

Resolution No. **-//07**
Walworth County Comprehensive Land Use and Farmland Preservation

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Agriculture and Extension Education Committee

2
3 **WHEREAS**, 2178 acres of agricultural land has been converted to nonagricultural use in
4 Walworth County from 2002 to 2005; and,

5
6 **WHEREAS**, in Walworth County agriculture accounts for \$433 million in economic activity,
7 provides for 4,279 jobs, contributes \$147.2 million to the county's total income and pays about
8 \$14.1 million in taxes not including all property taxes paid to local schools; and,

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Walworth County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 1974 created prime
11 agricultural districts with a minimum 35-acre parcel size for the purpose of preserving farmland
12 and the County continued this commitment by becoming the first county in the state to have its
13 Agriculture Preservation Plan certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and
14 Consumer Protection in 1978; and,

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the preservation of prime agricultural lands as recommended by the Land Use Plan
17 for Walworth County Wisconsin: 2020, approved in 2001, provides the following benefits to
18 Walworth County:

- 19 • Protects the environment by providing storm-water retention, flood control,
20 ground water recharge, and a buffer for wildlife habitat
- 21 • Preserves areas for agriculture that can help avoid conflicts which may arise
22 between farm operations and abutting residential areas
- 23 • Helps avoid adverse impacts of urban development on existing farm operations
- 24 • Helps maintain an important sector of the county's economy
- 25 • Helps control public service costs in rural areas
- 26 • Helps avoid the need to extend urban services to scattered, isolated urban
27 enclaves
- 28 • Helps to preserve productive soils—an irreplaceable resource
- 29 • Helps maintain the scenic beauty, rural character, and cultural heritage of the
30 County

31
32 and,

33
34 **WHEREAS**, the plan allows for controlled development while preserving working farmland and
35 natural areas in Walworth County, preserves the rural character, agricultural base, and natural
36 resources of the countryside and contributes to the high quality of life and prosperity of the
37 communities. This plan reaffirms the longstanding commitment to the preservation of prime
38 farmland in the County; and,

39
40 **WHEREAS**, the plan identifies and plans for growth in communities within the County that
41 have the infrastructure and physical characteristics to sustain development while protecting and
42 preserving the natural resources and rural character of A-1 lands,

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
2 recognizes and supports the premise that farmland preservation must be strengthened by
3 comprehensive land use planning that includes a mechanism of enforcement within local land
4 use regulatory arenas, including the ability of the local government to implement sound land use
5 and development policies through zoning and land division regulations, capital improvement
6 planning, infrastructure and facilities siting, environmental regulations, and other decisions.

7
8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Walworth County will adhere to the provisions of the 2020
9 Land Use Plan as approved, to retain land classes I, II, and III on the USDA-NRCS land
10 capability maps as prime farmlands as identified in 1978 by the Walworth County Agriculture
11 Preservation Plan.

12
13
14 _____
15 Nancy Russell
16 County Board Chairperson

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

17
18
19 County Board Meeting Date:

20
21 Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote _____ Other _____

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.
Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

David A. Bretl Date
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen Date
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

Policy and Fiscal Note
Resolution No. **--06**

- I. Title:** Walworth County Comprehensive Land Use and Farmland Preservation
- II. Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** Support the 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan of Walworth County and its plans for farmlands of the county
- III. Budget and Fiscal Impact:** No impact on the budget
- IV. Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**
- Committee: Ag and Extension Education Meeting Date: July 16, 2007
- Vote: 6-0
- County Board Meeting Date: October 9, 2007

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

David A. Bretl Date
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen Date
Deputy County Administrator - Finance