



Winnebago County

415 Jackson Street
Oshkosh, WI 54901

The Wave of the Future

Mr. Rod Nilsestuen
Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911

4 April 2007

Dear Mr. Nilsestuen,

We would like to express our thanks for providing leadership and support to the recent Growing Wisconsin workshops. We had a good representation from Winnebago County at the workshop in Kimberly, and it was well received. In fact, it generated a lot of new enthusiasm for looking at tools to protect our remaining farmland.

We are writing now because we are interested in asking Scott Everett to come and speak to our County Planning Department, County Board, and interested stakeholders in the county about the realities of developing a workable farmland preservation program in Winnebago County. The County Planning and Zoning Committee has charged staff with moving ahead 'carefully' to investigate feasibility and community interest. We feel that Scott's expertise, experience and guidance would serve us well as we are doing so.

We understand from the Growing Wisconsin workshop coordinators that there have been preliminary discussions regarding solidifying a long term relationship with Mr. Everett that would allow him to provide the assistance in which we are interested. We encourage you to seriously consider facilitating a formal relationship with Mr. Everett and the American Farmland Trust as appropriate, as momentum has been built and we feel that Winnebago County would greatly benefit from working with him.

Thank you for considering our request. We appreciate your untiring work looking for options to protect our working agriculture land and look forward to hearing a response.

Sincerely,

Joe Maehl, Chair
County Ag, Extension and
Education Committee

John Schaidler, Chair
Planning and Zoning Committee

Nancy Barker, Chair
Land and Water Conservation
Committee

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