



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Tony Evers

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Bradley M. Pfaff, Secretary

DATE: September 19, 2019

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Farmland Preservation Program

SUBJECT: Report on AEAs recommended for designation in 2019

The Agricultural Enterprise Area evaluation team met on July 18, 2019 to review three AEA petitions received during this petition cycle. The team recommend the designation of the South Fork AEA, Clark County, Bear Creek AEA, Sauk County and Castle Rock AEA, Grant County.

Table 1: *AEAs recommended for designation*

AEA Name	Approximate number of acres	Number of petitioners	AEA Location County and <i>Town(s)</i>
South Fork	20,417.88	27	Clark County, <i>Mead and Reseburg</i>
Bear Creek	30,691	7	Sauk County, <i>Bear Creek</i>
Castle Rock	23,040	7	Grant County, <i>Castle Rock</i>

Summary of AEAs statewide

Designation of the recommended AEAs is completed by departmental order, with notification of the order posted in the state newspaper. Following notification, the designation takes effect on January 1, 2020. After designation of the three successful petitions there will be 40 AEAs in the state totaling 1,388,667 acres. The AEAs are located in portions of 27 counties, 112 towns and the Bad River Reservation (See Attachment B).

Attachment A: Summary of the 2019 AEAs recommended for designation

Attachment B: Map of designated and recommended AEAs

*Agriculture generates \$88 billion for Wisconsin*

2811 Agriculture Drive • PO Box 8911 • Madison, WI 53708-8911 • Wisconsin.gov

An equal opportunity employer

## **Attachment A: Summary of the 2018 AEAs recommended for designation**

### **South Fork AEA**

#### **Overview**

- Clark County, Towns of Mead and Reseburg
- 20,417.88 acres
- 27 petitioners
- Dairy, grain (soybeans and corn), corn silage, hay (alfalfa)

#### **Goals**

- Assess resource quality and quantity, implement methods to increase function and usability in the economy and environment
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to meet soil and water conservation standards
- Implement strategies to minimize rural residential development
- Maintain natural resources for recreational and agricultural use
- Create the largest contiguous block of working lands as is possible
- Retain and enhance existing agricultural-based businesses by reinvesting in the agricultural economy

#### **Items of Note**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> AEA in Clark County, first AEA to extend eligibility to participate in farmland preservation in the western, broadly unzoned, portion of the county

### **Beak Creek AEA**

#### **Overview**

- Sauk County, Town of Bear Creek
- 30,691 acres
- 7 petitioners
- Corn silage, grain (corn), hay (alfalfa), dairy, rotational grazing

#### **Goals**

- Preserve and maintain existing land uses, provide for future land uses that will promote balance among property values, environmental protection and economic opportunity
- Grow and promote locally grown produce through direct marketing or through sales to local co-ops
- Grow the mindset of regenerative farming practices
- Educate landowners on the importance of fair rental prices to producers who follow conservation practices

**Items of Note**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> AEA in Sauk County, petition demonstrated distinct conservation emphasis

**Castle Rock AEA****Overview**

- Grant County, Town of Castle Rock
- 23,040 acres
- 7 petitioners
- Dairy, beef, grain (corn, soybeans), hay (alfalfa)

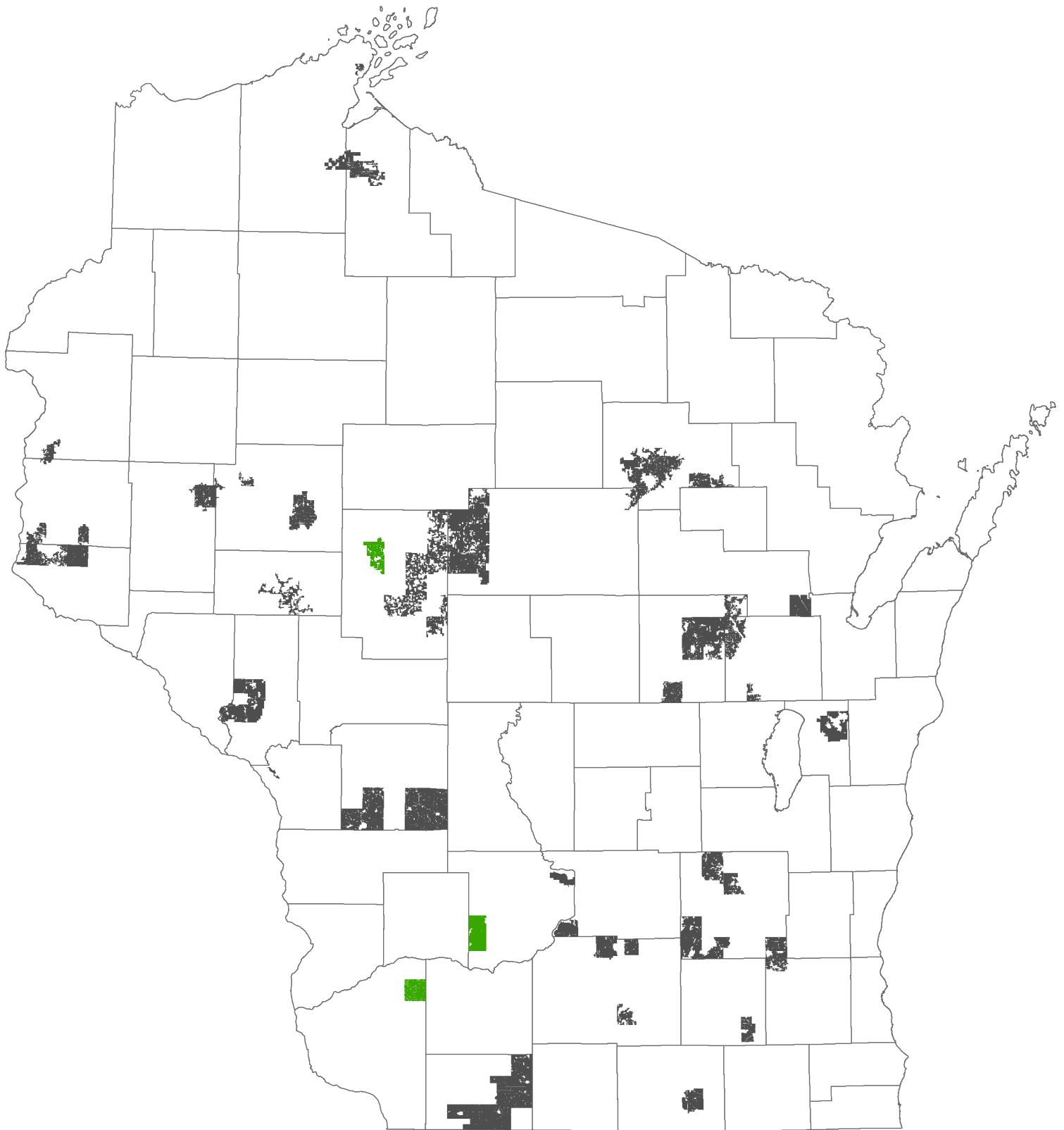
**Goals**




- Allow current farmland preservation agreement holders to continue to participate in the farmland preservation program, encourage new participation in the area
- Protect the 6 class I and class II trout streams in the Blue River Watershed
- Protect the Snow Bottom State Natural Area
- Encourage sustained agricultural practices, promote upland best management practices

**Items of Note**

- 1<sup>st</sup> AEA in Grant County, 1<sup>st</sup> unzoned township in the county to participate in the farmland preservation program (outside of planning)

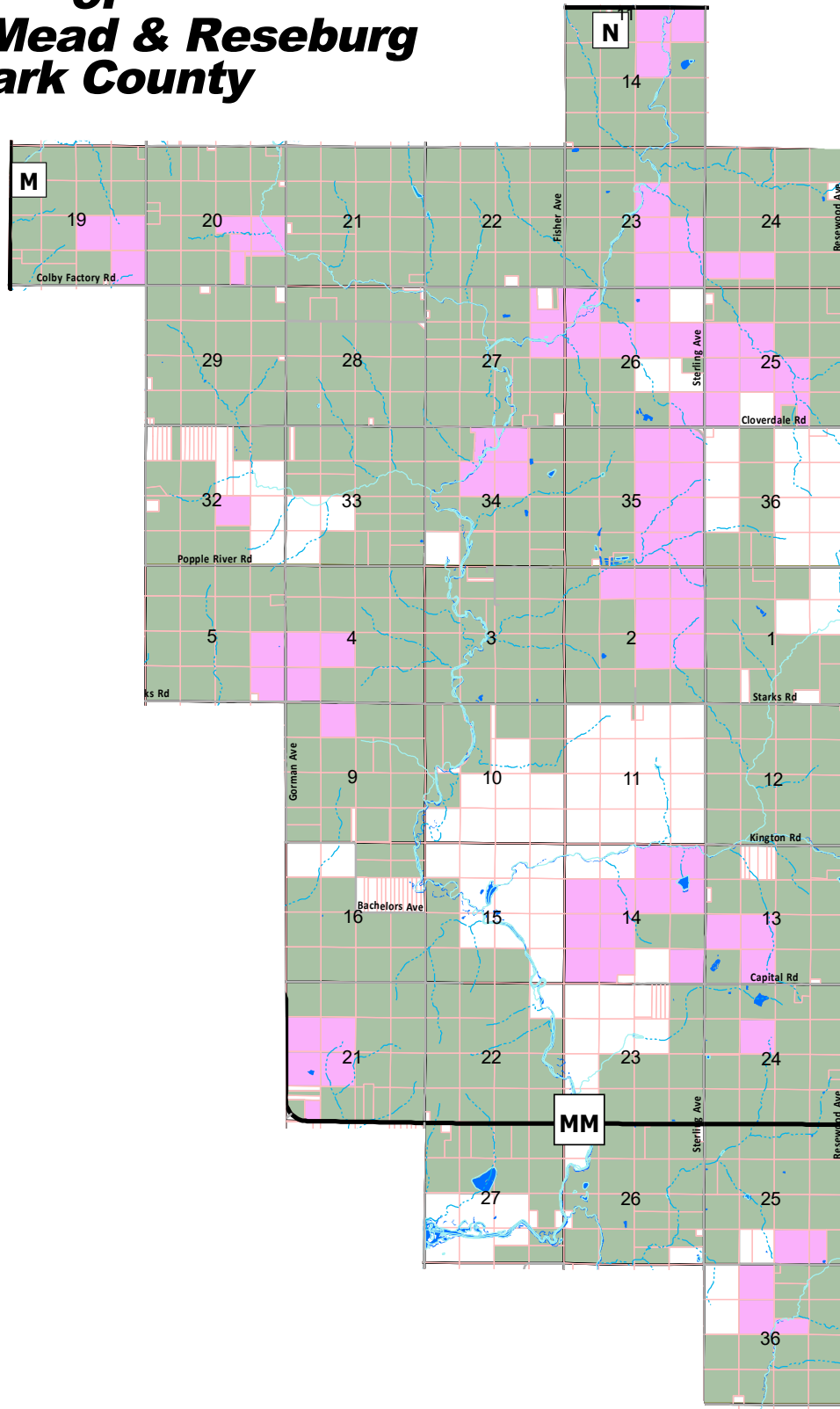
# Attachment B. Proposed Agricultural Enterprise Areas 2019



-  Proposed AEAs (2019)
-  Existing AEAs
-  County Boundary



# South Fork Agricultural Enterprise Area of Town of Mead & Reeseburg Clark County

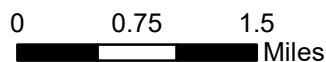


1:76,389 Map Scale



Map provided by the  
Clark County Land Conservation Department  
517 Court Street, Room 102  
Neillsville, WI 54456

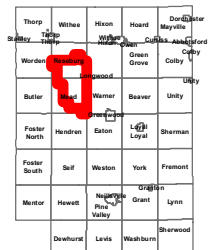
Map Information prepared by the Clark County Land Information Department. Information is believed correct but is ADVISORY only. It is based on public records believed to be reliable, but Clark County distributes this information on an 'AS IS' basis. No warranties are implied.



### Legend

- County Rd
- Town Rd
- Intermittent Streams
- Perennial Streams
- Waterbodies
- Parcels
- County Sections
- Township Boundary
- South Fork AEA
- Petitioning Landowner Parcels

### Clark County

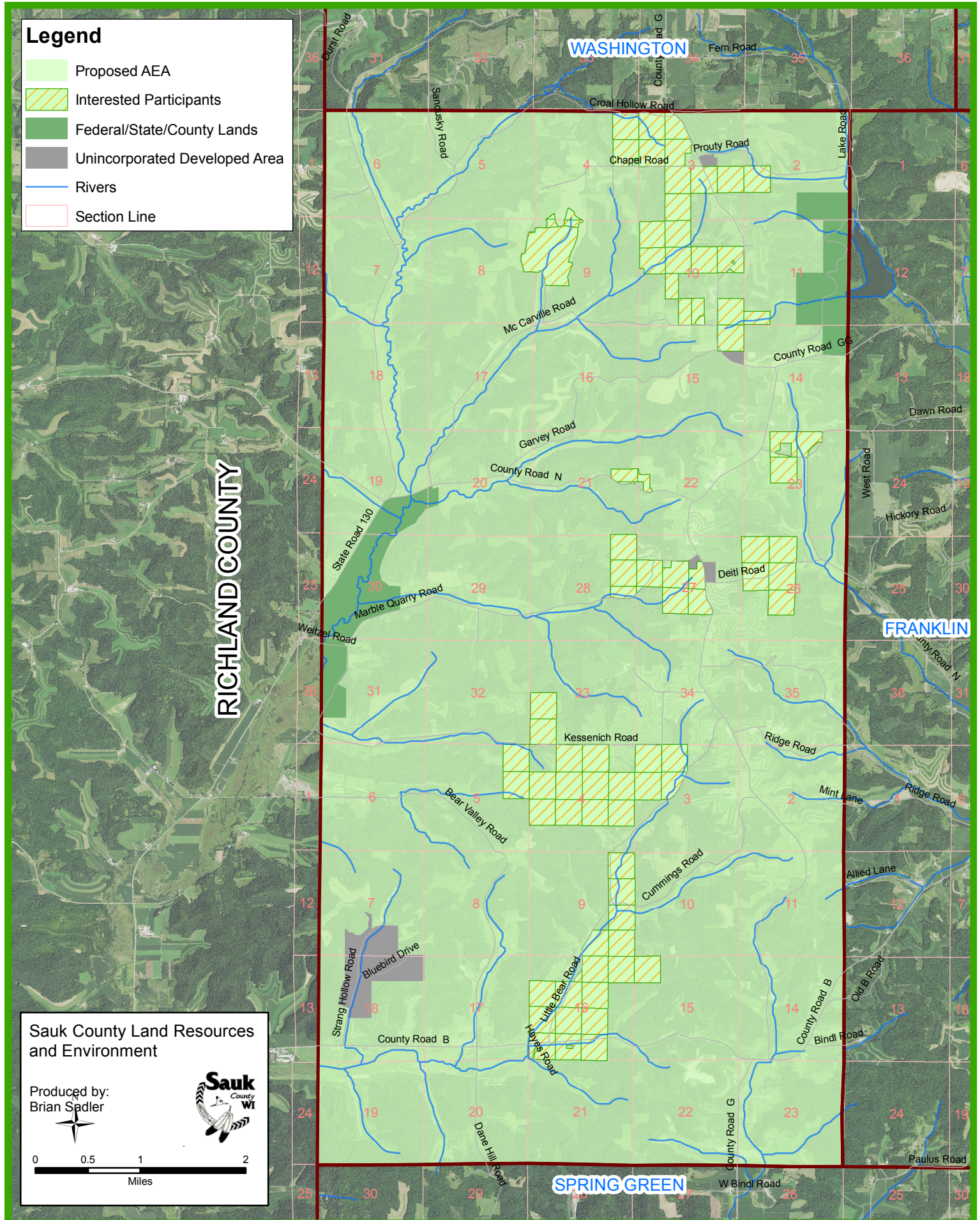




# BEAR CREEK AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE AREA - TOTAL ACRES 30,691

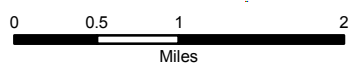
## Legend

- Proposed AEA
- Interested Participants
- Federal/State/County Lands
- Unincorporated Developed Area
- Rivers
- Section Line



Sauk County Land Resources and Environment

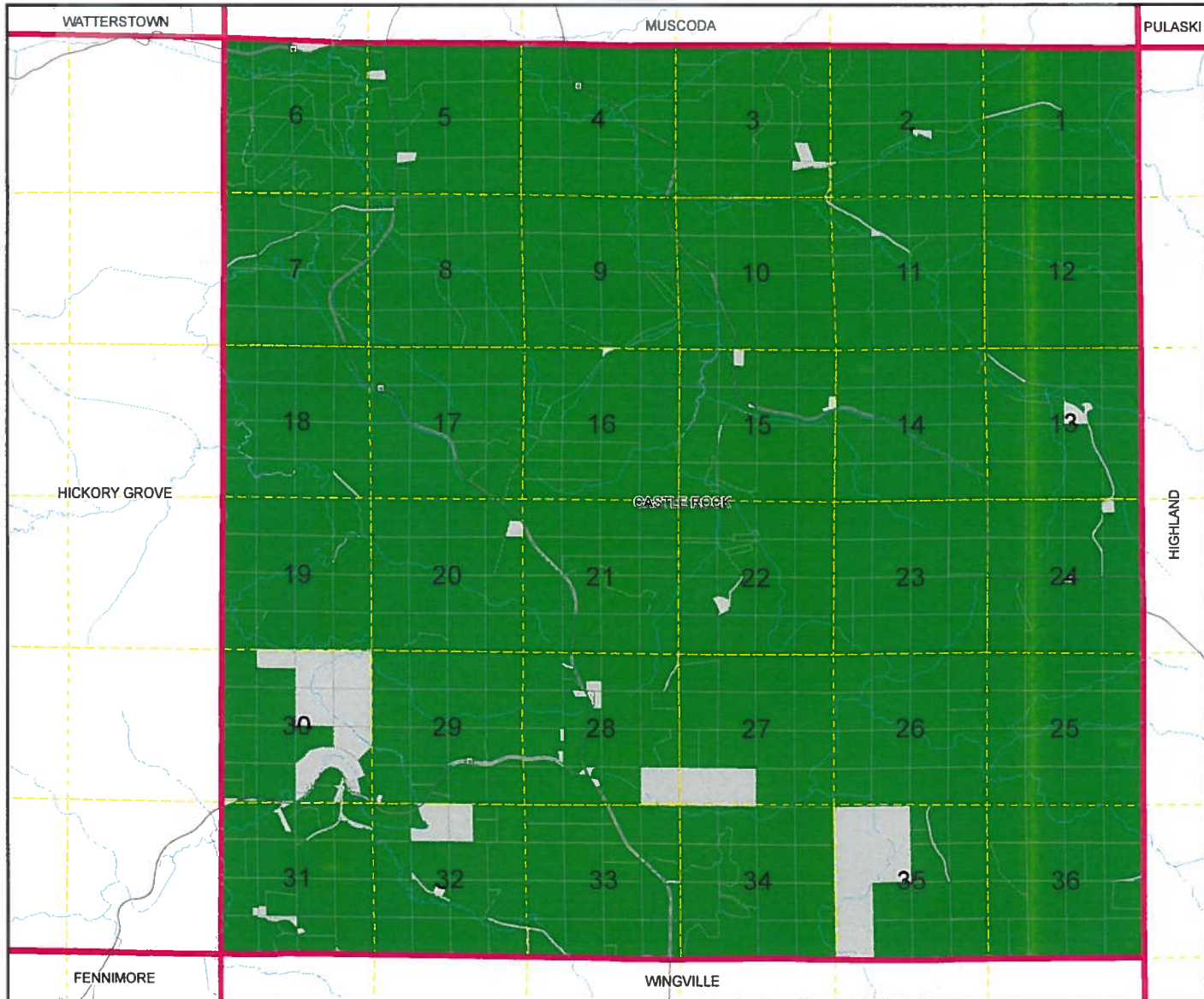
Produced by:  
Brian Sadler





# Town of Castle Rock: Agricultural Enterprise Area

Grant County, WI



## Legend

### Eligibility

- Yes
- No
- US Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Municipal Boundaries
- PLSS Sections
- River or Stream

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a technical survey and is not intended to be one. JWWSPC is not responsible for any encroachments herein contained.

Sources: Grant County's Municipalities, Grant County Zoning Department, WI DNR, JWWSPC Inventory

June 21, 2019



0 0.25 0.5 Miles