



DANE COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Room 116, City-County Building, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
Fax (608) 267-1540

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Standing, Senior Planner

FROM: Olivia Parry, Economic Development Specialist

RE: Potential County Incentives for Agricultural Enterprise Areas

CC: Todd Violante, Director
Topf Wells, Chief of Staff
Chuck Hicklin, County Comptroller
Dave Merritt, Director of Policy Development

DATE: January 11, 2010

*Housing &
Economic Development*
(608)266-4270, Rm. 362

Planning
(608)266-4251, Rm. 116

Records & Support
(608)266-4251, Rm. 116

Zoning
(608)266-4266, Rm. 116

You recently asked me if there were county economic development resources that could be used to create incentives for farmers to form Agricultural Enterprise Areas under ss. 91.84 and 91.86, Wis. Stats. I have discussed this issue with Chief of Staff Topf Wells and County Comptroller Chuck Hicklin, and would suggest that the following policies be reviewed as part of any proposed amendments to the *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan*, the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*, or both:

- Dane County could make available Revolving Loan Funds for agricultural and related business creation or expansion in certified Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs).
- Because Dane County is a Recovery Zone under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the county could make Recovery Zone Facility Bonds available for projects that fit the criteria for bond issue within AEAs. Projects would have to be substantial in order to meet cost/benefit requirements.
- Dane County works with the WI Department of Commerce and the Workforce Development Board of South Central WI through their business programs for manufacturing and food processing, as well as job training. Many of these resources could also be made available to farmers in Agricultural Enterprise Areas.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who might be interested. Let me know if you would like to discuss these or other ideas in further detail.