

APPENDIX III
Columbia County Comprehensive Plan 2046
Public Participation

- Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results
- Columbia County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Summary of Meetings & Public Participation
- Columbia County Comprehensive Plan 2046 and Farmland Preservation Plan Summary of Meetings & Participation
- Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY RESULTS COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Columbia County Planning and Zoning Department
October, 2003

2,300 Surveys Sent

1,022 Surveys Returned

44.4% Return Rate

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. How would you describe your feelings about Columbia County as a place to live? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a.	Very Favorable	297	29.17%
b.	Favorable	604	59.33%
c.	Neutral	102	10.02%
d.	Unfavorable	11	1.08%
e.	Very Unfavorable	4	0.39%
Total Responses		1,018	100.00%
2. Over the last five years how do you feel the quality of life has changed in Columbia County? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a.	Gotten much better	21	2.19%
b.	Gotten slightly better	227	23.65%
c.	Stayed the same	488	50.83%
d.	Gotten slightly worse	206	21.46%
e.	Gotten much worse	18	1.88%
Total Responses		960	100.00%
3. The 2000 population of Columbia County was approximately 52,468. How would you like to see the population change in the next 10 years? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a.	Become smaller	58	5.73%
b.	Remain about the same size	365	36.07%
c.	Grow slowly and become slightly larger	395	39.03%
d.	Grow moderately and become larger	134	13.24%
e.	Grow rapidly and become much larger	12	1.19%
f.	No opinion	48	4.74%
Total Responses		1,012	100.00%
4. What is your opinion of the following qualities in Columbia County? Looking at the scale below, CIRCLE THE NUMBER AFTER EACH SUBJECT that reflects your opinion about that subject.			
A. Rural Character			
1	– Extremely Dissatisfied	14	1.40%
2	– Slightly Dissatisfied	90	8.99%
3	– Neutral	233	23.28%
4	– Slightly Satisfied	380	37.96%
5	– Extremely Satisfied	284	28.37%
Total Responses		1,001	100.00%
B. Presence of Farmland			
1	– Extremely Dissatisfied	36	3.63%
2	– Slightly Dissatisfied	110	11.10%
3	– Neutral	201	20.28%
4	– Slightly Satisfied	350	35.32%
5	– Extremely Satisfied	294	29.67%
Total Responses		991	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

C. Access to Lakes			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		20	1.99%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		105	10.45%
3 – Neutral		320	31.84%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		319	31.74%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		241	23.98%
	Total Responses	1,005	100.00%
D. Neighbors/Friendly People			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		19	1.88%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		73	7.23%
3 – Neutral		166	16.44%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		401	39.70%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		351	34.75%
	Total Responses	1,010	100.00%
E. Historic Buildings and Districts			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		19	1.90%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		86	8.59%
3 – Neutral		403	40.26%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		353	35.26%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		140	13.99%
	Total Responses	1,001	100.00%
F. Vibrant Downtowns			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		137	13.69%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		309	30.87%
3 – Neutral		303	30.27%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		209	20.88%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		43	4.30%
	Total Responses	1,001	100.00%
G. Affordable Housing			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		68	7.79%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		100	11.45%
3 – Neutral		384	43.99%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		252	28.87%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		69	7.90%
	Total Responses	873	100.00%
H. Quality Schools			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		36	3.57%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		100	9.93%
3 – Neutral		267	26.51%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		364	36.15%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		240	23.83%
	Total Responses	1,007	100.00%
I. Good Roads and Transportation Routes			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied		33	3.38%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied		153	15.69%
3 – Neutral		160	16.41%
4 – Slightly Satisfied		429	44.00%
5 – Extremely Satisfied		200	20.51%
	Total Responses	975	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

J. Quality of Drinking Water		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	42	4.25%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	92	9.30%
3 – Neutral	193	19.51%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	388	39.23%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	274	27.70%
Total Responses	989	100.00%
K. Employment Opportunities		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	76	7.65%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	250	25.18%
3 – Neutral	394	39.68%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	219	22.05%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	54	5.44%
Total Responses	993	100.00%
L. Recreational Opportunities		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	23	2.31%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	99	9.94%
3 – Neutral	278	27.91%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	423	42.47%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	173	17.37%
Total Responses	996	100.00%
M. Cultural Events		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	37	3.72%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	156	15.69%
3 – Neutral	500	50.30%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	234	23.54%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	67	6.74%
Total Responses	994	100.00%
N. Access to Shopping		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	47	4.70%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	182	18.20%
3 – Neutral	262	26.20%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	377	37.70%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	132	13.20%
Total Responses	1,000	100.00%
O. Public Safety		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	19	1.92%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	87	8.78%
3 – Neutral	286	28.86%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	443	44.70%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	156	15.74%
Total Responses	991	100.00%
P. Social Services		
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	37	3.76%
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	91	9.24%
3 – Neutral	541	54.92%
4 – Slightly Satisfied	246	24.97%
5 – Extremely Satisfied	70	7.11%
Total Responses	985	100.00%

Q. Property Taxes			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	296	29.48%	
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	314	31.27%	
3 – Neutral	210	20.92%	
4 – Slightly Satisfied	149	14.84%	
5 – Extremely Satisfied	35	3.49%	
Total Responses	1,004	100.00%	
R. Land Use and Zoning Regulation			
1 – Extremely Dissatisfied	156	15.85%	
2 – Slightly Dissatisfied	282	28.66%	
3 – Neutral	340	34.55%	
4 – Slightly Satisfied	162	16.46%	
5 – Extremely Satisfied	44	4.47%	
Total Responses	984	100.00%	
5. How do you feel about Columbia County as a permanent place to live? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a. Would like to live here permanently, if health, job, etc. permit.	738	74.32%	
b. Like living here, but would move for a better job or for other favorable circumstances.	232	23.36%	
c. This is a temporary residence. I plan to move.	23	2.32%	
Total Responses	993	100.00%	
AGRICULTURE			
6. How important is it to permanently retain productive agricultural land in Columbia County? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a. Very Important	657	67.32%	
b. Important	226	23.16%	
c. Neutral	60	6.15%	
d. Not Very Important	23	2.36%	
e. Unimportant	10	1.02%	
Total Responses	976	100.00%	
7. If you are a farmer: <i>(a farmer being a person who makes a significant portion of their income from agriculture)</i>			
I. Are you planning to increase the size of your farm operation within the next five years? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a. Yes	23	24.47%	
I. No	71	75.53%	
Total Responses	94	100.00%	
II. Type of Farm (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)			
a. Livestock / Poultry	34	24.64%	
b. Dairy	19	13.77%	
c. Crops	75	54.35%	
d. Specialty	10	7.25%	
Total Responses	138	100.00%	
III. How long do you intend to remain in farming? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a. 0-2 years	6	6.82%	
b. 2-5 years	8	9.09%	
c. 5-10 years	20	22.73%	
d. 10-15 years	15	17.05%	
e. more than 15 years	39	44.32%	
Total Responses	88	100.00%	

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

II. What do you eventually intend to do with your farm? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a.	Rent the land to someone else?	18	20.22%
b.	Sell your farm as a farm?	12	13.48%
c.	Pass your farm as a farm on to an heir or heirs?	53	59.55%
d.	Sell the land to developers?	2	2.25%
e.	Subdivide your property for sale?	4	4.49%
		Total Responses	89 100.00%
8.	If you are <u>not a farmer</u> and you own 10 acres of land or more , what do you intend to do with your land in the long term? (CIRCLE ONE)		
a.	Rent the land for farming?	64	25.10%
b.	Sell your land as farmland?	9	3.53%
c.	Pass your land on to an heir or heirs?	125	49.02%
d.	Sell your land in its current state?	38	14.90%
e.	Subdivide your property for sale and development?	19	7.45%
		Total Responses	255 100.00%
9.	How important is it to you to preserve family farms? (<i>a family farm being defined as a farm owned and operated by farmers living in Columbia County or the immediate area</i>) (CIRCLE ONE)		
a.	Very Important	585	60.19%
b.	Important	260	26.75%
c.	Neutral	82	8.44%
d.	Not Very Important	31	3.19%
e.	Unimportant	14	1.44%
		Total Responses	972 100.00%
10.	Would you favor the use of property tax dollars to help fund a program that purchases the development rights of farmland? Such a program would use tax dollars to buy from a landowner his/her right to develop his/her land. The landowner would still own the land but the use of the land would be permanently restricted to farming or open space. (CIRCLE ONE)		
a.	Yes	325	32.66%
b.	No	483	48.54%
c.	No Opinion	187	18.79%
		Total Responses	995 100.00%
If you answered yes to # 10 , how much of an average property tax increase per year would you be willing to consider? (CIRCLE ONE)			
a.	less than \$50	158	47.16%
b.	\$50 to \$99	129	38.51%
c.	\$100 to \$250	41	12.24%
d.	More than \$250	7	2.09%
		Total Responses	335 100.00%
Would you support the use of other funding sources such as impact fees? (<i>Impact fees are fees that are assessed to new residential development that are used to offset the costs of the development on the local unit of government</i>) (CIRCLE ONE)			
a.	Yes	438	53.61%
b.	No	228	27.91%
c.	No Opinion	151	18.48%
		Total Responses	817 100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

11.	<p>Would you favor a program to allow the transfer of development rights from one landowner to another within the County? <i>(This program would assign a certain number of development rights to each landowner in the County. Landowners that do not wish to develop their land could sell their development rights to other landowners who do want to develop, thereby providing a larger number of development rights to those who want to develop and protecting those who do not.)</i></p> <p>a. Yes b. No c. No Opinion</p>	Total Responses	196	20.29%
			548	56.73%
			222	22.98%
		Total Responses	966	100.00%
12.	<p>If the following <u>farm-related</u> business opportunities were proposed in Columbia County which would you support?</p> <p>A. Ethanol Plant</p> <p>a. Support b. Oppose c. No Opinion</p> <p>B. Biomass Digester Plant <i>(Produces methane from agricultural waste to produce electricity)</i></p> <p>a. Support b. Oppose c. No Opinion</p> <p>C. Large Scale Animal Confinement Operations <i>(1000 animals or more)</i></p> <p>a. Support b. Oppose c. No Opinion</p> <p>D. Farm Supply Center</p> <p>a. Support b. Oppose c. No Opinion</p> <p>E. Farm Implement Dealer</p> <p>a. Support b. Oppose c. No Opinion</p>	Total Responses	606	62.47%
			193	19.90%
			171	17.63%
		Total Responses	970	100.00%
			532	55.65%
			188	19.67%
			236	24.69%
		Total Responses	956	100.00%
			169	17.59%
			585	60.87%
			207	21.54%
		Total Responses	961	100.00%
			774	79.88%
			17	1.75%
			178	18.37%
		Total Responses	969	100.00%
			751	77.58%
			22	2.27%
			195	20.14%
		Total Responses	968	100.00%
<hr/> HOUSING <hr/>				
13.	<p>Do you want to see new residential development encouraged in Columbia County? (CIRCLE ONE)</p> <p>a. Yes b. No c. No Opinion</p>	Total Responses	372	37.20%
			475	47.50%
			153	15.30%
		Total Responses	1,000	100.00%
	<p>If you answered Yes to Question #13, do you support residential development because you believe the development will help lower your property taxes?</p> <p>a. Yes b. No</p>	Total Responses	211	56.12%
			165	43.88%
		Total Responses	376	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

14.	What is your opinion of the following statement: The availability of affordable housing is a growing problem in Columbia County.		
	a. Agree	474	47.16%
	b. Disagree	277	27.56%
	c. No Opinion	254	25.27%
	Total Responses	1,005	100.00%
15.	A clustered residential development is one in which homes are allowed to be grouped together in one area of a property, usually on smaller lots, in exchange for setting aside a portion of the property as permanent farmland or undeveloped open space. Do you think rural residential development in Columbia County should be clustered with a required percent of acreage set aside for permanent farmland or undeveloped open space? (See diagram on back of Cover Letter.) (CIRCLE ONE)		
	a. Yes	566	57.00%
	b. No	258	25.98%
	c. No Opinion	169	17.02%
	Total Responses	993	100.00%
	If you answered Yes to question #15, what percentage of open/undeveloped land would you suggest? (For example, a forty acre clustered residential development setting aside 40% open space would preserve 16 acres as permanent farmland or undeveloped open space and would allow 24 acres to be developed for residential uses.)		
	a. 40%	120	22.02%
	b. 50%	140	25.69%
	c. 60%	83	15.23%
	d. 70%	60	11.01%
	e. 80%	66	12.11%
	f. 90% or above	58	10.64%
	g. other _____	18	3.30%
	Total Responses	545	100.00%
16.	What type of single family development, if any, do you feel should be encouraged in the unincorporated areas of Columbia County? (CIRCLE ONE)		
	a. Major Subdivisions	59	6.08%
	b. Scattered Rural Residences	333	34.33%
	c. Clustered Rural Residences	369	38.04%
	d. None	209	21.55%
	Total Responses	970	100.00%
17.	What type of multifamily developments, if any, do you feel should be encouraged in the unincorporated areas of Columbia County? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)		
	a. Duplexes	366	33.18%
	b. 4-Family	180	16.32%
	c. 8-Family	40	3.63%
	d. 16-Family	29	2.63%
	e. None	488	44.24%
	Total Responses	1,103	100.00%
18.	Do you favor multifamily developments being developed as condominiums units where each unit is privately owned?		
	a. Yes	398	40.08%
	b. No	343	34.54%
	c. No Opinion	252	25.38%
	Total Responses	993	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

19. Use the following scale to indicate how you feel Columbia County should react to the following types of development.

A. Residential Development on 1 to 5 acre lots throughout the County

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

B. Clustered Residential Development with dedicated open space

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

C. Mobile Home Parks

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

D. Apartments

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

E. Duplexes

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

F. Condominiums

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

G. Sewered Subdivisions

- 1 – Do Not Allow
- 2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation
- 3 – Be Neutral
- 4 – Encourage
- 5 – Don't Know

Total Responses

	272	28.27%
	321	33.37%
	133	13.83%
	198	20.58%
	38	3.95%
Total Responses	962	100.00%
	198	20.65%
	340	35.45%
	102	10.64%
	287	29.93%
	32	3.34%
Total Responses	959	100.00%
	524	54.75%
	272	28.42%
	97	10.14%
	24	2.51%
	40	4.18%
Total Responses	957	100.00%
	236	25.24%
	369	39.47%
	197	21.07%
	103	11.02%
	30	3.21%
Total Responses	935	100.00%
	158	16.86%
	369	39.38%
	201	21.45%
	181	19.32%
	28	2.99%
Total Responses	937	100.00%
	221	23.61%
	324	34.62%
	198	21.15%
	157	16.77%
	36	3.85%
Total Responses	936	100.00%
	172	18.40%
	286	30.59%
	153	16.36%
	263	28.13%
	61	6.52%
Total Responses	935	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

H. Unsewered Subdivisions		
1 – Do Not Allow	418	44.80%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	245	26.26%
3 – Be Neutral	140	15.01%
4 – Encourage	59	6.32%
5 – Don't Know	71	7.61%
	Total Responses	933 100.00%
I. Tourism / Recreational Uses (golf, motel/hotel, campground, etc.)		
1 – Do Not Allow	103	11.03%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	283	30.30%
3 – Be Neutral	170	18.20%
4 – Encourage	350	37.47%
5 – Don't Know	28	3.00%
	Total Responses	934 100.00%
J. Large-scale Animal Agricultural Operations		
1 – Do Not Allow	452	48.50%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	246	26.39%
3 – Be Neutral	119	12.77%
4 – Encourage	74	7.94%
5 – Don't Know	41	4.40%
	Total Responses	932 100.00%
K. Retail / Commercial		
1 – Do Not Allow	64	6.85%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	308	32.98%
3 – Be Neutral	164	17.56%
4 – Encourage	378	40.47%
5 – Don't Know	20	2.14%
	Total Responses	934 100.00%
L. Light Manufacturing		
1 – Do Not Allow	43	4.59%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	278	29.70%
3 – Be Neutral	128	13.68%
4 – Encourage	464	49.57%
5 – Don't Know	23	2.46%
	Total Responses	936 100.00%
M. Heavy Manufacturing		
1 – Do Not Allow	181	19.40%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	289	30.98%
3 – Be Neutral	149	15.97%
4 – Encourage	270	28.94%
5 – Don't Know	44	4.72%
	Total Responses	933 100.00%
N. Development on Prime Agricultural Land		
1 – Do Not Allow	607	65.06%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	146	15.65%
3 – Be Neutral	97	10.40%
4 – Encourage	48	5.14%
5 – Don't Know	35	3.75%
	Total Responses	933 100.00%

O. Development on Marginal Agricultural Land		
1 – Do Not Allow	227	24.38%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	363	38.99%
3 – Be Neutral	149	16.00%
4 – Encourage	155	16.65%
5 – Don't Know	37	3.97%
Total Responses	931	100.00%
P. Waterfront Development		
1 – Do Not Allow	261	28.00%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	395	42.38%
3 – Be Neutral	133	14.27%
4 – Encourage	111	11.91%
5 – Don't Know	32	3.43%
Total Responses	932	100.00%
Q. Development along Highways		
1 – Do Not Allow	153	16.40%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	337	36.12%
3 – Be Neutral	226	24.22%
4 – Encourage	173	18.54%
5 – Don't Know	44	4.72%
Total Responses	933	100.00%
R. Gravel pits / Quarries		
1 – Do Not Allow	209	22.31%
2 – Allow Under Strict Regulation	433	46.21%
3 – Be Neutral	186	19.85%
4 – Encourage	54	5.76%
5 – Don't Know	55	5.87%
Total Responses	937	100.00%

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

20. Would you like to see new commercial / retail businesses locate in Columbia County? (CIRCLE ONE)		
a. Yes	717	72.79%
b. No	84	8.53%
c. No Opinion	184	18.68%
Total Responses	985	100.00%
If yes, what retail items or services not now available in Columbia County should be offered by existing or new businesses?		
Responses at Back of Survey		
Where do you feel new commercial / retail business should be encouraged to locate?		
a. In Cities and Villages	584	48.99%
b. In Towns	156	13.09%
c. Along Major Roads	208	17.45%
d. In Areas with Sewer	232	19.46%
e. In Unsewered Areas	12	1.01%
Total Responses	1,192	100.00%
21. Are you interested in attracting more manufacturing to Columbia County? (CIRCLE ONE)		
a. Yes	725	72.72%
b. No	100	10.03%
c. No Opinion	172	17.25%
Total Responses	997	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

If you answered yes to #21, do you support manufacturing because you believe the development will help lower your property taxes?

- Yes
- No

Total Responses

457	64.10%
256	35.90%
713	100.00%

22. Some communities offer incentives to attract more industry and business. Which of the following incentives do you feel Columbia County communities should offer to attract more business? (CIRCLE ONE FOR EACH INCENTIVE)

- A. Industrial Park
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. No Opinion

Total Responses

759	77.53%
93	9.50%
127	12.97%
979	100.00%

- B. Provide Land
- d. Yes
 - e. No
 - f. No Opinion

Total Responses

313	33.16%
403	42.69%
228	24.15%
944	100.00%

- C. Provide Utility Hookups
- g. Yes
 - h. No
 - i. No Opinion

Total Responses

502	52.07%
255	26.45%
207	21.47%
964	100.00%

- D. Construct a Speculative Building
- j. Yes
 - k. No
 - l. No Opinion

Total Responses

114	12.00%
570	60.00%
266	28.00%
950	100.00%

- E. Provide Parking
- m. Yes
 - n. No
 - o. No Opinion

Total Responses

385	40.06%
312	32.47%
264	27.47%
961	100.00%

23. If programs were developed to expand Columbia County's facilities and economy, which of the following would you support or oppose? (CIRCLE RESPONSE)

- a. Expanded Park & Recreation Facilities
- a. Support
 - b. Oppose
 - c. No Opinion

Total Responses

609	63.11%
134	13.89%
222	23.01%
965	100.00%

- b. Expanded Social Services
- a. Support
 - b. Oppose
 - c. No Opinion

Total Responses

385	39.90%
240	24.87%
340	35.23%
965	100.00%

- c. New Business Recruitment
- a. Support
 - b. Oppose
 - c. No Opinion

Total Responses

738	75.15%
62	6.31%
182	18.53%
982	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

d.	New Industrial Recruitment		
a.	Support	640	66.81%
b.	Oppose	96	10.02%
c.	No Opinion	222	23.17%
	Total Responses	958	100.00%
e.	Additional Child Care Facilities		
a.	Support	442	46.19%
b.	Oppose	149	15.57%
c.	No Opinion	366	38.24%
	Total Responses	957	100.00%
f.	Improved Medical Care		
a.	Support	695	72.10%
b.	Oppose	59	6.12%
c.	No Opinion	210	21.78%
	Total Responses	964	100.00%
g.	Road Improvement		
a.	Support	649	68.17%
b.	Oppose	78	8.19%
c.	No Opinion	225	23.63%
	Total Responses	952	100.00%
h.	Agricultural Incentives		
a.	Support	570	59.62%
b.	Oppose	123	12.87%
c.	No Opinion	263	27.51%
	Total Responses	956	100.00%
i.	Municipal Water Supply		
a.	Support	546	57.23%
b.	Oppose	85	8.91%
c.	No Opinion	323	33.86%
	Total Responses	954	100.00%
j.	Municipal Sanitary Sewer Service		
a.	Support	565	59.47%
b.	Oppose	77	8.11%
c.	No Opinion	308	32.42%
	Total Responses	950	100.00%
k.	Improved Law Enforcement		
a.	Support	535	55.96%
b.	Oppose	139	14.54%
c.	No Opinion	282	29.50%
	Total Responses	956	100.00%
l.	Improved Fire/EMS Services		
a.	Support	625	65.10%
b.	Oppose	72	7.50%
c.	No Opinion	263	27.40%
	Total Responses	960	100.00%
24.	What is your opinion of the following statement: Tourism should be a key component of future economic development efforts in Columbia County.		
1.	Agree	458	47.36%
2.	Disagree	255	26.37%
3.	No Opinion	254	26.27%
	Total Responses	967	100.00%

RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

25. Are you interested in seeing the County park and recreation system improved and expanded? (CIRCLE ONE)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

If you answered yes to #25, would you like to see any of the following recreational facilities developed in Columbia County? (CIRCLE RESPONSE)

A. Nature Preserves

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

B. Ice Skating Rinks

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

C. Boat Accesses

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

D. Softball Diamond

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

E. Fishing Area

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

F. Picnic Areas

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

G. Snowmobile-ATV Trails

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

H. Biking/Hiking Paths

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

	561	56.78%
	197	19.94%
	230	23.28%
Total Responses	988	100.00%
	470	86.72%
	36	6.64%
	36	6.64%
Total Responses	542	100.00%
	297	54.80%
	103	19.00%
	142	26.20%
Total Responses	542	100.00%
	345	62.96%
	75	13.69%
	128	23.36%
Total Responses	548	100.00%
	240	44.69%
	136	25.33%
	161	29.98%
Total Responses	537	100.00%
	416	75.91%
	38	6.93%
	94	17.15%
Total Responses	548	100.00%
	482	88.44%
	25	4.59%
	38	6.97%
Total Responses	545	100.00%
	253	46.77%
	192	35.49%
	96	17.74%
Total Responses	541	100.00%
	465	84.70%
	35	6.38%
	49	8.93%
Total Responses	549	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

I.	Basketball Court			
	a. Yes	238	44.24%	
	b. No	136	25.28%	
	c. No Opinion	164	30.48%	
	Total Responses	538	100.00%	
J.	Tennis Court			
	a. Yes	238	43.99%	
	b. No	145	26.80%	
	c. No Opinion	158	29.21%	
	Total Responses	541	100.00%	
K.	Cross Country Ski Trails			
	a. Yes	397	73.25%	
	b. No	49	9.04%	
	c. No Opinion	96	17.71%	
	Total Responses	542	100.00%	
L.	Sledding Hill			
	a. Yes	395	72.74%	
	b. No	58	10.68%	
	c. No Opinion	90	16.57%	
	Total Responses	543	100.00%	
M.	Soccer Field			
	a. Yes	279	51.67%	
	b. No	130	24.07%	
	c. No Opinion	131	24.26%	
	Total Responses	540	100.00%	
N.	Hunting Grounds			
	a. Yes	319	58.96%	
	b. No	111	20.52%	
	c. No Opinion	111	20.52%	
	Total Responses	541	100.00%	
O.	Scenic Overlooks			
	a. Yes	460	83.79%	
	b. No	29	5.28%	
	c. No Opinion	60	10.93%	
	Total Responses	549	100.00%	
26.	How important is it to you to preserve environmentally sensitive areas in the County:			
	a. Very Important	544	54.40%	
	b. Important	301	30.10%	
	c. Neutral	111	11.10%	
	d. Not Very Important	32	3.20%	
	e. Unimportant	12	1.20%	
	Total Responses	1,000	100.00%	
27.	Do you feel that current regulations adequately protect the surface waters (lakes, rivers, and streams) of Columbia County?			
	a. Yes	428	42.50%	
	b. No	309	30.69%	
	c. No Opinion	270	26.81%	
	Total Responses	1,007	100.00%	

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

28.	Do you feel that current regulations adequately protect groundwater quantity and quality in Columbia County?		
	a. Yes	401	39.82%
	b. No	320	31.78%
	c. No Opinion	286	28.40%
	Total Responses	1,007	100.00%
29.	Do you feel that current regulations adequately protect the wetlands of Columbia County?		
	a. Yes	419	41.69%
	b. No	266	26.47%
	c. No Opinion	320	31.84%
	Total Responses	1,005	100.00%
30.	By making a change to its Land Division Ordinance, Columbia County could collect a park impact fee for each new parcel created under the ordinance. The funds collected from this fee would be used for improvements to County park facilities and for the purchase of new park land. Do you think Columbia County should look into implementing a park impact fee?		
	a. Yes	511	52.41%
	b. No	272	27.90%
	c. No Opinion	192	19.69%
	Total Responses	975	100.00%
<hr/>			
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS			
31.	What is your opinion of the following subjects? Looking at the scale below, CIRCLE THE NUMBER AFTER EACH SUBJECT that reflects your opinion about that subject. For example, if you feel the roads in Columbia County are a serious problem, circle "5" on the first line, and so on.		
	A. Street and Road Maintenance		
	1 – Very Satisfied	76	7.63%
	2 – Satisfied	495	49.70%
	3 – Neutral	181	18.17%
	4 – Problem	190	19.08%
	5 – Serious Problem	54	5.42%
	Total Responses	996	100.00%
	B. Snow Plowing		
	1 – Very Satisfied	122	12.31%
	2 – Satisfied	542	54.69%
	3 – Neutral	166	16.75%
	4 – Problem	134	13.52%
	5 – Serious Problem	27	2.72%
	Total Responses	991	100.00%
	C. Traffic / Roadway Safety		
	1 – Very Satisfied	71	7.20%
	2 – Satisfied	517	52.43%
	3 – Neutral	237	24.04%
	4 – Problem	121	12.27%
	5 – Serious Problem	40	4.06%
	Total Responses	986	100.00%
	D. Air Quality		
	1 – Very Satisfied	174	17.70%
	2 – Satisfied	539	54.83%
	3 – Neutral	205	20.85%
	4 – Problem	55	5.60%
	5 – Serious Problem	10	1.02%
	Total Responses	983	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

E. County Land Use Restrictions		
1 – Very Satisfied	36	3.71%
2 – Satisfied	269	27.73%
3 – Neutral	462	47.63%
4 – Problem	159	16.39%
5 – Serious Problem	44	4.54%
	Total Responses	970 100.00%
F. Annexation of Town Lands by Cities/Villages		
1 – Very Satisfied	20	2.07%
2 – Satisfied	197	20.37%
3 – Neutral	531	54.91%
4 – Problem	165	17.06%
5 – Serious Problem	54	5.58%
	Total Responses	967 100.00%
G. Shopping for Goods & Services		
1 – Very Satisfied	50	5.08%
2 – Satisfied	395	40.10%
3 – Neutral	261	26.50%
4 – Problem	241	24.47%
5 – Serious Problem	38	3.86%
	Total Responses	985 100.00%
H. Decisions on County Rezoning		
1 – Very Satisfied	16	1.66%
2 – Satisfied	137	14.24%
3 – Neutral	523	54.37%
4 – Problem	223	23.18%
5 – Serious Problem	63	6.55%
	Total Responses	962 100.00%
I. Law Enforcement		
1 – Very Satisfied	85	8.62%
2 – Satisfied	508	51.52%
3 – Neutral	274	27.79%
4 – Problem	93	9.43%
5 – Serious Problem	26	2.64%
	Total Responses	986 100.00%
J. Public Information		
1 – Very Satisfied	35	3.60%
2 – Satisfied	399	41.01%
3 – Neutral	397	40.80%
4 – Problem	119	12.23%
5 – Serious Problem	23	2.36%
	Total Responses	973 100.00%
K. Local Government & Elected Officials		
1 – Very Satisfied	30	3.09%
2 – Satisfied	332	34.16%
3 – Neutral	378	38.89%
4 – Problem	175	18.00%
5 – Serious Problem	57	5.86%
	Total Responses	972 100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

L. Location and Size of Schools		
1 – Very Satisfied	89	9.07%
2 – Satisfied	515	52.50%
3 – Neutral	269	27.42%
4 – Problem	89	9.07%
5 – Serious Problem	19	1.94%
Total Responses	981	100.00%
M. Recreation/Leisure-Time Activities		
1 – Very Satisfied	71	7.28%
2 – Satisfied	476	48.82%
3 – Neutral	316	32.41%
4 – Problem	100	10.26%
5 – Serious Problem	12	1.23%
Total Responses	975	100.00%
N. County Parks		
1 – Very Satisfied	53	5.44%
2 – Satisfied	456	46.77%
3 – Neutral	367	37.64%
4 – Problem	90	9.23%
5 – Serious Problem	9	0.92%
Total Responses	975	100.00%
O. New Development		
1 – Very Satisfied	18	1.86%
2 – Satisfied	227	23.47%
3 – Neutral	445	46.02%
4 – Problem	220	22.75%
5 – Serious Problem	57	5.89%
Total Responses	967	100.00%
P. Youth Activities		
1 – Very Satisfied	38	3.89%
2 – Satisfied	234	23.98%
3 – Neutral	415	42.52%
4 – Problem	230	23.57%
5 – Serious Problem	59	6.05%
Total Responses	976	100.00%
Q. Local Tax Rates		
1 – Very Satisfied	21	2.15%
2 – Satisfied	190	19.41%
3 – Neutral	231	23.60%
4 – Problem	351	35.85%
5 – Serious Problem	186	19.00%
Total Responses	979	100.00%
R. Fire Protection		
1 – Very Satisfied	115	11.73%
2 – Satisfied	561	57.24%
3 – Neutral	253	25.82%
4 – Problem	40	4.08%
5 – Serious Problem	11	1.12%
Total Responses	980	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

S. E.M.S.		
1 – Very Satisfied	134	13.67%
2 – Satisfied	570	58.16%
3 – Neutral	240	24.49%
4 – Problem	32	3.27%
5 – Serious Problem	4	0.41%
Total Responses	980	100.00%
T. Medical Care		
1 – Very Satisfied	92	9.39%
2 – Satisfied	515	52.55%
3 – Neutral	264	26.94%
4 – Problem	83	8.47%
5 – Serious Problem	26	2.65%
Total Responses	980	100.00%
U. Elderly Services		
1 – Very Satisfied	51	5.18%
2 – Satisfied	351	35.63%
3 – Neutral	428	43.45%
4 – Problem	125	12.69%
5 – Serious Problem	30	3.05%
Total Responses	985	100.00%
V. Junk Cars		
1 – Very Satisfied	17	1.73%
2 – Satisfied	152	15.48%
3 – Neutral	332	33.81%
4 – Problem	351	35.74%
5 – Serious Problem	130	13.24%
Total Responses	982	100.00%
W. Junk Farm Machinery		
1 – Very Satisfied	20	2.04%
2 – Satisfied	149	15.20%
3 – Neutral	362	36.94%
4 – Problem	322	32.86%
5 – Serious Problem	127	12.96%
Total Responses	980	100.00%
X. Water Quality		
1 – Very Satisfied	88	9.03%
2 – Satisfied	473	48.51%
3 – Neutral	263	26.97%
4 – Problem	115	11.79%
5 – Serious Problem	36	3.69%
Total Responses	975	100.00%
Y. Groundwater Quantity		
1 – Very Satisfied	75	7.75%
2 – Satisfied	397	41.01%
3 – Neutral	356	36.78%
4 – Problem	117	12.09%
5 – Serious Problem	23	2.38%
Total Responses	968	100.00%

Z. Community Growth and Planning		
1 – Very Satisfied	16	1.66%
2 – Satisfied	241	25.00%
3 – Neutral	434	45.02%
4 – Problem	237	24.59%
5 – Serious Problem	36	3.73%
Total Responses	964	100.00%
AA. Preserving / Protecting Wetlands		
1 – Very Satisfied	32	3.31%
2 – Satisfied	322	33.30%
3 – Neutral	417	43.12%
4 – Problem	152	15.72%
5 – Serious Problem	44	4.55%
Total Responses	967	100.00%
BB. Refuse and Recycling Center		
1 – Very Satisfied	108	11.01%
2 – Satisfied	496	50.56%
3 – Neutral	239	24.36%
4 – Problem	115	11.72%
5 – Serious Problem	23	2.34%
Total Responses	981	100.00%
CC. Farm Odors		
1 – Very Satisfied	68	6.95%
2 – Satisfied	409	41.78%
3 – Neutral	415	42.39%
4 – Problem	68	6.95%
5 – Serious Problem	19	1.94%
Total Responses	979	100.00%
DD. Preserving Farmland		
1 – Very Satisfied	39	4.00%
2 – Satisfied	291	29.88%
3 – Neutral	327	33.57%
4 – Problem	244	25.05%
5 – Serious Problem	73	7.49%
Total Responses	974	100.00%
EE. Maintenance of Rural Character		
1 – Very Satisfied	40	4.10%
2 – Satisfied	349	35.79%
3 – Neutral	358	36.72%
4 – Problem	190	19.49%
5 – Serious Problem	38	3.90%
Total Responses	975	100.00%
FF. Multi-Family Housing Development		
1 – Very Satisfied	21	2.18%
2 – Satisfied	192	19.92%
3 – Neutral	529	54.88%
4 – Problem	182	18.88%
5 – Serious Problem	40	4.15%
Total Responses	964	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

GG. Single Family Housing Development

- 1 – Very Satisfied
- 2 – Satisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Problem
- 5 – Serious Problem

Total Responses

29	3.00%
299	30.92%
432	44.67%
175	18.10%
32	3.31%
967	100.00%

HH. Preserving / Protecting Woodlands

- 1 – Very Satisfied
- 2 – Satisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Problem
- 5 – Serious Problem

Total Responses

37	3.79%
360	36.92%
362	37.13%
164	16.82%
52	5.33%
975	100.00%

II. Historic Preservation

- 1 – Very Satisfied
- 2 – Satisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Problem
- 5 – Serious Problem

Total Responses

40	4.10%
402	41.23%
406	41.64%
104	10.67%
23	2.36%
975	100.00%

JJ. Billboards

- 1 – Very Satisfied
- 2 – Satisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Problem
- 5 – Serious Problem

Total Responses

17	1.74%
287	29.38%
452	46.26%
167	17.09%
54	5.53%
977	100.00%

KK. Libraries

- 1 – Very Satisfied
- 2 – Satisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Problem
- 5 – Serious Problem

Total Responses

141	14.46%
512	52.51%
274	28.10%
43	4.41%
5	0.51%
975	100.00%

32. **From the list for Question #31, which of these issues need the most attention?**

TOP THREE RESPONSES FOR EACH

- a. **First Priority** Q. Local Tax Rates – 202
 DD. Preserving Farmland – 67
 A. Street and Road Maintenance - 61

- b. **Second Priority** Q. Local Tax Rates – 96
 DD. Preserving Farmland – 51 and V. Junk Cars – 51
 G. Shopping for Goods and Services - 40

- c. **Third Priority** Q. Local Tax Rates – 65
 V. Junk Cars – 47
 G. Shopping for Goods and Services - 40

33. Are you concerned about traffic safety and/or traffic congestion on State or County Highways in the County? (CIRCLE ONE)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No Opinion

Total Responses

407	41.36%
507	51.52%
70	7.11%
984	100.00%

If you answered yes to #33, what highway(s) are you concerned about and why?

Responses at Back of Survey

--	--

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

34.	Do you feel the County's land use regulations are: (CIRCLE ONE)		
	a. Fair	265	27.63%
	b. Too Restrictive	143	14.91%
	c. Not Restrictive Enough	210	21.90%
	d. No opinion	341	35.56%
	Total Responses	959	100.00%
35.	Are you in favor of the County assisting willing Cities/Villages and Towns in developing border/boundary agreements to determine future borders and growth areas? (CIRCLE ONE)		
	a. Yes, the County should get involved	453	47.24%
	b. No, leave it up to the municipalities	336	35.04%
	c. No Opinion	170	17.73%
	Total Responses	959	100.00%
<hr/> PERSONAL <hr/>			
36.	How many years have you lived in Columbia County? _____	Average of 971 Responses	30.5
37.	Circle the name of the municipality in which your home is located. (CIRCLE ONE)		
	a. Town of Arlington	20	2.10%
	b. Town of Caledonia	29	3.05%
	c. Town of Columbus	36	3.78%
	d. Town of Courtland	5	0.53%
	e. Town of Dekorra	63	6.62%
	f. Town of Fort Winnebago	14	1.47%
	g. Town of Fountain Prairie	23	2.42%
	h. Town of Hampden	12	1.26%
	i. Town of Leeds	9	0.95%
	j. Town of Lewiston	32	3.36%
	k. Town of Lodi	85	8.93%
	l. Town of Lowville	15	1.58%
	m. Town of Marcellon	20	2.10%
	n. Town of Newport	15	1.58%
	o. Town of Otsego	11	1.16%
	p. Town of Pacific	75	7.88%
	q. Town of Randolph	8	0.84%
	r. Town of Scott	16	1.68%
	s. Town of Springvale	17	1.79%
	t. Town of West Point	48	5.04%
	u. Town of Wycena	30	3.15%
	v. Village of Arlington	7	0.74%
	w. Village of Cambria	7	0.74%
	x. Village of Doylestown	4	0.42%
	y. Village of Fall River	13	1.37%
	z. Village of Friesland	2	0.21%
	aa. Village of Pardeeville	50	5.25%
	bb. Village of Poynette	32	3.36%
	cc. Village of Randolph	11	1.16%
	dd. Village of Rio	19	2.00%
	ee. Village of Wycena	8	0.84%
	ff. City of Columbus	49	5.15%
	gg. City of Lodi	33	3.47%
	hh. City of Portage	106	11.13%
	ii. City of Wisconsin Dells	28	2.94%
	Total Responses	952	100.00%

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

38. Is your *primary* place of employment in:

- a. Columbia County
- b. Dane County
- c. Sauk, Dodge, Marquette, or Green Lake Counties
- d. Elsewhere in Wisconsin
- e. Elsewhere outside Wisconsin

Total Responses

513	60.71%
245	28.99%
56	6.63%
22	2.60%
9	1.07%
845	100.00%

39. How far do you live from your primary place of employment?

- a. Work at home
- b. Less than one mile
- c. 1 to 5 miles
- d. 6 to 10 miles
- e. 11 to 25 miles
- f. 26 to 50 miles
- g. More than 50 miles

Total Responses

116	13.83%
82	9.77%
162	19.31%
104	12.40%
165	19.67%
181	21.57%
29	3.46%
839	100.00%

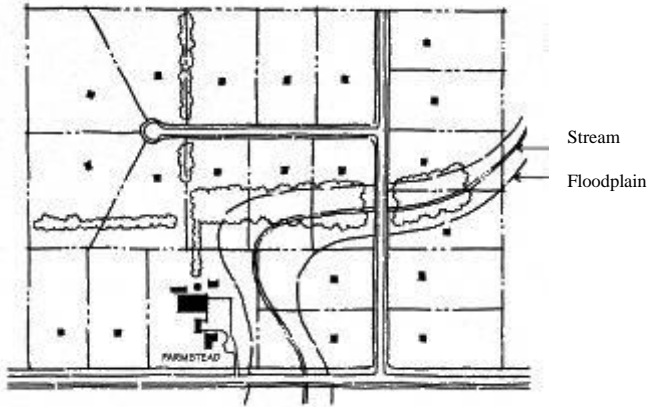
40. Where do you get Most of your news about happenings in the County?

- a. Newspapers
- b. Radio
- c. Word-of-Mouth
- d. County Meetings
- e. Internet
- f. Other

Total Responses

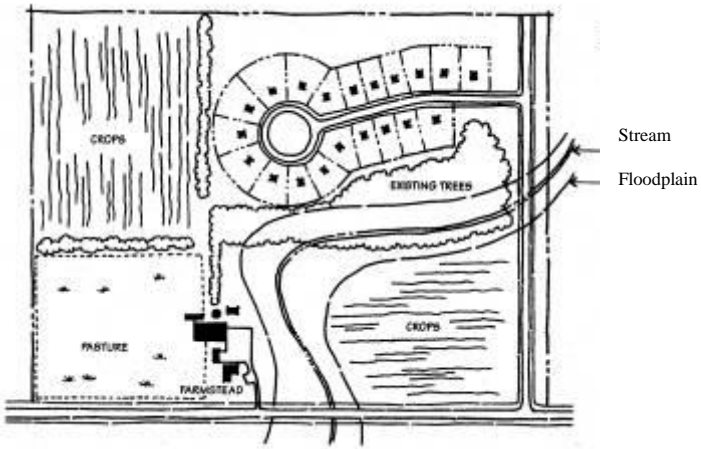
691	70.37%
125	12.73%
127	12.93%
3	0.31%
14	1.43%
22	2.24%
982	100.00%

Diagram for Survey Question #15



Conventional Subdivision Development

Acres:	100
Lots:	20 Plus Farmstead
Density:	1 dwelling unit/ 5 acres
Minimum Lot Size:	4 acres
Common Open Space:	0%



Clustered Subdivision Development

Acres:	100
Lots:	20 Plus Farmstead
Density:	1 dwelling unit/ 5 acres
Minimum Lot Size:	½ acre
Common Open Space:	85%

Source: SEWRPC. 2002.

Written Responses to Survey Questions

Question #20

What retail items or services not now available in Columbia County should be offered by existing or new businesses?

124 RETAIL STORES

58 RETAIL TYPE

- 1 Dimestore
- 3 Discount Stores
- 1 Retail (Big Box)
- 10 Retail store
- 1 Mid-Range Retail
- 4 Specialty Stores
- 2 Outlet Stores
- 3 Shopping Centers
- 1 Shopping
- 1 Small dept stores
- 2 Variety Store
- 1 Variety Stores downtown (Portage)
- 1 Gift (Novelty)
- 2 Major Department Stores
- 2 Specialty Stores
- 1 Small Special Shops
- 15 Department Stores
- 1 Department Stores (City Lodi)
- 2 Dept Store (Columbus)
- 1 Service Stores (Columbus)
- 3 Retail shops

66 OTHER (Names of Requested Stores)

- 6 Sam's Club
- 7 Wal-Mart
- 2 Wal-Mart (Lodi)
- 3 Wal-Mart (Columbus)
- 15 Kohl's
- 12 Target
- 7 Shop Ko
- 6 JC Penney
- 2 Sears
- 1 Walgreen's
- 1 Toys R us
- 1 AZ rental
- 1 Gap
- 1 Party City Store
- 1 Factory Card Outlet

16 MALLS/OUTLETS

- 7 Strip Malls
- 2 Shopping Malls
- 1 Shopping Mall (Poynette)
- 2 Outlet mall like Johnson Creek
- 1 Mall with diversity
- 1 Mall Complexes
- 1 Small Shopping Mall
- 1 Regional Shopping Centers

41 CLOTHING STORES

- 30 Clothing Stores
- 2 Quality Baby/Children Clothing Shop
- 1 Upscale Clothing
- 1 Non discount Clothing
- 1 Adult Clothing
- 1 Woman's Clothing
- 1 Clothing store (Pardeeville)
- 1 Clothing store (Wis Dells)
- 1 Clothes Shops (Lodi)
- 1 Clothing Store (Columbus)
- 1 Clothing Resale store

9 CRAFT STORES

- 2 Craft Shop
- 1 Craft type mall
- 2 Art Supplies
- 1 Hobby shops
- 1 Fabric Store
- 1 Sewing Craft Store
- 1 Sewing Notions

10 ELECTRONICS/APPLIANCES

- 4 Major Appliance Store
- 1 Local Appliances
- 2 Home Electronics
- 1 Circuit City
- 1 Computer Store/Repair
- 1 Computer and Electronics Sales and Service

81 FARM SUPPLY

- 34 Farm & Fleet
- 24 Fleet Farm
- 10 Farm Supplies
- 5 Farm Retail
- 3 Agribusiness
- 2 Farm Equipment Sales
- 1 Farm & Home Supply
- 1 Ag Dealers
- 1 Nursery

87 HOME IMPROVEMENT STORES

- 36 Menard's
- 22 Home Depot
- 2 Lowe's
- 6 Home Improvement Chain Stores
- 9 Hardware supplies
- 2 Lumber Stores
- 6 Lumber Yard
- 2 Building Supply
- 1 Competitive Lumberyards
- 1 Construction Items

43 GROCERY

- 7 Grocery Stores
- 6 Large Food Stores
- 2 Alternative Health food stores
- 1 Bulk food Store
- 1 Organic Foods
- 2 Aldi Foods

Requested Grocery Location

- 1 Grocery/Meat market (Town of Arlington)
- 1 Grocery Store (Cambria)
- 13 Grocery Store (Columbus)
- 2 Grocery Store (Dekorrra)
- 1 Larger Grocer (Fall River)
- 1 Grocery (Lodi)
- 2 Grocery Store (Otsego)
- 1 Large Retail Food (Pardeeville)
- 1 Organic Grocery (Portage)
- 1 Grocery (West Point)

16 FOOD

- 4 Doughnut Store
- 1 Krispy Cream
- 3 Good Bakery
- 1 Bakers
- 4 Coffee Shops
- 3 Butchers

39 RESTAURANTS

- 11 Restaurants
- 3 Mid-Range Restaurants (Olive Garden)
- 2 More Fine Dining
- 2 Higher End dining
- 1 Later Hour Dining
- 1 Nice supper club
- 1 In town restaurants
- 1 Chain Restaurants (Pardeeville)
- 1 Restaurant in Arlington
- 1 Quality Restaurants
- 1 Unique Eateries
- 1 Family restaurants
- 1 Good Restaurants
- 1 Ethnic Restaurants
- 1 Soup and Salad
- 1 Eating Places (Wycocena)
- 1 Fast Food, Food Stores (City of Columbus)
- 1 Fast Food (Lodi)

Requested Food Chain Type

- 2 Olive Garden
- 1 Rocky Rococo
- 1 Fridays
- 1 Ponderosa
- 1 Culvers (Lodi)
- 1 KFC

32 SPORTING GOODS

- 10 Sporting Goods
- 4 Bass Pro
- 3 Cabela's
- 2 Gander Mtn.
- 2 Boat/Cycle Dealer
- 4 Motorcycle Bike dealers
- 1 Harley Davidson Dealer
- 2 RV & Rec. Dealer
- 1 Marine Shop
- 1 Bike, Ski, Hike, Sport Stores and Service
- 1 Rec. Equipment sales
- 1 Hunting & Fishing

36 OTHER RETAIL STORES/PRODUCTS

- 7 Large Shoe Store
- 3 Shoe store
- 1 Famous Footwear
- 4 Shoe Repair
- 1 Home Furnishings
- 5 Furniture store
- 1 Hobby Shops
- 1 Chain Pet Store
- 1 Pet Stores
- 2 Bookstore
- 1 Real bookstores
- 2 Jewelry Store
- 1 Jewelry Repair
- 2 Music store/repair
- 1 Consumer Products
- 1 Wholesale Suppliers
- 1 Surplus Stores
- 1 Bridal Shop

36 RECREATIONAL

- 6 Casino
- 4 Rec. Center
- 2 Recreation
- 1 Educational-focus on outdoors-kids
- 2 YMCA

- 1 Community Center
- 1 Community Multi-purpose Recreational Bldg
- 2 Tourism Items
- 1 Health Spa
- 1 Amusement Park (Six Flags)
- 1 Indoor Ice Skating
- 1 Performing Arts/music center
- 1 Bowling Alley (Pardeeville)
- 1 Arcade
- 1 Farm Markets
- 1 Animal Shows/Exhibits/Sales
- 1 Bike & Horse Trail Off Road
- 1 Off Road Track
- 1 Art Gallery
- 1 Fine Arts
- 1 Teen/family Entertainment
- 1 Youth Activities
- 1 Theatre (Lodi)
- 1 Movie Theater (Poynette)
- 2 Movie Theater (Columbus)

14 SERVICE

- 1 Pharmacy (Otsego)
- 2 Pharmacy (Poynette)
- 1 Closer Pharmacy (Lowville)
- 1 Large drug outlets
- 1 Gas Shop on Hwy 16 Portage to Dells
- 1 Car Wash (Otsego)
- 1 Large animal vets
- 1 Hotel (Wycocena)
- 1 Dry Cleaners
- 1 Lodging
- 1 Auto Repair Garage (Newport)
- 1 Fix it places
- 1 Express Auto Service

23 OTHER

- 2 Locally owned
- 3 Family owned businesses
- 1 Long term businesses
- 1 Smaller businesses offering personal service
- 1 Encourage Small business
- 1 Entrepreneurial –small
- 1 Office Park Areas
- 1 Good Paying jobs
- 1 Farmers Market Year-round
- 1 Large Farm/Flea Market
- 1 Agricultural Products
- 2 Warehousing
- 1 Capitalize on History Towns and Areas
- 1 Promote Historical Sites
- 1 Downtown Dist (Poynette)
- 1 Promote Tourism
- 1 White Collar Employment
- 1 High Tech
- 1 Computer related companies

18 FACILITIES

- 1 Medical Clinic (Pardeeville)
- 1 Psychiatric Services
- 1 Expand services for the disabled
- 1 Independent Living for Elderly (WP)
- 1 Proper residential center
- 1 Medical Center
- 1 Hospital (Poynette)
- 1 Super modern Hospital (Columbus)
- 1 More specialty physician groups
- 1 Quality Childcare
- 1 Expanded social services
- 1 Improved Social Services
- 2 Recycle Centers
- 1 Convention Center
- 1 Transit System
- 1 Taxi and Bus service for county
- 1 Better business Parks

29 MANUFACTURING

- 5 Manufacturing
- 2 Light Manufacturing
- 1 Clean light manufacturing
- 1 Light industry
- 1 Large Manufacturing
- 2 Heavy manufacturing
- 2 Factories
- 1 Shoe Factories
- 1 Clothing Manufacture
- 1 Car or truck builder (Portage)
- 10 Ethanol Plant
- 1 Expand Coal Fired Generating Plant
- 1 Biomass Digester

Question #33

Are you concerned about traffic safety and/or traffic congestion on State or County Highways in the County? If yes, what highway(s) are you concerned about and why?

Interstate

- 90/94 Congestion
- I90&94 need better traffic enforcement –people drive like idiots
- Hwy 39, 90/94
- I94 and Hwy 33 intersection the yield sign should be a stop sign
- I90/94 needs to be wider to handle traffic.
- I39 north of Portage to county line is very unsafe
- I39 from Portage to Madison too much traffic on weekends.
- I90 by Dells-no one wants to drive this because it is always backed up on busy weekends
- Interstates on holidays and weekends, speeding-reckless drivers
- I39 turn off from I90 is still a problem. Truckers and motorists are confused by signage.
- I90/94 volume of traffic it has grown in the last five years because everyone wanting to move north
- Interstate is starting to get to capacity, but there are other means of correcting this
- Mid State Interchange
- I90/94 weekend travelers
- Trucks on the Interstate should be forced to stay in the right lanes like other states

State Highways

- Hwy 12, Hwy 113, Hwy 60, amount of traffic and safety
- Hwy 13 North, Hwy 8 E & W, Hwy 39 thru Columbia County
- Hwy 16
- STH 16/ Silver Lake Rd-Blinking 4 way light should be installed
- Hwy 16 excessive speed, dangerous passing
- Hwy 16 W & E of Portage
- Hwy 16 Columbus to Portage
- Hwy 16 & 33 through Portage
- Hwy 16 & 33 too much traffic and not wide enough in places
- Hwy 16 should have a lower speed limit past RIO. There is a new development and there will be children crossing there to go into town.
- No more 4 way stop signs at major roads Hwy 16 & Silver Lake Drive
- Hwy 16, 33, 73, no one obeys speed limit anymore, and they like to tailgate
- Hwy 16 & Silver Lake Drive is Dangerous
- Hwy 16
- Hwy 16 Blind Spots near Columbus
- Hwy 16 and 51 that run through Portage are a mess
- Hwy 16 out of Columbus has too many cars
- Hwy 16 & Johnson Road (Fall River) is main entry. Needs longer turn lane westbound and a turn lane eastbound
- Hwy 16 east of Portage should be 55mph not 45mph
- Hwy 16 near Doylestown is deteriorating-improvements needed-much more traffic in the past few years.
- Hwy 22 south is very rough

- Living in Pardeeville-Hwy 22/Chestnut East and West. Afternoon 3-6 very hard to cross, Hwy 22 may need it first stoplight.
- Hwy 22/Littner Rd to Island Drive to Haynes Rd. To many curves and hills and homes
- Interstates-lower the speed limits to 55-60mph to prevent serious accidents
- Hwy 22 between Hwy 60 & 16-High volume of traffic on weekdays. More traffic enforcement needed.
- Hwy 22 south of Pardeeville & Hwy 51 south of portage, intersection near leads, Madison traffic
- Hwy 22 & 51
- 22/51 corridors-illegal passing on hills/speeding
- Hwy 22 Pardeeville to Hwy 51
- Hwy 22 between Pardeeville and Hwy 51 has a lot of reckless drivers
- Hwy 22 lots of traffic poor enforcement
- Hwy 22 Heavy Volume. Breneman Rd-not wide enough for two-way boat traffic to Swan Lake.
- Highway 22. The Columbia County Sheriffs Dept calls this area the “race track” 55 miles per hour is virtually non existent.
- Hwy 22 blind intersections
- Speeding on Hwy 22, Hwy 16 going into Portage by Pick N Save
- Hwy 22 and 51 congestion
- Hwy 22 & 33 the amount of traffic has increased quite a bit over last few years. Speeding and passing I no passing zones and going up hills occurs on hwy 22 frequently.
- Hwy 22, lack of enforcement of Speed laws (Marcellon)
- Hwy 22 and 33, many accidents there-better than used to be
- Hwy 22-Heavily traveled in AM & PM. No enforcement of speed limit. Must go 70 or get run over!
- Highway 22 lots of traffic –snow plowing in winter is no good
- Junction of Littner Ave & Hwy 22, Pardeeville

- Hwy 23 in Wisconsin Dells. Ditch across from Dells Clinic is a disgrace to the property owners, dangerous and county/state never keep it clean.

- Intersection of Albert & Hwy 33
- Hwy 33 West of Portage
- Hwy 33 East of Portage
- Hwy 33 in Portage is a Disaster
- Hwy 33 at Albert Street in Portage
- Hwy 33
- Hwy 33 Though Pacific
- Hwy 33 Speed Control
- Hwy 33 when it rains you cant see the center line in the road
- Hwy 33 and Saddle Ridge
- Hwy 33 coming into Portage from the east. There needs to be a by pass over to North Side of Portage. Albert St and Hwy 33 intersection is an accident waiting to happen. Semis should not be going thru the downtown area
- Hwy 33 and Hwy 51 Holiday traffic congest all of down town Portage
- Hwy 33, 16, 51 in Portage, Bypass should be created from I-39 to Hwy 33 east of Portage to reduce congestion in city. Leave 33 in the city alone.
- Hwy 33 downtown Portage-parking should be on one side of street St. Mary's is bad
- 33/16/22 High Speed –Poor Driving
- STH 33 at I90/94 NOISE-outlaw “Jake Brakes” countywide
- Hwy 33 and 44 to fast—Fenske Road is very unsafe somebody is going to get killed
- 33/16/51 truck traffic through Portage. Have a Truck Bypass

- Hwy 51 & CTH I and Hwy 60
- Hwy 51 south of Portage is hard to see lines when its raining
- Hwy 51 South from Portage to County Line
- Hwy 51 / Portage to Madison

- Hwy 51 & Hwy 22 & Hwy 60 SPEED
- Hwy 51 South and North
- Hwy 51/16 South of Portage
- Hwy 51 Should be 4 lanes, too much traffic during rush hour
- Hwy 51 congestion near Dane county
- Hwy 51 South of Portage from Hwy 16 to Poynette. Too much slow traffic, not enough passing areas.
- Hwy 51 by Pick and Save South
- Hwy 51 has heavy volume driving to Madison to work & back. Home traveling above speed limit
- Hwy 51 and New Pinery Road
- Hwy 51 between Poynette and Arlington is awful! 5 minutes to get out of my driveway is ridiculous and many accidents
- Hwy 51 Hwy 33 Heavy volume, high rates of speed
- Hwy 51 South by pizza hut to pick n save should have an entrance lane to on Hwy
- Highway 51-congestion during peak hours-consider putting in passing lanes (Arlington)
- Downtown Portage too much congestion on 51/16
- Hwy 51, I live on it . I am unable to get out of my driveway safely during rush hours
- 51 and 22 North of Deforest needs passing lanes and pull out areas for slow moving vehicles
- Hwy 16 & 51 North through Portage
- Business 51 one-way on DeWitt is a disaster.

- Hwy 60, 188 Speeding
- Hwy 60 Road width has improved but needs further updating
- Intersection of Hwy 60 and Hwy 113 in Lodi
- Hwy 60 and Main Street of Lodi-they need stop and go lights there
- Hwy 60-when interstate is backed up- a lot of traffic comes through Arlington would like to see traffic going slower through town when this happens
- Hwy 60 people going too fast, hard to get on Hwy 60 (Arlington)
- Crooked Hwy 60 between Arlington and Lodi
- Hwy 60 and 188 Traffic has increased a lot.

- Hwy 73 Columbus to Randolph
- STH 73-Sometimes narrow, curvy & hilly-well traveled
- Hwy 73-It needs to be monitored more

- Hwy 78
- 78 should be taken care of in a few years

- 113 too narrow- no shoulder from Lodi to Ferry crossing
- 113 Merrimac ferry
- 113 hopefully fixed by winter
- Hwy stop in Lodi Hwy 113 and 60 during peak times cars are turning right even though there is no right turn lane, while others are waiting for their turn at the stop.

- Hwy 127 -people speeding/road sides need to be cut more often

- Hwy 146 through Cambria-excessive truck traffic

County Highways

- General speed of traffic-width of County Highways with large truck traffic.
- County roads need better mowing and snowplowing to avoid deer
- The roads are plenty good but to many drive 60 –70 mph on county and town roads
- Most HWYS to much traffic
- Safety of all County Highways
- CD 70-80 mph
- CTH F-bad road conditions during winter-poor cleaning of the Hwy
- Hwy V-speeding along Wisconsin River
- Hwy V—Too much traffic-noise-motorcycles etc. Trucks (Dekorra)
- Hwy V going into OKEE. There should be more signs of speed limit. People speed and pass other cars in a no passing zone daily. Volume of traffic increases daily.
- CTH V-Harmony Grove-increase in traffic and to fast speed limit.
- CTH J and Kent road –speeding and dangerous
- County Road K-Speeding-especially after bar time and to and from work times-many small children on K
- County V-cut down hills and widen roads create shoulder- needs work
- Military Rd and E
- CTH A Columbus on the south side of Doylestown before Hwy 16
- Hwy A Hilly terrain-high speeds
- CTH CS-Poynette to Lake WI-Lots of traffic, too fast in summer time.
- County P to Mary Street to County B through Cambria-excessive truck traffic
- CTH P- to many cars and going to fast
- CTH P-Speeding (Pacific)
- Hwy P, more development means more traffic the road should be wider and the train tracks are in terrible shape.
- CTH P, Blank Rd, not wide enough, speeds are to fast. No place to walk or ride bike
- Hwy P in pacific need major work with all the new subdivisions
- Hwy P from 51 to Blank Rd should be 45 mph, due to residential areas—Rail crossing very rough been reported many times but no action from Sheriff Department safety team.
- CTH P Heavy Traffic
- CTH P between Pardeeville and Cambria-Because it is used by heavy trucks.
- Hwy P, Breneman Rd and Blank Rd, due to proposed new subdivision in the area these are narrow roads, with lots of families with young children.
- Hwy P daily, heavy traffic-lots of accidents
- Hwy P to portage will need work for New Development

Local Roads and General Roadway Comments

- Alleys should be restricted to people who live on them and not as a street
- West Bush road Speeding
- Major Highways the traffic is to fast
- All roads in county are “pot holes”
- All 2 lanes
- Johnson Road-Fountain Prairie
- Large Convenience Stores
- Speed limits
- The bridge over the Wis River on the western edge of Wisconsin Dells. It’s a nice 4 lane bridge but we CTH P, people drive below speed limit 35-45 and no places to pass
- could use another bridge nearby to relieve congestion and make travel more efficient.
- New Pinery Rd-With Hospital and all new business-worried about congestion and traffic safety.
- All State and County Highways in county, not enough emphasis on safety-more traffic deaths than anything.
- Speeding, going through yellow lights, passing where no passing lines (Springvale)

- 2369 Rapp Rd we have a very steep driveway, it has two entrances, but the township has made us close one off. When we have to back out on to the street it is very dangerous. We almost hit a car and kid on bicycle. We have ask to open it but they refuse to do so. Town of Lodi
- All roads-people drive to fast-get them off the cell phones while driving
- Downtown Portage Traffic—Get those trucks out of town. More patrolling on Interstate-speeding & lane changing.
- Portage signs not always visible and sometimes not enough of them.
- Portage needs Interstate around Portage not through it.
- Downtown Portage
- Downtown Portage multi-road intersection-pedestrian walk-time in crossing (especially for elderly)
- Portage South can't see highway paint when it rains at night.
- W. Wisconsin Street, McFarlane Rd during Weekends and Holidays. Also from 2-5 pm.
- All Rural for safety reasons
- General Safety on all roads
- Some roads narrow: need clearer white or yellow lines on edge of roads
- Anacker Road has no markings
- 45 mph speed limit into portage—keep the traffic moving!
- River Oaks Road in Poynette, washout, overhang trees, no shoulder
- County Line Road (Wisconsin Dells)
- All roads need brush cutback to see deer better.
- East Friesland Road needs to be looked at as far as maintenance goes
- WIBU Rural Road –speed

Survey Comments

Taxes/Expenses/Money

- I do not expect to have the taxes lowered by incoming business/manufacturing, but rise at slower rates or freeze for “X” amount of years possibly.
- I’m upset that residential owners carry more than their fair share of the property tax bill. I live in a rural residential area and feel that the farmers receive too much consideration for their land usage.
- County spending is rampant and needs to be toned down considerably
- Taxes are getting out of hand, not in line with services we receive!
- Whatever new business or construction should only be done if it lowers our property taxes. Our assessments are so far out of wack. The older people are being driven right out of their homes.
- Taxes are extremely High—with no changes to my home and property, my assessment went up 53% Very unhappy-good reason to leave Columbia County.
- Too many houses being built in country areas. Where is all this prop. Tax money going? Too High! Government should be run like a business. From Fed to Local! Don’t think anybody knows how to run a business.
- Grant monies from County Emergency Government is not getting down to the local first responders. It is in Dodge County.
- Taxpayers living in a township shouldn’t have to pay taxes for the fire department, then pay additional fees to the township if they are needed. Seems like the Fire Dept. is double – dipping??
- Columbia County and City of Portage taxes are too high, local government does not care about the increases. People on fixed income and the elderly are being taxed unfairly!
- Columbus property taxes are outrageous given the availability of local shopping for goods and services.
- No new taxes and keep government out of my personal life. We do not need to grow government and its programs.
- I’m concerned about money for Social Services and the quality of DVR services
- At our Tax Rate no one will come to live here in ten years!
- Property taxes are getting way out of hand. Something has to be done. Many I’ve talked to are in favor of raising the sales tax. It’s a shame to see people that have to sell their home because they can’t afford the taxes.
- Retired, the more houses that get built, the higher the taxes go.
- I believe controlling gov’t (and school districts) spending should be the top priority for towns, county, and state officials. This is the only way to keep taxes down. They are way too high compared to many other states.

- The largest portion of our tax bill is for schools, and most kids can't balance a checkbook. We have more support staff than teachers and salaries and benefits out of sight for a 9.5 month job.
- I think that the compost facility is a waste of money, they don't hold their end up. Recycling at least makes some money, but composting takes it all away! The hospital here also sucks! They didn't need to spend that much on a building that doesn't have good doctors. (Portage)
- My husband and I are, what we would consider middle income. The past year, however, we have been weighing the cost of selling our home and moving out of Columbia County due to the high property taxes currently in place. While we enjoy the amenities Columbia County offers, specifically in Portage. We feel we are being taxed far beyond neighboring Communities and Counties.
- With all the housing going on property tax should not be going up because more families are paying in to it HA-HA
- We will be leaving Lodi in the future because of high property taxes and non-existent senior programs or even a senior center.
- Less Development for 1 house more concern should be focused on neighborhoods-incentives on repairing homes—homeowners should be rewarded for repairs on homes not taxed when they clean up property! Tax those who let homes run down.
- If taxes were lower I'd live here longer
- We have 2 properties in Columbia County: 1 property in Sauk Co. Taxes keep increasing: I think people that purchase property to help county take care of it should get some sort of break in taxes.
- The County Board allows the Sheriff Dept to take from other County agencies that need budget money. There is no reason to spend money on a new jail. Board needs to look at the Sheriffs Dept spending and fake numbers.
- We have a 5% state sales tax and a .05% county tax. Could we have a 1.5% school tax and then take that off property tax?
- I feel taxes keep going up for less services some of the roads in rural area the blacktop is so bad you almost haft to mow the grass in the road to make it up to your house and the snow plowing is sometimes non-existence.
- Pardeeville has a serious school issue. Now it sounds like taxes will be increased and still not enough school space, etc...
- The expense of infrastructure is going to be a major determiner for development of residential areas and industrial complexes. Protect our environment! Better to be extra-cautious now than have regrets later. (Please look into junkyard on WIBU Rd.) I think he may be endangering ground water, etc. same for Dekorra dump.)
- Taxes too high, not enough services outside of town. Why pay more for a swimming pass because I live out of city limits, but address is still Columbus!
- Close to retirement, on the bubble as being able to stay in Wisconsin because of the high cost of property tax if they keep going up we will have to sell and move to a different state.
- I don't approve of the tax rates being increased for school tax rates. There are other ways to cutting cost in the school systems besides increasing class sizes and eliminating teaching positions. Get rid of high paid administrative positions and extra-curricular activities. Let the one's participating pay.

- Look out for the taxpayers for once and listen to us. Big corporations will eventually destroy all small business-once this is done the friendly towns are gone.
- Throwing more \$ at schools is not the solution. Neutral opinion often means that the specific development would have to be looked at- there are good & bad ways to comply with regulations. Support Libraries!
- I think property tax has become too much of a burden for homeowners. They should be lowered. Sales tax should be raised instead of property tax. Everyone would pay their share; property tax is way to high.
- Get rid of 50% of the City, County, State Employees, and make the other 50% work! When the Taxpayers foot the bill it shouldn't be an open checkbook! I'm tired of working for the people who don't want to.
- Farm ground & Farming industry needs to be protected. No Farming No Future. Also why does single people pay high taxes for schools when we don't or will not have any children. Should we not be in a different tax bracket? (LOWER).
- Shrink the county board to less than 10 supervisors.
- Police/Sheriff spending is too high.
- County Government must cut expenses by 30% in next year.
- We need to remember not everyone makes Farmers money and benefits. Some people still live on minimum wage and health care is not affordable to them. We help the rich and kick the poor. Farmers are not as bad off as we think.
- Taxes too high, Portage spends money foolishly, sidewalks ridiculous in a lot of cases

Rural Characater/Farmland/Greenspace

- Living in Columbia County beats the hell out of living in Dane County. County officials are certainly more in tuned to what is needed!
- I don't think anyone should have to buy 35 acres to build a house on. Extra land is only wasted.
- Extremely interested in maintaining 35-acre county requirement for new residence to maintain the rural character!!!
- Keep farmland in farming
- I am 90 years old, but still live alone and able to drive my car. I enjoy this small town to live in.
- We would like to see farm and woodlands protected and less development
- I do not agree with putting developments in the rural areas. They should be built in and around existing towns and cities.
- Concerned about subdivisions & isolated single family homes spoiling the rustic character
- To preserve farmland, you need farmers. The B.S. that Cambria pulled in not allowing the Ethanol plant doesn't help farmers. Know you have a Milwaukee elitist leading the fight at

Friesland. This is not helping the situation if---wants to maintain. The "NIMBY" crap has to cease!!

- As the years go by, the main roads in the county are traveled more and more. The volume of vehicles on these roads have already affected my quality of life living in a rural area.
- We live in a very sparsely populated area in the county. It very quiet and beautiful. The only activity we see is tractors and milk trucks doing their work. We very much want things to stay this way. I feel there should be NO subdivisions in the country. Subdivisions should be in, or next to cities and villages. Houses should be built on 40 acres of untillable land only. Large wide-open spaces are becoming more and more threatened by houses on any and every 35-acre site. Some Industrial/Manufacturing development in cities/villages would be good so people could live and work in Columbia County.
- We favor enough growth to "maintain" (with slight growth) with "quality of life" both in the villages and county without losing the "small town" atmosphere plus county living. NO SPRAWL!
- There are many farmers that would like to stay on the home place without selling large chunks off so let them sell one acre per 10/20 acres owned-very simple. Were trying to complicate something that is not complicated.
- We are really concerned about excessive development, since we love this area and enjoy the rural atmosphere. We would really like to see the area remain as is.
- Preserve rural atmosphere cluster development in already existing Towns Villages etc. as much as possible. Will give more air quality and control of emissions when clustered. Build "up instead of out" Need more public hunting available would give more "tourist" dollars in fall and winter.
- We chose to live in a rural area because there are fewer people here. If I had wanted to live in a larger community I would have moved there. The more people you have, the more demands, the more taxes.
- I am most concerned about preserving greenspace in our county and am very concerned about status of downtown Portage, and lack of attention that problem by city government.

Enforcement

- Fine people for having junk cars, junk machinery, clean up their yards
- Lake Wisconsin getting very crowded-need more patrols to control out of county boaters
- To much prime farmland is being lost to housing; concerned about ground water quality, would like to see zoning enforced re: junk cars, machinery, etc. Law enforcement should be more traffic oriented to make our roads safer for everyone.
- Need to clean up junk-there is a car-washer-dryer and sofa behind every tree in the townships
- Columbia County is a beautiful place to live—just need to dispose of more junk.
- The problem is there is too much spending on law enforcement and to little regulation of law enforcement action.
- Not enough law enforcement, Road rage needs more consequences, kids not being buckled, more fines. Drunk driving needs stricter enforcement.
- Please get more patrol cars on Hwy 51 and 22 at rush hour

- We need more police officers for Columbia County maybe there should be some way to hire a few extra ones as this is a problem and we feel this should be a priority in the County Law Enforcement
- County does not enforce Shoreland-Wetland Ordinance! Zoning changes and variances granted or denied depending on "who you are" Loss of farmland, wetlands, and woodlands to housing developments. Lake and river water quality degraded by runoff from too much pavement and mowed lawns etc.

Environment

- We are retired, so do not feel qualified to answer many questions about the future of land use etc. We lived in the city of Portage for many years and their water quality has become much worse.
- Before developing (rezoning) an area, all safety and environmental questions should be addressed and satisfied.
- When you get 20-50 homes in subdivisions without municipal sewage system-I think your asking for trouble in clean water supply. With the world population increasing at a record pace, and all good farmland being taken out of production. Food will be more important then oil.
- Concerned about Unimin Quarry/affects of land use and water supply/contamination. Idea-a yearly update to be held for town/county people.
- Property taxes are a big concern (mine have tripled in 8 yrs) We should forever focus on our basic resources (groundwater, wetlands, soil and air quality etc) we should consider keeping subdivisions as close to urban areas as possible, Perhaps clustering them on marginal lands. Consider helping cities and villages with funds to rejuvenate or raze less desirable housing.
- I am concerned about the large Dairy Farms in and being built in the county. The groundwater quality w/million gallon lagoons, spreading 25ft from private wells, the terrible odor and fly problems, road upkeep and safety on CTY and Town Roads form larger equipment & truck traffic. The concentration of thousands of animals & thousands of acre in the control of one operation, the average size farmer-beginning or existing-cannot compete with the volume of large farms and are being forced out of farming.
- I am too new to the county to know what all of your rules and regulations are to comment on some of your questions. I do know that I like living here compared to Dane County. My biggest fear is the contamination of ground water with any kind of development. If you folks can control that, I am in favor of almost any kind of development that is good for the county.
- The county should look at the pollution in the waterways and lakes. Clean up the County!

Development

- I don't support new developments. If you do create new developments, it is a must to do traffic impact studies and water impact studies. We have too many new developments now that are not being filled!
- Economic Development is the "key" to survival for cities and counties. Why isn't there more effort on this?

- The county's regulations on property is stupid. A property owner should be able to sell a piece of property under 40 acres for another persons dwelling. This shouldn't be any concern to the county.
- The whole picture has to be looked at not just a segmented area at one time. It seems the new subdivisions going in are being "kind of slopped" in the quickest and fastest way possible with no real consideration of how. No impact studies on area and effects on congestion.
- Campgrounds/mobile trailers have no business being in heavy developed areas of single homes.
- County and villages should not be allowed to stop development (subdivisions) by any landowner. Example: 2 year moratorium, via smart growth ordinance here in Poynette (Now being rescinded after one year)
- YMCA would be nice.
- I feel the 4 or 5-acre requirement for housing actually encourages sprawl.
- Limit number of acres for residential use. For example 1 residential home per 40 A, but allow the sale of 5A for the resident.
- My house is in the 1st ward, I should be able too add on with out problems from you. People add on around portage but they wont let me.
- I have concerns about extensive waterfront development County roads (Pustaver Rd in particular) poor condition.
- Discourage development of all residential subdivisions. Encourage light manufacturing and research facilities.
- No more condos \$ sprawl eating up Farmland & Green spaces—recycle currently developed land!
- Answers assume some growth is necessary, but it should be controlled so not run by developers/money interests but by the overall quality of life and welfare of entire county. New developers seem to be in control, often using/abusing elected officials at the expense of the community at large.
- I did not see it mentioned any where in this survey but your chief concern for planning land use should be "sprawl". Sprawl causes longer commutes, more air pollution, more traffic congestion, higher road maintenance, etc. Although I favor clustered developments (Q #15) please refrain from cul-de-sacs in favor of having at least 2 portals in any subdivision. As an incentive to draw-in manufacturers, please do not give tax breaks, rather provide public transportation for its employees and the incentive—good for business and good for the environment, too.
- We should look into building near some of our wetlands, lots of land that is being unused.
- Don't like that a person has to have 35 acres to build which is so foolish.
- Capability/suitability of land for intensive development transcends municipal boundaries so the county could coordinate plans for development along with cities, villages and towns. Means of financing development could include several of the alternatives in varying degrees.
- I moved from a state with very restrictive land-use planning (Oregon); the best feature of which was "Urban Growth Boundaries" in which high-density housing (small lots) was allowed within the area, only larger parcels (5-200 acres) were allowed in areas outside the growth

boundary. I was planning for "cluster housing" on my 22 acre home site to preserve the scenic and rustic nature.

- Transfer of Development Rights in rural areas should be based on 1 right per 35 acres. Portage needs a new airport! County needs to help enable it to happen and protect it once established!
- Most of my time is spent within 5 miles of city limits. My main concern is urban sprawl. I would HATE to see Columbia County ending up like Dane. I worry much over land loss to subdivisions.
- Preserve the Farm Land
- We are farmers and are concerned about Single Family Homes being placed on 35 acres of good farmland. I would rather see a house go on 1 acre of non-tillable land, or developments on poor farm land.
- Traveling Hwy P why are the Subdivisions in Town of Pacific-something wrong here. Need some serious restrictions and rules.
- I reopened this letter to add this. Hopefully they get rid of the 35 to 40 acre for a house. Clustering is much better and could be on non-farmland. The 35-40 acre law splits up farms, wrecks fields and drives the land price way to high for farmers to buy. Keep the houses in smaller plots on non-farmland.
- Big difference between regions of county from "suburban" to "rural" depending on nearness to highways to Madison. Would like to avoid development like 19 West from Sun Prairie.
- My husband and I chose Portage 57 years ago over all the areas between Madison and Stevens Point. It was and is a beautiful city even though it has grown more than I felt it should. We do not need such large business such as Wall-mart.
- 35 Acre rule a failure, development rights just another version of 35 A. Allow clustered lots with open space as an option and let marketplace decide if viable. Allow homes on 3 acres (m/l) of non-tillable land so farmer can sell unproductive, tax-burdened parcels. Use common sense approach, not rigid "one size fits all" Rules.
- We would like to buy some land to build on (=5acres) but have been told that we would need to have enough money to buy more acreage.

General Comments

- We need Ethanol Plants because fossil fuel is not going to be here forever
- Hope that some of the problems can be rectified. Maybe some of this can happen with improvement in the economy.
- We live in rural Pardeeville and have well water. Not happy with development nearby. Do not want to be forced to city water. Moved to country neighborhood recently because we want country living.
- There should be a better balance between rural areas and small communities, police officers to areas. Some towns have way to many police officers (ratio) and others too little. Sheriffs need to stop tailgating cars on Hwy 16. Land use needs to promote population and industry large and small, while designating wildlife, forest and agricultural acreage to maintain a balance and protect our way of life.

- Are uninformed about County's current land use laws, so do not feel we can comment intelligently
- STH 89 and STH 73 in Southern part of County, both should be regraded
- Quality of teaching needs very much improvement in this county!
- Congress is considering putting ethanol in all our gasoline. I think we should be supporting the ethanol plants in Columbia County. It would boost the farm industry and all the people living here. We have 360 acres but we need a market for all the corn and beans we can grow.
- Early childhood programs and social services to protect children are critical
- Columbia County-Wisconsin Dells Mayor Ben Borchert needs to return calls from citizens and homeowners!
- Concerned of the quality of our schools by attracting too many group homes that have students with special needs that goes beyond funds & staff.
- People that are talking about the new Columbia County Jail being built are very unhappy about both the cost and not having a chance to vote on this issue.
- County Government should hold meetings at 7:00 pm to allow public input
- Should encourage wind farm development on non-agricultural land.
- County board should cease giving favors to friends
- Town boards need to listen to the desires of the people. The township of Dekorra was "backstabbed" by their board in allowing condo buildings-and we were left helpless to do something about it.
- The Portage Police spend too much time driving around and sitting. They just care about traffic violations. Tell me while they are sitting and waiting, why kids are running around stabbing each other. Their needs to be more for people, especially kids, to do at any hour in this town. Thanks.
- Awesome Health Care
- My biggest concern is the large amount of traffic in front of my house (Hwy 51) over 25 cats have been killed-laugh at that one boys!
- This is my birthplace and I like where I live in Lowville. The people on Scotland village don't want rules/ordinances put in place for us unless we all agree in this community.
- Where I live I have very little to do with Columbia County, Other than I live in it-I do all my shopping, working in Sauk Prairie. I love where I live and hope to be here longer!
- My wife and I would not want to see Columbia County emulate Dane County.
- We moved to Columbia Co. to get away from the noise and congestion of a larger city and do not want Columbia County to become what we left behind.
- Great place to live. My wife and I love the Lake Wisconsin Area-Keep it beautiful. Thank You.
- I think we need to start making changes... I think if we make the right moves Columbia County can grow and become a better place to live.

- We cannot stop progress and growth. It brings more money to each County. Portage is traveled through by so many—We should take advantage of tourists going through. The downtown should have more shops etc. Amish etc. like Baraboo.
- It seems as if local (township government) can be very one sided. If they have a grudge against you they do not have an open mind.
- This is a big concern for more people than the county realizes. I would like to see some Park and Ride areas built along/near the interstate exits, similar to the one recently built at the Deforest exit. This would encourage more car-pooling, less pollution, and a safe place to park. I have ridden the state vanpool for over 15 years, trying to find a safe place to park my vehicle for the day, has been very challenging. Several of us meet at the same spot to ride the van. We have had to move our meeting area several times as we are asked not to park in certain areas, etc. If some park and ride areas were built, this problem would be eliminated. It would also encourage others to carpool. It would make it safer for everyone. Cars would not be parked in unsafe areas for other drivers to contend with. Our roadways would look nicer as cars would be confined to parking areas without cluttering other areas and roadways.
- Better fairgrounds or improvement in set up and attractions
- The Portage newspaper should provide more county wide news and information and so should the local radio stations.
- There are complex issues facing local/county government agencies. Only open, honest debate and a spirit of cooperation and compromise will move the county toward creative solutions.
- Have you ever heard of a town inflicting a huge assessment on a select few of its residents to pay for a new street in front of their houses? This is a public road. What about tax dollars? This cant be legal. Concerned resident of Bix St (Columbus) \$6,000 for 153' of asphalt, 1/3 of street width and \$4K for curb & gutter
- Get rid of all the DNR public Hunting Land!! These XXX Hunters are the most disrespectful sportsmen I have ever seen anywhere in this state-or most of the country for that matter! Make more snowmobile/ATV trails-more facilities for sports-motorized or silent sports—get rid of hunting, fishing and tourist activities!
- I would like to see more businesses in our downtown Portage.
- City Government in Portage is conducted to aid local business, often at the expense of residents.
- The U.S. Supreme Court rule that no State or Local Government can stop commerce! So all your restriction mean zip or 0.
- More 5-10 acre housing and less cluster subdividing (drop 35 acre rule) but limit clusters like Harmony Grove! Also, fire tax man from town of Lodi!
- Work on Pardeeville schools, they need it.
- County needs to do even more to promote growth of industry for purpose of jobs-good paying jobs.
- I grew up in Lodi and lived there for most of my life. I now live in Chicago and for the first time in my life, I understand what Escape to Wisconsin means! If you want more housing and more development, congestion, and destruction, move to the city! Please preserve our land, our Jewel, Wisconsin.

- Nothing for kids to do
- As local comprehensive plans are forwarded to the County and there is a difference of opinion with the County Proposed ordinance more dialogue should be implemented to find middle ground or compromise.
- I worry about housing developments eating up good farmland. There are many homes in Columbus for sale and yet more and more are being built on the outskirts.
- Town of West Point roads need a lot of work more so then a new town hall.
- Would like to see the county develop a golf course and park at Wyocena area! They have land under used east of town. The residence have very little to do and little chance for extra income that tourism would bring.
- 20 years ago we wanted to build a house and went to the town board to see what had to be done. Some of them put up a stink that if we did not buy 40 acres we could not build. Needless to say we never built and now everyone is building on 10 or less acres.
- Keep agriculture at the forefront but for large scale operations it is a must that they begin to use more environmentally sound practices. Anaerobic digester and less ammonia my well water has 18 ppm nitrate level which costs me about \$20/month to make safe for my children, our future.
- Quality of air by Friesland Feed Mill is terrible and the smell is awful. Do not need Ethanol Plant to make groundwater and air worse. Please
- Need to attract more white-collar businesses, such as insurance companies, technology.
- I enjoy living in Dekorra because it is beautiful and peaceful. I am cautious and nervous about growth because I have seen some of the dumb decisions (growth?) Dekorra has made. Get rid of that Trout Farm. I don't have confidence that the people making these decisions know what they are doing or understand what good development/business is. They will ruin the area!
- Public involvement is must in zoning process. Use site inspections, enforcement. Approval officials should ask, "would I accept these conditions". I live in an area in Portage that really did a poor job. Property involved for sale-in question-city officials unresponsive, may need legal action, waiting and watching.
- We need more aggressive response to snow/ice removal. We know when we've entered Columbia County in the winter due to the neglect of snow/ice removal earlier during a storm period.
- I think there is a lack of common sense and a who cares attitude by some people in charge of government. We need a wake up call.
- Gateways to and from Portage Area, leave a poor impression of our community- make one feel this is a depressed, junky place to live.
- The 35-acre farmland for one house should be dropped. If there is a ½ acre or 1 acre site that is suitable for building a house, it should be OK'd, rather than breaking up more farms and farmland.
- I do not agree with the 35A. rule in Agriculture Zones. This is not preserving farmland. It is making 35-acre lots which are not practical to farms or do much else. One or two acre lots would be much more practical.

- An Ethanol plant is great so is the Biomass digester. How about a Giant Greenhouse that uses heat from Columbia Power plant. Cheap power. Also manufacturing related to the computer industry –As Silicon Valley approach—low pollution impact.
- I have a problem with Junk Cars but instead of removing them. My problem is that a property owner should be able to keep as many junk cars as he or she wants without restriction.
- The county should open and encourage a 4x4 truck recreation area and trails. These areas should be set up to host competitions and free rides.
- Controlled Growth is key for any county.
- This is a great place to live. We need to work together to protect it in a controlled growth/Development Program.
- Roads have become so much busier with all the new developments its crazy. My kids have been in many unsafe situations because of the large volume of traffic and of course it's in a hurry.
- I support revitalizing the downtown of the cities and villages, incorporating historic preservation and tourism. I am worried about development on the bluffs that compromise wild areas & increase erosion and run-off.
- Everywhere you look new dwellings are being erected. Building mostly single-family houses. I think it is a dirty shame they are being put up in beautiful open farmland. Soon there will be a house built on my road in this beautiful open space. All I could do was sit down, shut up, and be a good neighbor. It some how doesn't seem like the right thing to do to open prairie farmland.
- Wal-Mart has had a negative impact on business—I very much dislike shopping there, but sometimes there is no other choice for living essentials.
- Wal-Mart will destroy Portage Area. Small business as we have known it! As long as Columbia County remains anti union good paying jobs wont exist here.
- We need more honest politicians from the national level to the City and County Level.
- Getting sick of City Slickers moving into any woodlot they can buy, and telling farming community what they can and can't do anymore! Driveways are put anywhere and not wide enough if there would be need for fire trucks! The need to be greedy is ruling all. Lets get back to common sense thinking.
- While carefully preserving the rural character and natural resources of Columbia County. We need to expand big business area's to get people good jobs and big money needed for improvements like safety, roads, recreation, ATV snowmobile parks and boat access. We don't want are rural areas turning (city like) by allowing apartments and duplexes. We really need to make it easier for someone to purchase land and build a nice home on rural land, in the long run it will pay off.

Survey

- Some multiple-choice questions (#4) does not clearly indicate if we are answering for present or future.
- Are you going to publish the results of this Survey in the Lodi Enterprise?
- Good Survey (No Loaded Questions)

- It would be nice to see the survey results published in all area newspapers.
- Thanks for the efforts
- Survey is to long
- Waste of money for postage. Survey may never be used.
- I didn't realize how uninformed I am, this questionnaire alerted me on many issues. I did the best I could.
- Why were so many of the questions identical and repeated so many times—to confuse us? Or to sway the opinion poll?
- Good idea to do a survey.
- Great Survey. Some questions had two answers depending upon perspective, i.e.. Town, Village, City. Keep the county rural and keep government out of the business of managing people lives. Too much government means too much regulation. People do not need regulations.
- Thanks-Hope enough surveys were mailed to receive brood input.
- I'm sorry you didn't use services of professional (academic) survey developers because so many questions could have tendered you more precise and effective responses to aid in the decision making process. I very much appreciate the time and effort put into this, however.
- This was great-very comprehensive. I'll be looking forward to hearing about your findings from this. I'm really intrigued by the clustered residential development. I've heard of this in West Bend or Sheboygan Co.-We should push this.
- I love living in Columbia County. Please preserve our wetlands/natural wooded areas—growth and expansion are not always first priorities on quality of life. Thanks for the opportunity!
- Each township is supposed to have a plan in effect by 2010 by state mandate. Whose plan will we be using, County or Township?
- We have enjoyed living in Columbia County for 18 years. We moved here originally to avoid higher taxes in Dodge County. We are saddened to see our taxes keep going up! Also don't like to see new houses going up, with barking dogs all night. We enjoy our peace and quiet and privacy.
- Will the results of the survey be published? Or available in the library?
- Question 6 cannot be answered. Of course it is important to have farms and farmland but the little farmer cannot make it so he subdivides it to make enough to retire and gets out. We have no right to say he cannot have the choice.
- Don't know regulations that well and unclear about some questions.
- Although I have only lived in Columbia County for 6 months. I feel that this survey is nice to have the opportunity to fill out. But, I wish I could have had an opportunity to expand in certain areas. Perhaps a comment section for each area.
- Many of these questions are difficult to answer. Example: if we are unhappy with law enforcement you have no indication if that means we want more, or less cops or are just dissatisfied with the existing laws being enforced

Columbia County 2003 Community Opinion Survey Results

- This survey is very subjective! What is acceptable in one area may be prohibitive in another. Growth is acceptable only if water levels, water quality, and energy usage can be maintained at reasonable costs. Someone better take responsibility for our future living conditions now! We don't need a sewer problem like they experienced at OKEE by allowing subdivisions throughout the county!
- Good Survey- Very hard to balance all these opinions—But I feel that the big “Super Centers” will/are destroying our small towns.
- Thank you for sending this form.
- Thank you for doing this survey! Columbia County is a great place to live. Any new development needs to be controlled to maintain our quality of life.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2030
SUMMARY OF MEETINGS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

SPEAKER	LOCATION	DATE	TOPIC
Col. County Planning	Portage	3/16/2003	Comp Plan Participation Agreement
Col. County Planning	Friesland Village Hall	1/21/2004	Review County Survey Results/Plan
Col. County Planning	Lodi Town Hall	1/28/2004	Review County Survey Results/Plan
Col. County Planning	Otsego Town Hall	2/18/2004	Review County Survey Results/Plan
Col. County Planning	Portage County Hall	2/21/2004	Review County Survey Results/Plan
Dept. of Transportation	Portage	5/26/2004	Understanding Land Use and Transportation
Col. County Planning	Portage-Law Center	2/16/2005	Open House on Elements 1,2,3,4
Col. County Planning	Otsego Town Hall	2/17/2005	Open House on Elements 1,2,3,4
Col. County Land Conservation	Portage	3/16/2005	Land & Water Conservation Programs
State Hist. Society	Portage	3/30/2005	Historical/Cultural Preservation Planning
Col. County UWEX	Portage	4/20/2005	Economic Impacts of Agriculture
DNR, USGS, UWEX	Portage	8/24/2005	Groundwater/Future Water Supply
Gathering Waters Conservancy	Portage	9/14/2005	Land Trust and Conservation Easements
Col. County Planning	Portage	4/26/2006	Open House on Elements 5, 6, 7 Intro 8, 9
Col. County Planning	Otsego Town Hall	7/17/2007	Open House on Recommended Comp Plan
Col. County Planning	Portage	7/18/2007	Open House on Recommended Comp Plan
Col. County Planning	Arlington Town Hall	7/24/2007	Open House on Recommended Comp Plan
Col. County Planning	Portage-Law Center	7/25/2007	Open House on Recommended Comp Plan

Informational /Open House Meetings 18 Total

**COLUMBIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2030
SUMMARY OF MEETINGS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)

YEAR 2003	7-30-03, 8-13-03, 9-24-03, 10-15-03, 11-12-03, 12-3-03
YEAR 2004	3-17-04, 4-21-04, 5-26-04, 7-21-04, 8-18-04, 10-13-04
YEAR 2005	2-2-05, 2-10-05, 3-16-05, 4-20-05, 5-25-05, 6-22-05, 8-14-05, 10-19-05, 11-14-05, 12-7-05
YEAR 2006	1-11-06, 3-8-06, 4-12-06, 7-26-06, 8-9-06, 9-19-06, 10-23-06
YEAR 2007	1-24-07, 2-13-07, 3-14-07, 4-11-07, 5-25-07, 6-7-07, 6-13-07, 6-27-07
CPAC Meetings	37 Total

**COLUMBIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2046 AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN 2035
SUMMARY OF MEETINGS & PARTICIPATION**

December 12, 2024	Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update – Town Input Survey (results below)
January – March 2025	Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update – Public Survey (results below)
September 2, 2025	2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Open House
December 2, 2025	2025 Farmland Preservation Plan Update Open House
March 3, 2026	Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan Updates Open House
March 3, 2026	Planning & Zoning Committee Public Hearing and Recommendation of Adoption of Amendment to Chapter 13 of the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Including Appendix IV Farmland Preservation Plan
March 18, 2026	Adoption of Amendment to Chapter 13 of the Columbia County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Including Appendix IV Farmland Preservation Plan

Town Survey Results

Dates: December 2024 – March 2025

- Sent to Town clerk/chair via memo hard copy (12/12/24)
- Sent to Town clerk via email (12/12/24)



Town Responses: Columbia County Farmland Preservation Survey

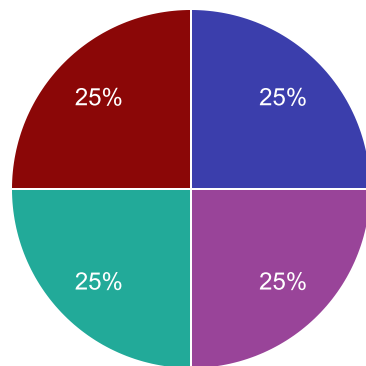
4 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

What town do you represent?

[Copy](#)

4 responses



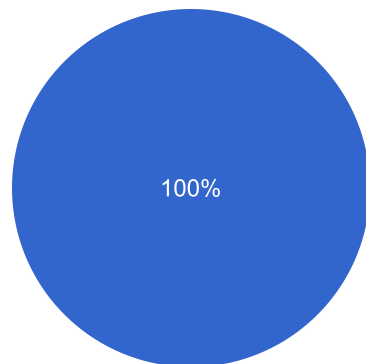
- Arlington
- Caledonia
- Columbus
- Courtland
- Dekorra
- Fort Winnebago
- Fountain Prairie
- Hampden

▲ 1/3 ▼

For the last 10 years, the Farmland Preservation Plan residential development strategy has been 1 house per 35 acres. Does your town support this strategy?

[Copy](#)

4 responses



- Yes
- No - explain in next Section



Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

If no to previous question, please explain.

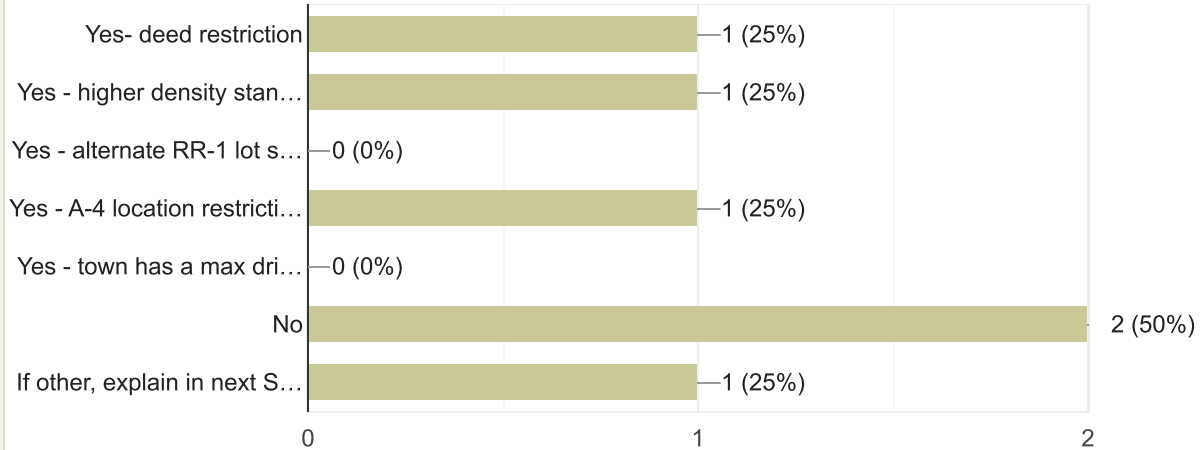
0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

Does your town implement farmland preservation strategies above and beyond the county's 1 house per 35 acre density requirement? If so , select all that apply.

 Copy

4 responses



Other (please explain)

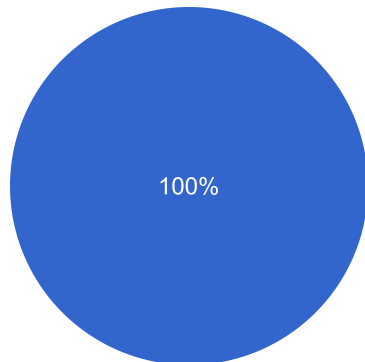
1 response

We have a more stringent density standard and we have a program for the transfer of development right.

The current zoning ordinance allows for residential development, provided that the density standard is met regardless of ownership and contiguity (within a town). Do you support this method?

 Copy

4 responses

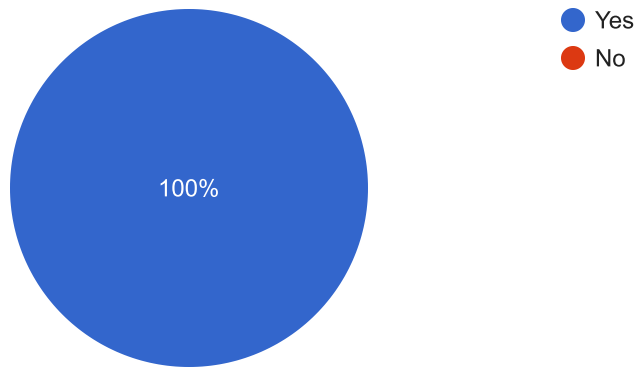


- Yes we support the County's broad approach, with the ability for the town to be more restrictive
- No - we wish the County would be more restrictive



Do you have a land division ordinance?

4 responses



Please describe the influences in your town that you feel will uniquely impact Farmland Preservation over the next 10 years?

4 responses

Large scale commercial / industrial wind and solar development.

We are losing farmland due to the rise in the ground water.

Growth of the lake area surrounding farmland; Growth of the City and possible annexations taking farmland.

No comment.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#).

Does this form look suspicious? [Report](#)

Google Forms



Public Survey Results

Published Dates: January – March 2025

- Distributions/Publications:
- Ag Reporter Newsletter – December 2024 edition
- Listed on P&Z website – Beginning of December
- Press Release – Sent to Paper 12/17/24
- In office copies – Beginning of December
- Sent to Towns – Email with memo sent to clerks 12/12/24
- PZ & LWCD – 12/12/24
- P&Z and LWCD Staff – Sent email 12/12/24



Columbia County Farmland Preservation Survey

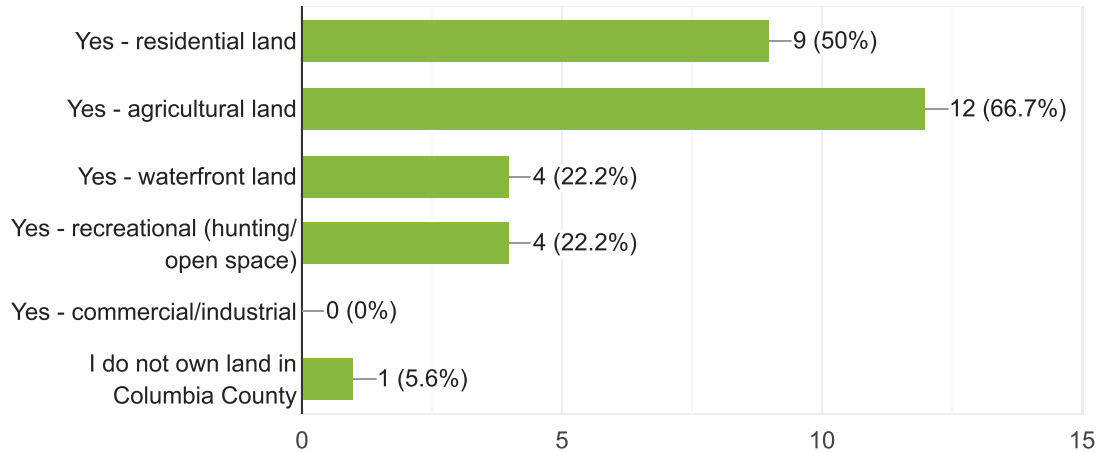
18 responses

[Publish analytics](#)

Are you a landowner in Columbia County?

[Copy](#)

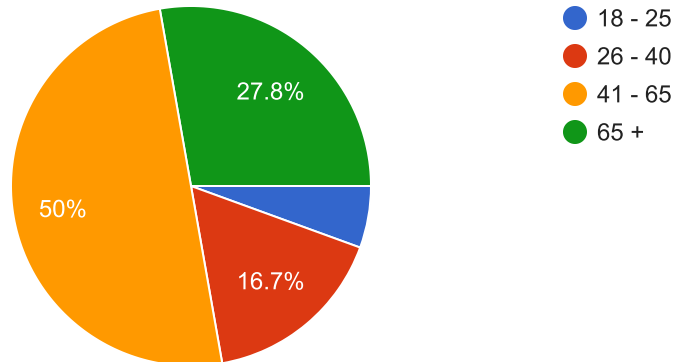
18 responses



What is your age?

[Copy](#)

18 responses

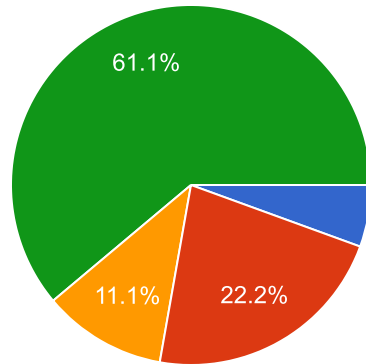


Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

How long have you lived in Columbia County?

 Copy

18 responses

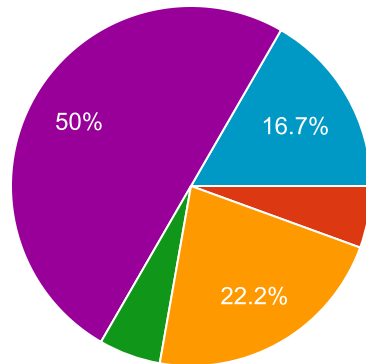


- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21+ years
- I don't live in Columbia County, but I own land in Columbia County

What is your level of education?

 Copy

18 responses

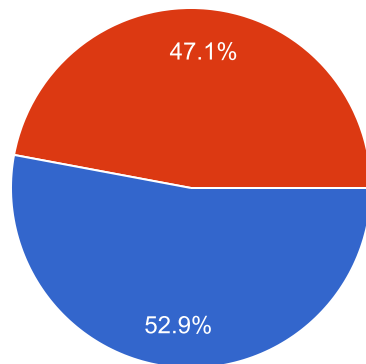


- Less than highschool
- Highschool diploma or equivalent
- Some College/Tech
- 2 Year Degree
- 4 Year Degree
- Grad/Professional Degree

Are you a farmer?

 Copy

17 responses



- Yes
- No

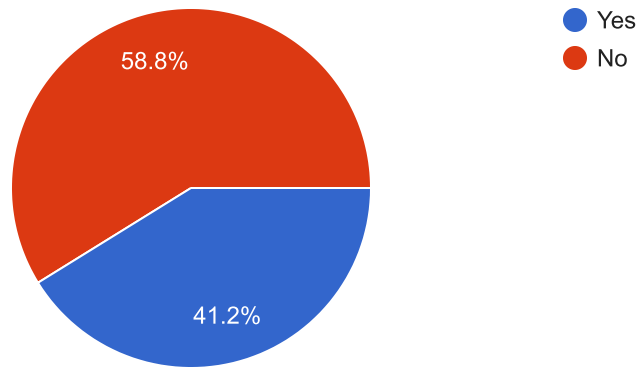


Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

Do you work in the farm industry such as agribusiness?

 Copy

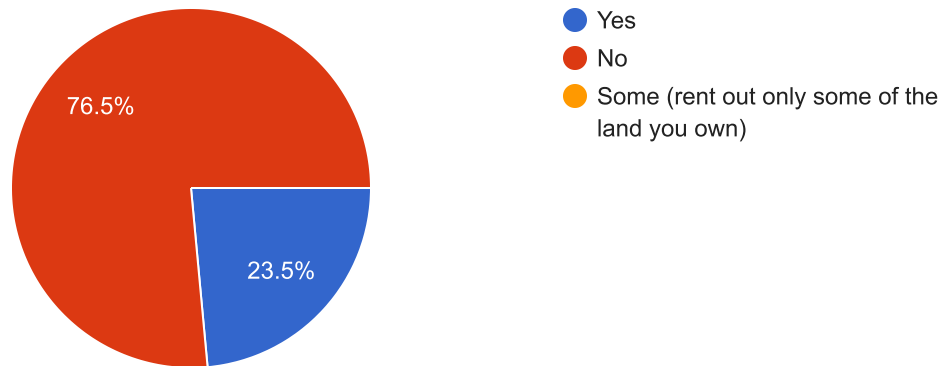
17 responses



Do you rent your land to be farmed?

 Copy

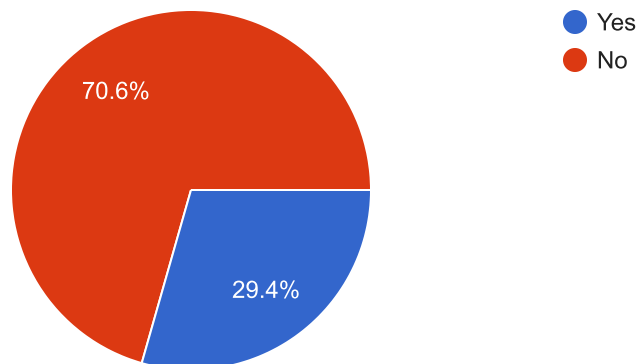
17 responses



Is farming your household's primary source of income?

 Copy

17 responses

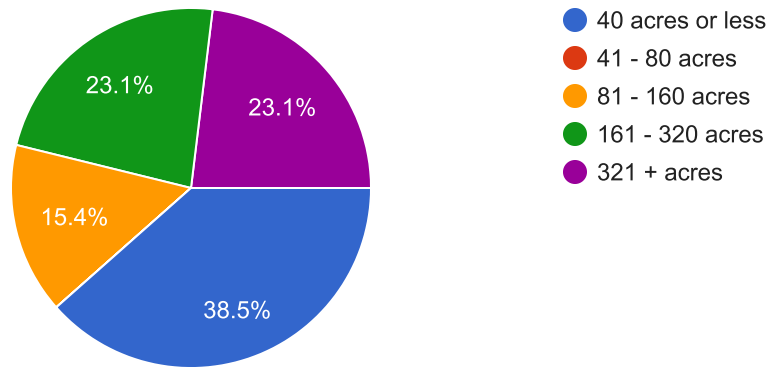


Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

How many acres do you farm, including the acres you rent-to-farm?

 Copy

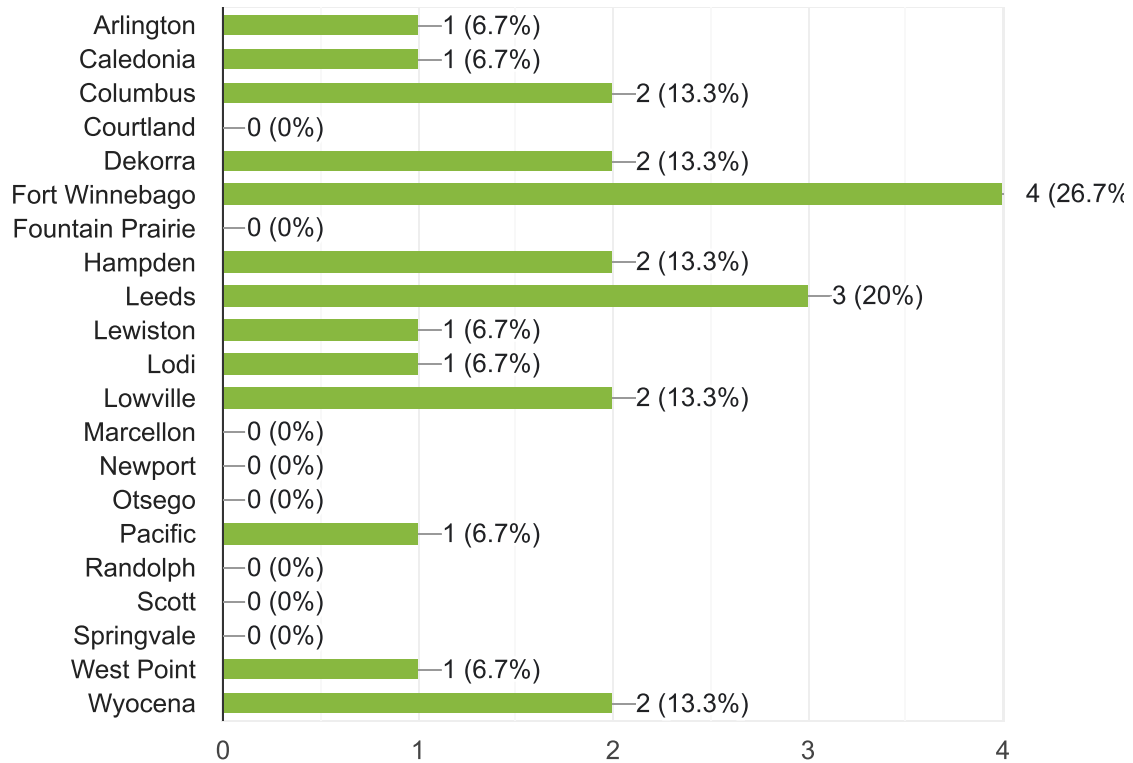
13 responses



What town(s) do you own land in? (check all that apply)

 Copy

15 responses

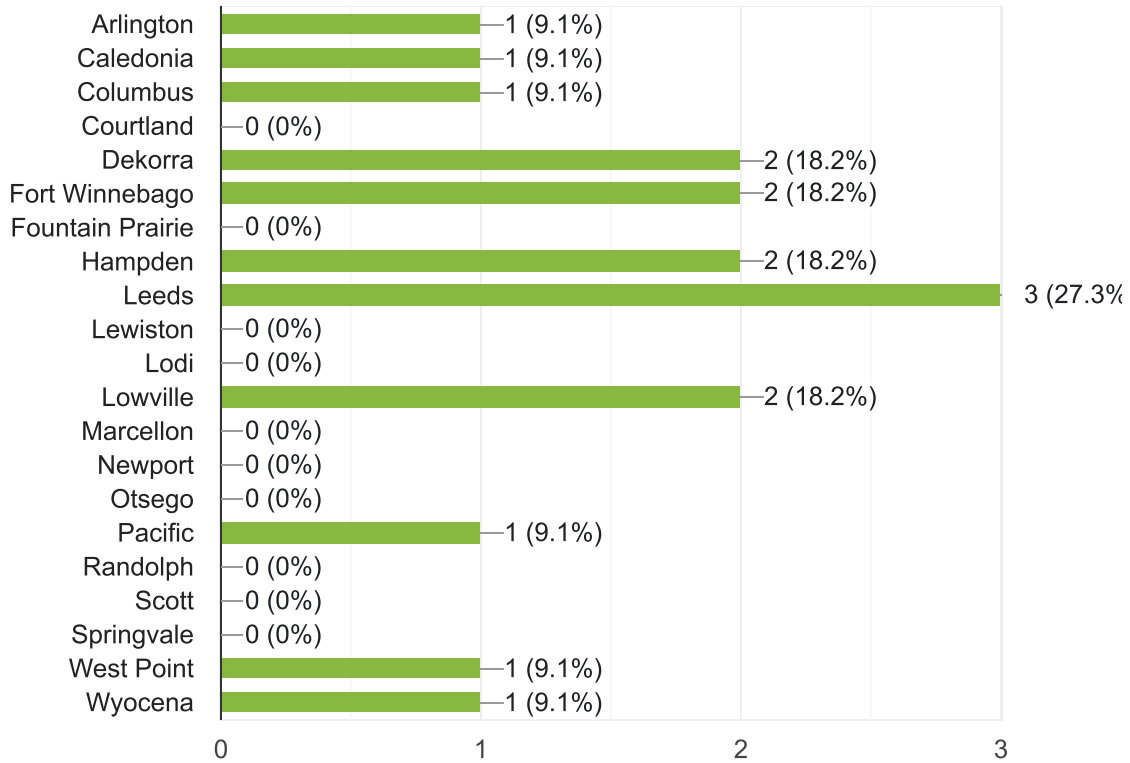


Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

What town(s) do you farm in, including land you rent-to-farm? (check all that apply)



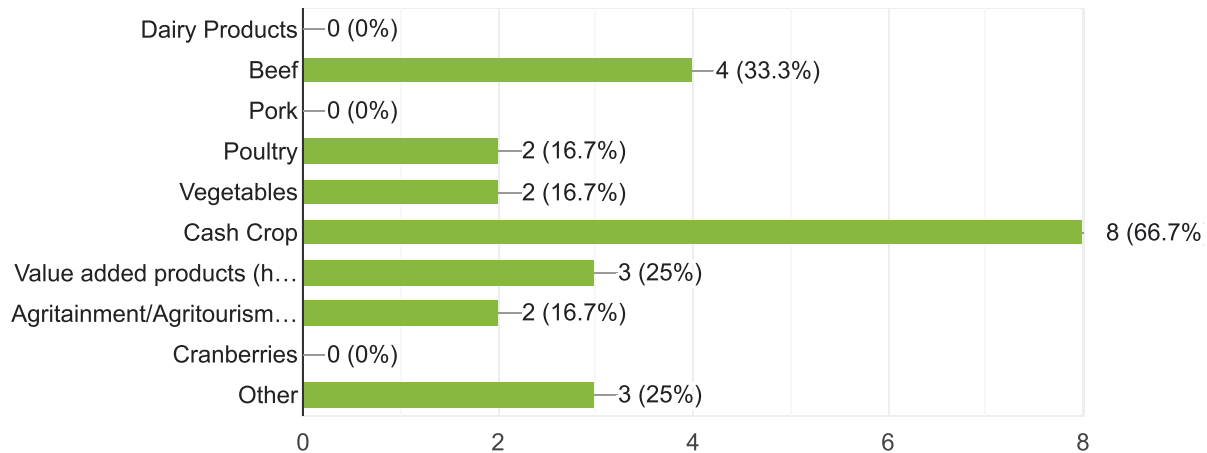
11 responses



What types of agricultural products does your farm produce? (check all that apply)



12 responses

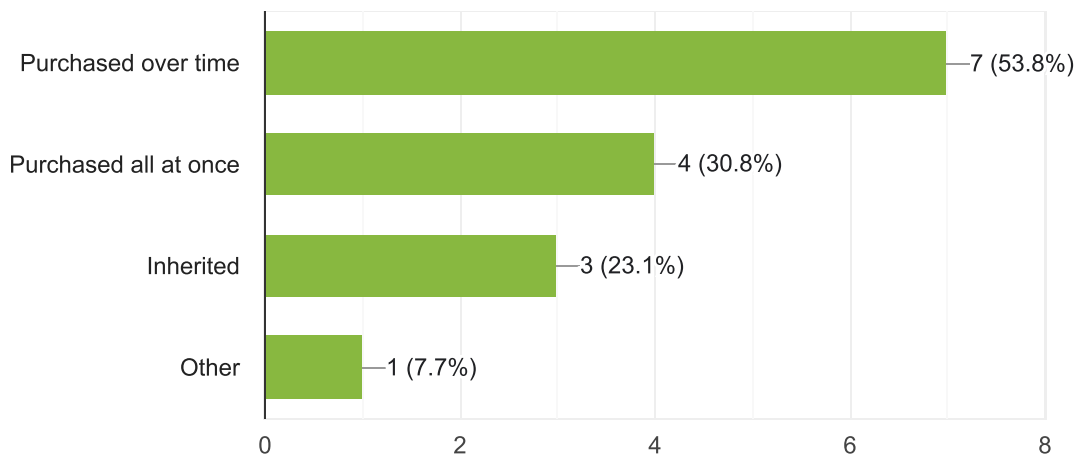


Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

How did you acquire your farmland? (check all that apply)

 Copy

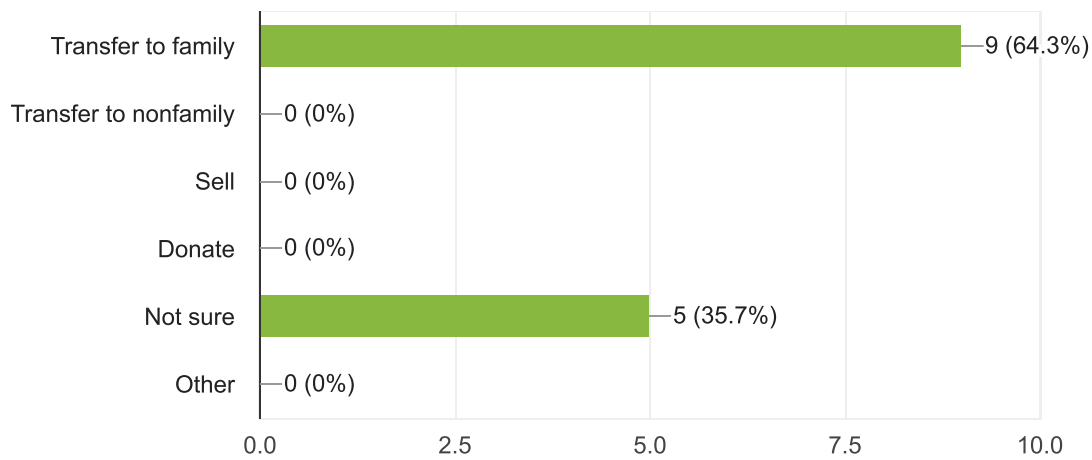
13 responses



What are your future plans for your land?

 Copy

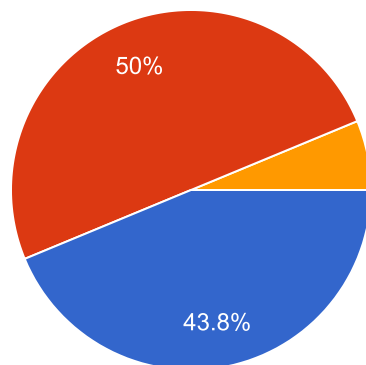
14 responses



Are you aware of the County's Farmland Preservation Plan?

 Copy

16 responses



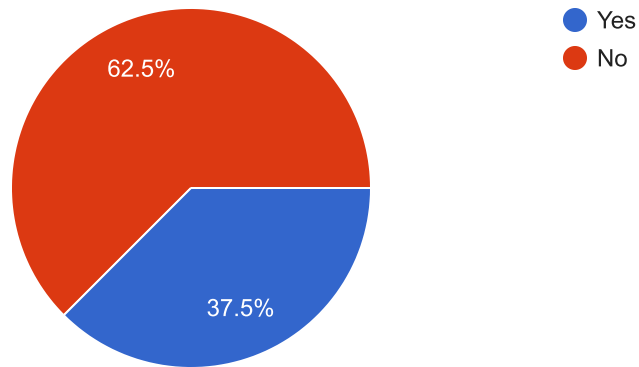
- Yes, I know all about it
- Yes, I know about it, but don't know much about it
- Never heard of it



Do you receive Farmland Preservation tax credits?

 Copy

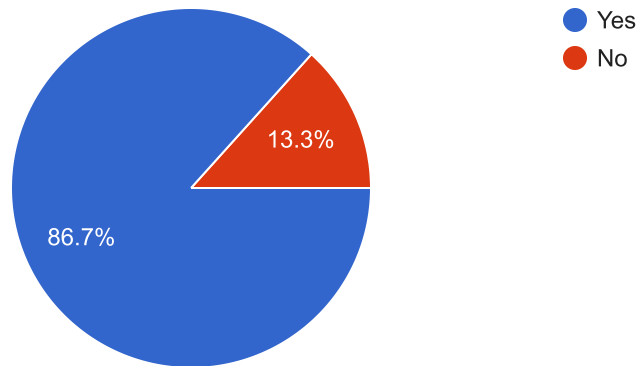
16 responses



To obtain tax credits, landowners must be certified to be in compliance with state soil and water conservation standards. Do you see value in this approach?

 Copy

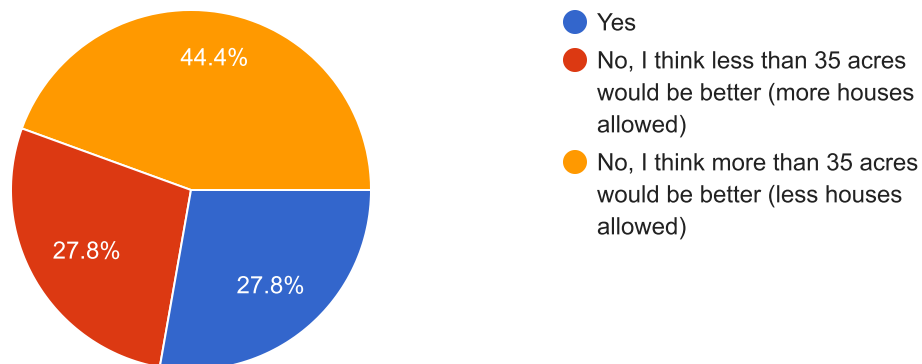
15 responses



Agricultural land in Columbia County has a density requirement of 1 house per 35 acres. Do you feel like this is sufficient and realistic in protecting farmland?

 Copy

18 responses

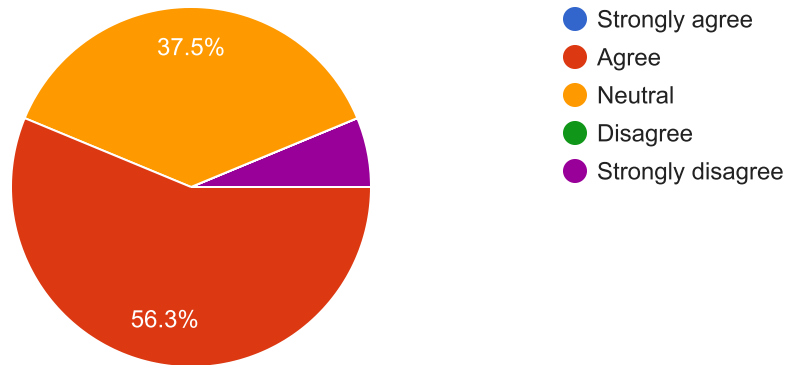


Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

Columbia County supports agriculture-related operations needed to run a farm. Examples such as storage facilities, supply and processing companies, etc.



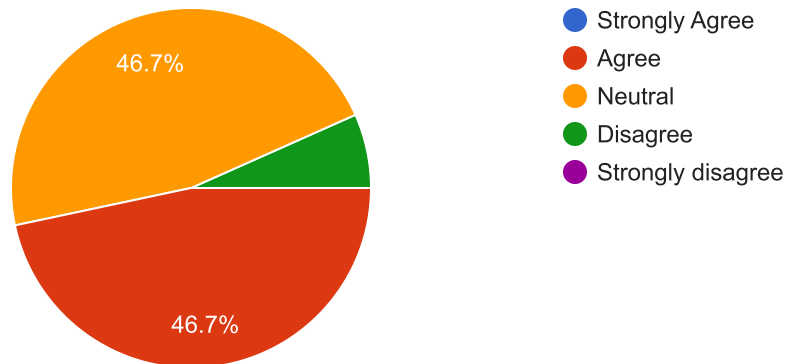
16 responses



Access to farm related financial services is adequate.



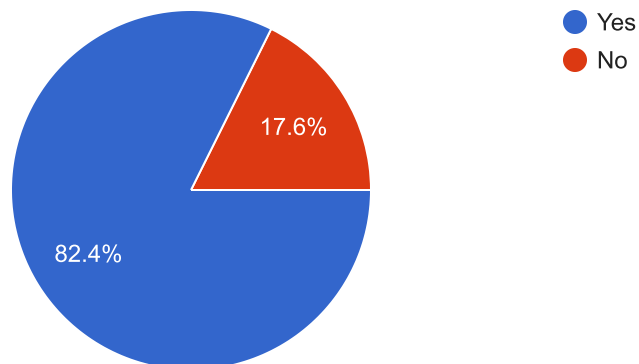
15 responses



Do you support transfer of development rights (providing that density requirements are sustained within an individual town)?

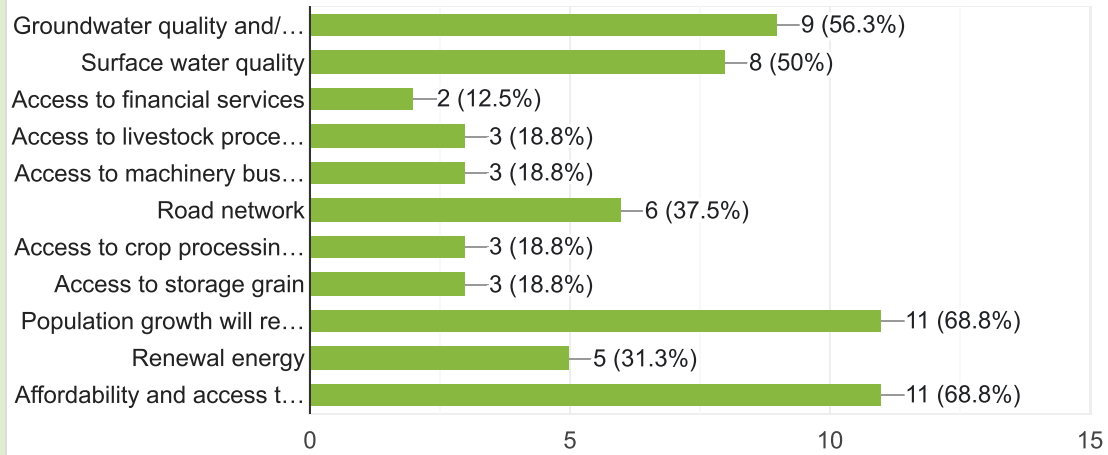


17 responses



What farm-related concerns do you have for the future in Columbia County?

16 responses



Columbia County Farmland Preservation Plan Update Survey Results

Do you have any other thoughts or feedback you would like to share? If so, please respond below.

5 responses

To encourage small farms should develop Agriculture Residential Zone separate from the Rural Residential Zone. This Agriculture residential zone should be eligible for Farmland Preservation Program. The Rural Residential zone then limited 0 to 2 acres only. Then Ag Residential Zone be from 2 to 35 acres.

I support renewable energy sources but feel they should be designed to accommodate agriculture use amongst the project. I support the transfer of development rights from good agricultural land to lesser quality lands more suitable for housing. I'm not sure a zoning density of 1 per 35 is strict enough to get the job done of stopping the division of farmland to the point that the surrounding land can be farmed without conflicts with non farmers especially if livestock are involved.

Farmland that is converted to Solar arrays should no longer be considered farmland, and be ineligible for the Farmland Preservation Program. After the solar companies have erected their arrays, the former farmland has certainly NOT been "preserved". The dozed over soil, once the premier soils of the world, are now almost useless for farming purposes. Shaded areas of weeds and a dead, scoured landscape with a few malnourished sheep is NOT farming. Without the tax subsidies, this wouldn't even be an issue, as solar panels in Wisconsin are highly inefficient.

For the FPP & conservation plans, I would go back to emphasis on some form of crop residue requirements, or more of a subsidy for certain tillage practices such as No-till, strip till, or minimum till. Last spring and summer's (2024) heavy rains took quite a toll on land that had used a "high speed disk" type implement, due to a lack of surface crop residue, and the soil being very loose to a greater depth.

Very dissatisfied to see the plans for solar panels on Farm land

We need to do everything we can to preserve farmland for farming. Industrial renewable energy projects should not be placed on farmland. It ruins our soil, will take years and a pile of money to amend the soil once those projects are "removed" even though they will not be removed completely, and will have lost the opportunity for more young people to start their ag businesses. Please read this article.

<https://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/renewable/solar/solar-power-depletes-farmlands-of-rich-soil/>

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)

Does this form look suspicious? [Report](#)

Google Forms

