



November 23, 2016

Subject: Agricultural land use opportunities in the City of Fitchburg – Local Food Production Workshop – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 6, Fitchburg Room, Fitchburg City Hall, 5510 Lacy Road

Dear Sir or Madam:

The City of Fitchburg is exploring ways to provide additional agricultural land use opportunities for land owners in the City. The City has recently played a role in partnering landowners with small-scale agricultural growers in need of land to produce their commodities. The aforementioned landowners have small “fingers” of land within larger agricultural land parcels. Due to the difficulty in getting larger agricultural implements in these “fingers”, landowners have rented out these areas to small-scale agricultural growers. See images to the right for examples of agricultural land “fingers” (highlighted in red). **Rents paid to landowners by small-scale agriculture growers is approximately two times the rent paid for corn and soybean production.**



As such, the City’s Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will be hosting a Local Food Production workshop at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 6, Fitchburg Room, Fitchburg City Hall, 5510 Lacy Road, to provide more information to landowners potentially interested in renting out portions of their agricultural lands to small-scale growers. Please see the reverse side of this letter for a Workshop Agenda. The City has done some preliminary research to identify agricultural land “finger” areas in the City. You are receiving this notice as it appears you own one of these areas, or have shown a past interest in local food production.



Workshop activities will include a short presentation by City staff, and staff from organizations that could potentially serve as a “land manager”, managing small-scale growers and taking care of all related logistics (if desired by the landowner). Additionally, City landowners that have rented out their land to small-scale growers in the recent past will provide their perspective on this experience.

For further information on the workshop, please contact Wade Thompson, the City’s Resource/Project Planner, at 608.270.4258 or wade.thompson@fitchburgwi.gov. And please extend this workshop notice to anyone you think may be interested in attending.

We thank you for your time and hope to see you at the workshop.

Sincerely,

Ed Kinney, Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Wade Thompson
Resource Project Planner



Administrative Offices
5520 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711-5318
Phone: (608) 270-4200 Fax (608) 270-4275
www.fitchburgwi.gov

AGENDA

Local Food Production Workshop – Landowner and Grower Partnerships
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
December 6, 2016
Community Center - Fitchburg Room
7:00 PM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the City of Fitchburg, Dane County, Wisconsin will hold a meeting on **Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM** in the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 for the purposes of:

(Note: Full coverage of this meeting is available through FACTv and Streaming Video, accessible on the city web site at <http://factv.fitchburgwi.gov/Cablecast/Public/Main.aspx?ChannelID=3>)

1. Introductions
2. Overview of Recent City Initiatives and Activities
3. Potential Land Manager Role
4. Landowner Testimonials
5. Question and Answer Session

Note: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI 53711, (608) 270-4200