmers. Agriculture has the unique potential to help fix the climate crisis by sequestering atmospheric carbon, and for that additional reason, Dane County's farmland should be preserved and its farmers supported in growing food in a climate-smart way. Dane County should expand its programs and staff to support sustainable agriculture through techniques such as agroforestry, low- or no-till, managed grazing, cover crops, and supporting soil microbiology. It should continue and expand its programs to ensure manure and nutrients are responsibly managed, not only for the health of our climate, but our air and water as well.

Local/Regional farming will become increasingly important in the coming years as fuel costs continue to rise. We need to increase urban ag and "victory"-style gardens. We need to encourage the pursuit of farming practices that conserve water and build soil, reducing toxic pesticides and herbicides, managing/integrating waste streams, and reinstalling wind breaks in fields to reduce erosion. Developers should not be allowed truck topsoil out of new housing developments. A strong formula should be used to balance housing development with shared green space including tree canopy to compensate for increased heat island effect, and with perennial food sources to support all residents.

Dane County is unique in having wonderful farmland with a City that can support a diverse array of agricultural enterprise. Dane County should do everything we can to continue to maintain that balance.

It's more how about how wrong it is to destroy some of the best food growing acreage on the planet.

Very short sighted!

**(d) Industrialization**

Farming seems to be an industry in slow decline with farmers struggling to earn enough from what they produce to make a good living (UNLESS you're a huge operation). Unfortunately, as



<p>farms become bigger and more industrialized, our environmental and public-health quality continues to go down. We need policies that benefit small, family-farming operations that adopt good conservation practices and not reward growth for its own sake.</p>
<p>Economically threatened due to high labor costs and continued consumer disinterest in paying for high value foods. However this may change with climate change, immigration, and international upheavals. I picture more small scale food producers moving to Dane County's surrounding areas enhancing the foodshed to Madison.</p>
<p>With all due respect, I think this short survey, while important and not completely relevant, has missed the PRIMARY issue: Industrialized Farming! Agriculture is NOT just industrialized farming: your survey makes no distinction and this is a fundamental mistake. We need to split the two and you will get different answers for both. The industrialized farmers want and need large tracks of contiguous land to operate at the industrial economies of scale the benefit them and their task-master corporations. Most Dane county citizens support "Agriculture" or "Farming" as a category, but do not support the large scale industrialize point sources of pollution and disease that we know with great scientific support that they are. This questionnaire (and Dane County Planning efforts) have unfortunately fallen very short of where it needs to be and is alienating the bulk of the "informed" public that understands the issue is not about Ag or not-Ag but about the type of Ag.</p>
<p>Gone are the days of family farms. I see more corporations taking over farming.</p>
<p>Not good. Only rich farmers will be left. They sell high and buy land from small or retiring farmers. Small farms won't exist</p>
<p>My feelings are mixed. I think land access support for beginning farmers should be part of any farmland preservation plan. I am disheartened by consolidation, our addiction to corn and soy and increased cost of entry for farmers regardless of scale/size of operation. Housing is also a limiting factor.</p>
<p>I would love to see sustainable farming embraced as a part of Dane County, and I think that the way to do this is through government policies that support farmers transitioning away from monocropping and industrial farming.</p>
<p>It will only be affordable for the larger farmers, the medium to small farmers will not be able to keep up to land costs or land rent price increases.</p>

<p><b>(e) <u>Anti-Animal Agriculture</u></b></p>
<p>Important for the economy, but farming has to get cleaner. Runoff and emissions are serious problems for the community. Incentivize shifts to non-animal agriculture.</p>
<p>CLA should separate dairy and other animal agriculture from non-animal agriculture when analyzing and reporting upon the future of farming in Dane County. Studies from the U.N., environmental organizations, and universities show that animal agriculture is not sustainable. CLA should support policies that encourage farmers to transition away from animal agriculture. Thanks for the work that you do.</p>
<p>I think the emphasis should be on vegetable and plant farming, not large-scale meat. Also, worry about the environmental effects these animal farms have.</p>
<p><b>(f) <u>Organics</u></b></p>
<p>More natural (organic) practices! Less pesticides!!!</p>

Urban sprawl without much planning is detrimental however, pesticides, herbicides use and synthetic fertilizers are equally detrimental to the health of the environment and people
I would want no new CAFOs and more organic plant farming.
The focus needs to be on regenerative farming and providing resources to farmers to transition from the current model to one that is more diverse and maintains the health of the land

**(g) Sustainability**

I want to see Dane County lead the country in sustainable farming and agriculture, in the same way it does for climate forward policy. I also want to see more pursuits of climate forward infrastructure on farms, such as wind turbines and solar panel installation, such as was done for the Koshkonong Solar Energy Center.
climate change will disrupt farming everywhere
end it in the watershed & stop polluting the lakes
I think that all farming in Dane County should transition to regenerative farming with sustainable methods of farming that reduce runoff and flooding.

**(h) Planning**

<p>I think Dane County needs to be much more proactive in envisioning holistically how it wants to protect its future of farming over the next 20 years and beyond, and pursue policy strategies that promote this vision. I would like to see farming continue to be a core part of Dane County's future, but we are currently not doing nearly enough proactive planning and policy making to ensure that future. Instead, sprawling commercial and residential development are rapidly consuming farmland and farmland is severely unaffordable for beginning farmers, particularly for small farmers who are pursuing alternative and small-scale agriculture. They cannot possibly compete with developers or wealthy retirees hoping for a rural lifestyle without major financial assistance.</p> <p>Moreover, not all farming is equal--Dane County should strongly pursue policies and incentives to promote environmentally sustainable and just farming practices such as organic, regenerative, and diversified agriculture. This means thinking through a whole array of issues, including affordability of farmland, support for helping farmers convert land from conventional to sustainable operations, support for BIPOC farmers, support for more alternative business models such as farm incubators and farm cooperatives (see Poudre Valley Community Farms), Smart growth regulations to encourage infill, density, walkability, and redevelopment in existing communities and density bonus-type strategies for new rural developments, and support for conservation easements and other strategies that preserve in perpetuity our open and working lands for agriculture and conservation.</p> <p>A few comments specific to the survey questions:</p> <p>- Dane County's farming communities should restrict policies to better guide growth -- this question seems confusing, but just to be clear, I feel that Dane County's farming communities should absolutely NOT restrict policies to guide better growth--they should be encouraging those policies!</p>
--

- Dane County's farming communities should be low density residential -- This depends. In towns, development should be high-density residential and concentrated in towns, focused on walkability and promoting LOCAL business, not chains. But outside of towns, encouraging as little development as possible, and as much farmland preservation as possible, seems like the way to go. I suppose if new development needs to happen outside of towns, it would be best for houses to be clustered in new developments to preserve as much open space as possible (the density bonus thing).

- Dane County's farming communities should promote more non-agriculture commercial development -- Again, this depends. If the commercial development was for things like food distribution hubs and local meat and dairy processors, then YES, that would be great. And other businesses that promote local food systems would be great. But Dane County should focus on promoting other non-local commercial development/redevelopment IN existing towns and cities, not doing greenfield development. Ultimately, they should aim for steady-state economy rather than a growth economy.

- Most new development should occur adjacent to areas which are already developed -- Again, just wanted to clarify that new development should be mitigated and density and infill/redevelopment should be the priority, NOT new development. But I suppose that if new development occurs, it is best being adjacent to areas that are already developed rather than in new areas. This, however, requires a holistic county-wide plan so it doesn't just turn into endless tack-ons in suburban sprawl communities like is happening on the west side of Madison out Mineral Pt Road towards Middleton. As new development happens, it really needs to focus on mixed use to avoid the fate of driving-oriented suburb-scape.

- Agricultural businesses should be promoted in Dane County's farming communities -- Again, this depends. LOCAL/regional and sustainable agricultural businesses such as Seed Savers should be promoted, but big ag business including large corporate seed/chemical companies like Syngenta and Bayer should NOT be promoted. This form of agriculture has no place in our world's future, as they are decimating our pollinator populations and destroying environmental and human health.

I feel like development is chipping away at the important historical, economic, and cultural role agriculture plays in Dane County, and that future is in jeopardy in the next 20 years. I think this is a pivotal time that we will look back at with appreciation or regret.

There is a conflict of interests between the big areas of farming, commercial development, and housing. We have to have planning and policy that take all of these into account, and that cover the full county area. This is critical so that we can achieve multiple goals including preserving vital farmland and developing housing and commercial efforts in an efficient and useful way. CARPC has just completed a comprehensive planning framework that should be reviewed and adopted (fully or to a large degree). It would be a huge missed opportunity not to make use of the CARPC efforts and insight.

<p>Agriculture certainly plays a role in the identity of Dane County and provides many benefits to the residents like green space. It isn't without downsides though. I certainly don't want all of Dane County to become like the suburbs of Chicago with constant strip malls but I don't believe tax payer dollars should go to subsidizing farmers who don't care for natural resources or therefore have an unfair advantage in the economy or their industry.</p>
<p>The future of farming in Dane county doesn't look good. Dane county says that they are preserving farmland by buying it and putting it into parks. That is not saving farmland when it is never farmed again. That is not helping the farming community by taking away more farmland.</p>
<p>Alarmed about the degree of sprawl over last 20 years and concerned that current policies are not strong enough to limit commercial and high density residential development in farmland.</p>
<p>Will further decline due to regulations and government oversight and suburban growth pressures</p>
<p>Farming is important to protect, but Madison and Dane County as a whole are growing rapidly. Restricting development through farmland preservation won't do anything long-term other than price farmers out of the area. They should be able to sell to whomever whenever.</p>
<p>too much hopscotched development puts too much pressure on farms to sell for higher development prices</p>
<p>If we don't preserve farmland, Dane County will be all city and suburbs.</p>
<p>20 years is impossible to predict. And "farming" is a very, very broad endeavor that makes generalizations both difficult and dangerous. That said, a few thoughts.</p>
<p>Socioeconomic trends likely will continue to pressure long-term farm operations and ownership. The two biggest matters are the cost of land and the social acceptance of agriculture neighbors. The cost of land can be mitigated by adequate farmland preservation programs (more robust than today's). The social acceptance is best mitigated by keeping residential areas and agricultural areas as distinct as possible. Slow creeping "infestations" of residential enclaves can be very detrimental to ongoing ag. operations.</p>
<p>Dane County is already a pretty urban county. The growth pressure will likely continue. Current policies lead to distributed housing which still consume farmland.</p>
<p>the policies have of Dane County have pushed out agriculture in the county. The county continually purchasing farmland is competing with the farming community for land base and increasing farmland pricing.</p>

<p><b>(i)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Renewables</u></b></p>
<p>Christiana township, for example, is losing valuable crop land to admittedly needed solar installations. In the later 70's to 80's, Time Magazine included the soil of the township among the nation's top ten. That's an irreplaceable loss, and farmland owners are tempted by the dollar gain of selling the property rights. Somehow landowners need a financial reason to resist short term gain. Certainly there are similar financial pressures behind sales of valuable tillable lands.</p>	
<p>Not a positive outlook. Burying farm land under Chinese solar panels is a poor use of resources</p>	

<b>(j) Misc</b>	
	likely to be squeezed out
	Insufficient knowledge to form opinion.
	Many change

Survey Respondents were invited to provide short form questions/comments on any questions/comments/concerns regarding agriculture and the Farmland Preservation Plan. Of the 47 responses provided, Planning and Development Staff sorted and organized them into the table below:

<b>(2) What Else do You Want us to Know?</b>	
<b>(a) Organics</b>	
	Please use less pesticides!
<b>(b) Non-Animal Ag</b>	
	How are we pursuing a shift toward non animal agriculture (from animal agriculture) in Dane County?
	Preserve Ag Land that is willing to adhere via CUP to Clean Agriculture and place monitoring devices through our our rural communities to counter the large scale deception that is pushed by Dairy CAFOs in Dane County. Please officials at Dane County Planning, get informed and get on the right side of this issue!
<b>(c) Farmer Attitudes</b>	
	I am curious to know how family farmers in Dane County feel about their prospects: whether they see a secure future for their family businesses, or whether they feel under threat from large agricultural corporations, or urban creep. I am also curious what supports there are to help the next generation of farmers gain a secure foothold, especially those seeking to farm in an ecologically- and socially-responsible way.
<b>(d) Small Scale Ag</b>	
	How small urban farms fit into the plan
<b>(e) Misc</b>	
	Just a note that this specific question is very poorly worded. I want to preserve natural resources, but spending taxpayer dollars to preserve farmland just because it's been farmland in the past makes no sense to me: "Dane County should be using taxpayer dollars to preserve farmland and natural resources"
	Quite a bit. I am a retired beef farmer from Grant County so I pay attention to farm matters in Dane county where I now live.
	Hasn't stopped loss of farm lane
	Thanks for doing this update.
	Very little after taking this survey.
	A little.
	I need to know much more about it.
	Overall direction over next few years.

Little too nothing at all.
Not much.
Not sure. Thanks for this survey.
I don't know anything about this.
I'm from a long-standing farming family, but not a farmer myself.
already very familiar. own a 'split.'
Sustainability
Why do we often the put the interests of the agricultural industry above the public's interest in clean water? Sometimes you can't have both if "business as usual" means our water quality continues to suffer.
How are we encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable practices?
With an abundance of food waste everywhere, how much land is actually needed to produce enough to feed everyone? Does the Plan do anything to address food waste?
What conservation practices are mandatory and to what extent nutrient management plans are followed or enforced.
How much is being done (financially and educational) to support the adoption of better practices in farming? No till, manure composting, mixed prairie berms at the edges of fields, understanding fertilization needs, considering alternative crops for animal feed, etc.
I want to know how they intend to preserve the land properly and steward it to keep it sustained.
Would like to see the preservation of productive soils encouraged.
I want to know that sustainable farming will take precedence over other land use needs. There are plenty of other places for people live, and plenty of ways of preserving the land.
<b>(f) Cost</b>
How will the county encourage and support an increase in locally produced food supplies to ensure sufficient food supplies in a future where more people are unable to afford foods imported from outside the county/state/country due to volatility in the cost of food due to an increase in catastrophic climate events and increased fuel prices?
That they care about the people and environment, and not just making the big bucks.
Having cattle and complying with the rules doesn't pay enough
<b>(g) Process</b>
There is a huge disconnect between what the land owners requirements are to receive farmland preservation. This is not a money making venture for the owners if they follow the rules. Nutrient management plans are not written for free and they don't understand conservation plans need to be followed. Why can't this be better/more clearly communicated????????
Areas designated for preservation, strategies to incentivize preservation over development.
What Dane County is doing to promote regenerative farming practices
How to recertify for farmland preservation.
Which farms are benefiting from the programs?
Will it be able to stop urban growth into prime lands for farming?

I would like to know the status of Purchase of Agriculture Conservation Easements and pursuing tax incremental financing and/or tax breaks for farmland transfer to non-family members. I would also like to know more about what plans are for farmland transition to non-family members.
How is the plan impacting current big farm practices now?
how are you going to promote continued farming with housing needs and development pressures? see 1998 "Exploring Natural and Cultural Patterns: Crafting Dane County's Future."
What provisions are in place to save farmland for future farming?
I would like to know to the goals of the current Farmland Preservation Plan and what the county's hopes are for the new plan.
Looking for transparency in how resources are spent and what goals the plan hands in types and kinds of farms to preserve.

<b>(h)</b>	<b><u>Involvement</u></b>
	Where to learn more.
	Please keep the public informed about opportunities to participate in these farmland preservation planning processes!
	I'd like to know what I can do to help protect our farmland (and adjacent wild areas).
	General info.
	Upcoming community meetings.
	I don't know much about it, I am interested in learn more.

