

# Preserving Agricultural Land

Association of Minnesota Counties  
2009 Annual Conference

# Speakers

- Marcia Ward - Winona County Commissioner
- Joe Harris – Dakota County Commissioner
- Leigh Lenzmeier – Stearns County Commiss.
- Jack Russek – Wright County Commissioner
- Jean Coleman – CR Planning - Moderator

# Benefits of Farmland Protection

- Meet community goals
- Preserve economic diversity
- Protect community character and history
- Reduce pressure to develop
- Reduce tax burden
- Lower costs of farming
- Reduce conflicts between farmers and rural non-farm residents

# Types of Farmland Protection Tools

- Policy
  - Comprehensive plan
  - Economic development
- Incentives
  - Tax relief
    - Green Acres
  - Purchase of development rights (PDR)
  - Transfer of development rights (TDR)

# Types of Farmland Protection Tools

- Regulation
  - Agricultural protection zoning districts
  - Minnesota Agricultural District Program
  - Limits on siting of structures
- Economic Development
  - Right to farm laws
  - Cooperative marketing
- Something new in Minnesota?

# County Profiles

- Why is your county interested in protecting farmland?
- What are the threats to farmland?
- What policies, programs, or efforts has your county undertaken to protect farmland?
- Are they working?

# Question for AMC

---

- What action should AMC pursue to protect agricultural land?