

Recap of July 30th Ag. Forum

- Determined key areas of planning
- Determined goals to support agriculture in Jasper County.
 - Land-use planning for changing environment/climate
 - Farmland protection
 - County level organization for farmers and farmland
 - County level incentives
 - Reliable information for business decisions
 - Marketing assistance
 - Economic opportunities
 - Market availability
 - Accessibility to resources for farmers
 - Farming that is economically sustainable
 - Effective messaging to non-farming community
 - Strong farming community ties
 - Conservation & agriculture working together
 - Demographic changes to the farming community
 - Timely information

Planning Process

The Agricultural Comprehensive Plan will highlight the issues facing agriculture in Jasper County and recommend a course of action for each of the topic areas.

- Farmland preservation
- Communication
- Natural resources
- Marketing assistance & support
- Adverse climate conditions

Planning Components

"Preserving Jasper County's agricultural community & resources"

Economics

- Small scale
- Niche operations
- Commercial operations
- Young & beginning farmers
- Ag. Support businesses

Support Networks

- Jasper County
- Community news
- Preservation Board
- Education assistance
- Legal assistance
- Technical assistance
- Community organizations
- Federal resources

Initiatives

- Preservation board
- "Connect the County" programs
- Branding Jasper county agriculture
- Farmer led regulated conservation compliance programs

Land use

- Managed Open Space
- Environmental corridors
- Farmland protection

Farmland Preservation

Supporting on-going active agriculture in the county

Goals

- Minimize nonagricultural development on "prime" agriculture land
- Planning for contiguous farmland
- Support for beginning & young farmers

Planning

- Farming Preservation Board
 - Make up of the board
 - Active farmer representatives
 - Community representatives
 - Active member of city/township governing body
 - Commercial industrial/residential building contractor
- Purpose of developing a preservation board
 - Ability to reach goals and objectives for land preservation
 - Address concerns within the farming and non-farming community on land-use, planning and preservation.
 - Provide opportunities for young & beginning farmers entering the county

Community Questions/Comments

Communication

Relationships & information sharing

Goals

- Demonstrate Jasper County's commitment to its agricultural community through messaging and branding campaign
- Increase visibility of agriculture on county website
- Expand local leadership to identify & establish resources for farmers
- Provide educational events for Jasper County farmers

Planning

- *Connect to the County*
 - Farming Fact Sheet: Technical & financial assistance fact sheet
- Determine the focus for Jasper County branding
- Access to professionals for technical assistance

Community Questions/Comments

Natural Resources

Soil, water & wildlife

Environmental considerations in the county

- Erosion specifically: sheet, rill, ephemeral and gully
- Organic matter depletion
- Nutrients and sediments in surface waters
- Pathogens & chemicals in surface water
- Lowered plant productivity & health

Goals

- Collaborate with organizations, agencies and regional groups on restoration and conservation
- Educate the public on how farming conservation practices improve business economics and quality of life
- Develop model to address land use and areas of environmental concern
- Make conservation visible in the county

Planning

- Agricultural centered programming: "*Connect the County*"
 - Field days
 - Educational programs for farming & non-farming community
 - Water quality, wildlife protection, economic benefits of conservation
- Watershed level programming
- Farmer led conservation compliance programs
 - Voluntary programs
 - Farmstead, cropping, livestock, forest, wetland & habitat systems

Community Questions/Comments

Market Opportunities & Support

Building resilient farms

Goal

- Support market development
- Resilient farmland in the county
 - Economic
 - Environmental

Planning

- Utilize Farming Preservation Board
 - Identify appropriate diversification, specific markets and infrastructure needs
- "Meet the Buyer" events

Community Questions/Comments

Adverse Climate Conditions

Threats to agriculture due to climate breakdown

Goals

- Discourage incompatible use of land while encouraging conservation of productive agricultural lands
- Retain & encourage open space
 - Define open space
- Advance understanding of:
 - Risk reduction strategies
 - Mitigation strategies
 - Resiliency building

Planning

- Farmer led conservation compliance program
- New and existing crop strategy planning
 - Mixed varieties and maturities

Community Questions/Comments

Next Steps

- Upcoming draft plan review of fall
- For further comment
 - Stacy Cushenbery: cushenbery@solutionsintheland.com
 - Hope Hellmann: hellmann@solutionsintheland.com
- Thank you Jasper County