

Bayfield AEA

**Bayfield County
Town of Bayfield**

PART II. PURPOSE AND RATIONALE FOR AEA

DATCP will evaluate petitions under s. 91.86, Wis. Stats., and will consider information provided in response to the following questions.

1. What are the agricultural land use and development goals of the proposed AEA?

Include a discussion of proposed agricultural uses and agricultural-related uses, including a discussion of relevant infrastructure in the AEA. Explain how the proposed AEA will advance the state's goal of agricultural preservation and development. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.

There are few places in WI where agriculture is as important to the economic, social, and cultural life as Bayfield, WI. This petition seeks to officially recognize that importance through designation of the Bayfield Agricultural Enterprise Area (BAEA) within the Town of Bayfield.

Within the BAEA, the primary *agricultural land-use* goal is to protect and strengthen the existing fruit orchards while maintaining sufficient open lands for future expansion of specialty crop production. The primary *agricultural development* goals are to enhance the profitability of the existing farm operations through capitalization, market development, and value-added processing while supporting expansion of specialty crop production through market development and recruitment and training of new growers.

Recognizing the importance of agriculture to the region, the Town of Bayfield has identified the preservation of farmland as a goal in their Comprehensive Plan and financially supported a Town of Bayfield Farmland Preservation Program to protect farms in the orchard district from non-agricultural development pressure. The orchard district currently contains 15 commercial fruit farms with a dozen or so subsistence or small-scale agricultural operations. The district is located near and along County Road J, which forms the “fruit loop” around the City of Bayfield.

The orchard district is a central component of the tourist economy of the region and, as such, is an important component of the lodging and restaurant economy. The annual Bayfield Apple Fest draws 50,000 visitors each year and is consistently ranked as one of the top festivals in the Midwest. Capitalizing on the tourist traffic, the farm operations are structured primarily as agri-tourist businesses with pick-your-own sales, retail farm stands, and small-scale value added processing. Drawing on the Bayfield brand, larger operations such as Rabideaux's Bayfield Fruit Company, Bayfield Apple Company, Highland Valley Farm, and Blue Vista Farm operate wholesale operations with exports of fresh fruit and value-added products. According to 2007 Census Data, the fruit growers in Bayfield County had \$1.5 million in sales, up from \$810K in 2002. The increase reflects the growing demand for Bayfield fruit and the expanding opportunity for Bayfield fruit growers. The sales values are important, but greatly underestimate the full economic impact (and potential) of the fruit growing region in Bayfield.

The shoreline of Lake Superior creates optimal conditions for fruit production and development of agri-tourist economies. The shoreline is also equally optimal for second home development. Agricultural Enterprise Areas, such as the proposed BAEA, can be an important tool in protecting the agricultural economies and, more importantly, the economic diversity of the shoreline areas. As such, the BAEA will help advance the State's goal of agricultural preservation and development.

2. What activities are planned in the proposed AEA to achieve the agricultural preservation and development goals?

Describe any planned activities within the AEA, including grants, development incentives, cooperative agreements, land or easement purchases, land donations, promotional activities, public outreach or other actions that will help achieve the stated goals. Identify other individuals and entities involved in these efforts and their level of commitment. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.

Recognizing the economic opportunities posed by an increase in demand for locally and sustainably produced agricultural products and the immediate threats posed by real estate speculation and second home development, the fruit growers of Bayfield in partnership with the Town of Bayfield, Bayfield Chamber of Commerce, UW-Extension and other partners have been working hard to strengthen the agricultural economy of the region:

Town of Bayfield Farmland Preservation Program

In 2003, the Town of Bayfield implemented a purchase-of-development-rights (PDR) Farmland Preservation Program. Four fruit farms, all within the proposed AEA, were perpetually protected from future subdivision and residential development through the purchase of conservation easements. Qualifying matching funds from the USDA-NRCS Farm and Ranch Protection Program were utilized in making these easement purchases and the Bayfield Regional Conservancy, a local land trust, administers and monitors the easements. Although the Town's program was frozen when municipal match-moneys were exhausted, it is hoped that a program for farmland preservation will be reactivated in the Town now that the State of Wisconsin will assist with funding through its recently enacted PACE program and the Bayfield Regional Conservancy is poised to collaborate with farmers interested in selling their development rights through a PACE program.

Bayfield Fruit Growers Initiative

With the support of UW-Extension, the fruit growers convened a Fruit Summit in 2008 to identify priority actions to support the fruit economy of the Bayfield region. The resulting Bayfield Fruit Growers Initiative (Attached) outlines twelve actions the fruit growers have been working to implement since 2008. Some of the specific actions have already been achieved, while others await further resources.

Bayfield Fruit Trials

Recognizing the importance of diversity in production and product offering, the fruit growers have worked with UW-Extension to establish wine grape, table grape, black, red, and white currant, black raspberry, and blackberry variety trials. The trials are intended to provide cultivar and production information for growers to diversify their orchards. A hazelnut performance trial is being planned for 2010.

Bayfield Chamber of Commerce Orchard Marketing Task Force

The Bayfield Chamber of Commerce has worked closely with the fruit growers via the Orchard Marketing Task Force to develop advertising and marketing materials for the agri-tourist economy. A series of rack cards, web pages, and other advertising has helped enhance the awareness of Bayfield as a vacation destination and source for locally and sustainably grown fruit and fruit products. The Chamber also organizes the Apple Fest, Scarecrow Festival, and Bayfield in Bloom events to help bring consumers to the region.

Bayfield Regional Food Producers Association

Established late in 2009, the Bayfield Regional Food Producers Association consists of farm owners in Ashland and Bayfield County working together to develop markets and increase sales of member

farmers. Two of the members have recently been awarded Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin funding for projects to increase sales of agricultural products. This organization will be working over the coming months and years to improve the vitality of the agricultural economy of the region.

Chequamegon Bay Farm and Agribusiness Internship Program

Many of the fruit growers in the region are reaching retirement age and it will be important to recruit and train the next generation of orchard producers. The Chequamegon Bay Farm and Agribusiness Internship Program was started in 2009 and fruit producers in the proposed BAEA hosted 5 interns during the 2009 growing season, including the Fruit to Beverage intern that worked on a blueberry farm, grape breeding vineyard, and winery.

Lake Superior Eco-Apple Network

Apple growers within the BAEA have been working to reduce the toxicity of their pest control programs by implementing integrated pest management. The Lake Superior Eco-Apple Network is operated by UW-Extension and grower members work together to learn about and implement IPM. To date, the growers have reported a 58% reduction in the toxicity of their pest control programs. The Network is supported with funding from the EPA Risk Management Agency.

Bayfield Area Apple Pest Reduction Program

Apples have been grown in the Bayfield area for over 100 years and there are wild apples and abandoned blocks throughout the region. These abandoned apples support large pest populations that migrate into commercial orchards and require additional pest control measures. Apple growers in the BAEA received funding from the SARE Farmer Rancher grant program to implement an outreach and abandoned apple tree removal program. The growers helped educate the neighbors about the problems caused by abandoned trees and with funding support from the SARE grant have been able to remove nearly 8 acres of abandoned trees and reduce pest populations.

Additional funding was secured to trial codling moth mating disruption, made possible by the removal of abandoned apple trees on adjoining properties.

Outreach Education and Grower Training

The State and County supported UW-Extension Agriculture Agent works closely with farmers within the proposed BAEA to organize and deliver educational programming on a variety of topics. In the last few years seminars, workshops, and conferences have been held on: apple pest management, nutrient management, Good Agricultural Practices, blueberry production, farm succession, and small fruit production.

Town of Bayfield Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Bayfield's Comprehensive plan clearly communicates the desire of the Town of Bayfield to protect its agricultural land-base and strengthen its agricultural economy:

“Objective AR-1: Focus the farmland preservation by clearly identifying areas in need of preservation because of their viability as farm lands.

Task 1: Continue the funding for the Purchase of Development Rights Program. Explore additional means of raising the necessary capital to finance the program, such as, State and County programs. Establish a development fee program and contact corporate and private sources for donations

Task 2: Explore and implement other means of protecting farmland, such as open space zoning,

performance zoning, conservation design subdivisions and planned unit developments.

Objective AR-2: Protect farmland from subdivision and development

Task 1: Continue the Purchase of Development Rights Program. Explore additional means of raising the necessary capital to finance the program, such as State and County programs. Establish a development fee program and contact corporate and private sources for donations.

Task 2: Explore and implement other means of protecting farmland, such as open space zoning, performance zoning, conservation design subdivisions and planned unit developments.

Objective AR-3: Enhance the economic viability of farms.

Task 1: Encourage some form of Grower’s Association to provide for improved networking, increased collective purchasing power, cost effective advertising, name recognition for Bayfield farm products, improved access to labor sources, etc.

Task 2: Seek professional assistance in expanding existing markets and establishing new markets for farm products.

Task 6: Help farmers stay viable by encouraging and supporting diverse agriculture endeavors.”

3. How will the AEA location promote agricultural preservation and development?

Explain what is special about this location. Include why the proposed AEA is geographically well “targeted” for agricultural preservation and development. Explain how the geographic distribution of existing agricultural uses and related infrastructure helped determine the location (see next). Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.

The attached hill-shade map perhaps best communicates why fruit crops perform so well in the BAEA and why it is so crucial to protect the agricultural land-base of the BAEA “island”. The moderating effect of Lake Superior and the elevation and resultant air-drainage of the BAEA “island” creates an excellent climate for fruit crops. The winter-cooled water of Lake Superior slows down plant growth in the spring, reducing the chances of a killing spring frost and the summer-warmed water of Lake Superior prevents frost until October, allowing for plenty of time for ripening. The sloped land allows the coldest winter air to flow away from the fruit orchards protecting the crops from winter injury. The heavy lake effect snow further protects the plants and provides ample spring moisture.

Equally important to the agricultural economy, the beauty of the region creates an ideal tourist destination allowing for a vibrant agri-tourist economy. Combined, the climate and tourist traffic create an ideal geographic area for the fruit economy to take advantage of the rapidly expanding market for locally and sustainably produced food.

Because Bayfield County does not currently have exclusive agricultural zoning, the AEA is the only option for growers in the Bayfield area to take advantage of the tax credit incentive for enrolling their lands into farmland preservation agreements. The AEA designation may also improve the chances of the orchard owners or possibly the Town of Bayfield accessing State PACE dollars. Furthermore, designation of an AEA will help support the Town’s Farmland Preservation goals stated in its Comprehensive Plan.

4. How did you determine the size and the boundary of the proposed AEA?

Explain why the size and boundaries are appropriate, and will help “focus” preservation development efforts. As part of the explanation, include a discussion of agricultural uses and infrastructure, unique land resources, soil productivity, proximity to viable farm markets or processing facilities, and other relevant factors. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.

The size and boundary of the proposed BAEA correlates with the existing cluster of commercial fruit farm operations along the “fruit loop” formed roughly by County Road J. Because the area is in a region of mixed-use (forestry, commercial, agricultural, residential), the BAEA boundary also reflects the farmland preservation plan for Bayfield County, the Bayfield County zoning districts, and the planned future development for the area as outlined in the Town of Bayfield Comprehensive Plan land-use map (Attached). Most importantly, the BAEA correlates with the geography of the area that makes the area so good for growing fruit and other specialty crops.

From an infrastructure standpoint, the BAEA is well-positioned for expansion in commercial fruit production and value-added processing. There is additional open land available for fruit production, the Bayfield Business park is located nearby, and the road system is conducive for trucks and tourist traffic. As explained in Question 3 above, the Apostle Island National Park, Lake Superior, the City of Bayfield, County Forests, and overall beauty of the area help draw tourists to the region. This tourist traffic is important for pick-your-own and farm stand sales. The tourist traffic helps establish the “Bayfield” brand and allows individual farms and farm groups such as the Bayfield Regional Food Producers Association to capitalize on that branding and access markets outside the region.

Value-added processing of fruit crops is currently occurring on a small scale within the BAEA. Two apple orchards are licensed to produce and sell apple cider to retail outlets. Many of the orchards have commercial kitchens and are licensed to sell a range of canned and baked goods. White Winter Winery in Iron River, WI purchases fruit from Bayfield growers for a range of meads, hard cider, and sparkling beverages. The Bayfield Winery produces a range of apple wines.

5. What are the current land uses within the proposed AEA?

Provide documentation to show that the proposed AEA is primarily in agricultural use. Describe the percentage and distribution of agricultural and agriculture-related uses; residential uses; transportation, utility, energy and communications uses; undeveloped natural resource and open space uses; and other uses as applicable. Identify the principal types of agricultural use and describe the location, geographic scope, size, significance and compatibility of those agricultural uses. Describe current trends and emerging issues within the proposed area. Attach a land use map for the area to support this explanation (at the town or county scale).

The proposed BAEA is comprised primarily of orchards, managed forests, and open lands. The primary agricultural use is commercial fruit production. As of 2009, there are an estimated 185 acres of apple production, 28 acres of blueberry production, 34 acres of raspberries, 33 acres of strawberries, 8 acres of sweet cherries, and a scattering of tart cherries, currants, and other minor fruit crops. Each of the 14 commercial fruit orchards own lands with a mix of orchard, open field, and forests. In total the land owned or rented by the commercial orchards within the proposed BAEA is roughly 1200 acres or 40% of the total BAEA acreage.

The remainder of the acreage in the BAEA is open land or forest land used for hay production, forest management, or residential. Roughly 1500 acres or 51% of the BAEA is forested land in parcels 10 acres or more in size and, as such, are currently or could be managed for timber or other resources. Although Wisconsin Statutes 91.01 (2) (a) considers forest management as “agricultural use” there is no guidance as to what is meant by forest management. Forested land in parcels less than 10 acres in size are most likely intended for residential use, do not qualify for the MFL program, and are typically too small for a commercially viable timber sale. Therefore, for this petition, only forested parcels greater than ten acres are likely to have forest management and therefore considered in agricultural use. Combined, 80% of the BAEA is in fruit production, open agricultural land, or managed forests.

As the markets for locally and sustainably grown specialty crops increase, there will be opportunity for commercial growers to expand production, subsistence growers to grow commercially, and new growers to locate to the area. Although a portion of the BAEA has been parceled into 10 and 5 acre properties, these properties could generate significant revenue from sales of high-value specialty crops, particularly as the agri-tourist and value-added markets expand. Thus, the BAEA is designed to help support anticipated expansion in specialty crop production and is inclusive of properties in and around the “fruit loop”.

The majority (84%) of the BAEA is currently zoned Agriculture-1 by Bayfield County. The rest of the BAEA is zoned Forestry-1 (6%), Residential (2%), R-RB (7%), and Commercial (1%). The BAEA is also consistent with the Town of Bayfield Future Land Use Map (Attached).

Bayfield AEA	Acres	% of BAEA
Total AEA Acreage	2986	100%
Agricultural Use*	2389	80%
Fruit Production as of Sept 2009	288	10%
Commercial Fruit Farm Acreage**	1200	40%
Agricultural Crops or Open Land	869	29%
Forested Land in Parcels >10 acres***	1520	51%
Zoned Agriculture-1	2508	84%
Zoned Forestry-1	179	6%
Zoned Residential	60	2%
Zoned Commercial	30	1%
Zoned Recreation-Residential Business	209	7%
Ag Use Assessment	1314	44%
Managed Forest Law	45	2%

*Orchards, hayfields, open ag land, managed forests, etc

**Includes fruit plantings, farmsteads, woodlots, supporting acreage

***Managed or potentially managed forestland

6. How is the proposed AEA consistent with your other local land use plans?

The entire proposed AEA must be located within a farmland preservation area designation in the county's certified farmland preservation plan (please document). Explain how the proposed AEA is consistent with existing county and local land use plans. If there are inconsistencies, explain how they will be reconciled. Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.

The AEA is within the County Certified Farmland Preservation Area as can be determined using the low-quality maps from the original Bayfield County Farmland Preservation Plan. There are problems with the Farmland Preservation map such that parcels that clearly should have been in the map were excluded. This mapping error in the 1980s essentially excludes portions of existing apple orchards and entire parcels that otherwise should be in the BAEA. See Appendix A for more information.

Although Bayfield County does not have exclusive agricultural zoning, the majority of the BAEA is zoned Agriculture-1 (Ag-1), which allows commercial agricultural enterprises and restricts parcelization to 4.5-acre minimums. That said, the Ag-1 zoning has allowed for parcelization and development of agricultural land. To help mitigate the negative impacts of housing developments, the County has steered developers toward conservation subdivisions which cluster housing units and maintain large open spaces. Recently developers have promoted these open spaces as places to grow agricultural crops.

The Town of Bayfield has recognized the importance of land-use management and has identified ways to protect farmland, specifically in the orchard district and proposed BAEA.

The Town of Bayfield Comprehensive Plan's Land Use Section states the following objective:

“Objective LU-2: Utilizing Overlay Districts, the Town will continue to aggressively support farmland preservation, preserving productive agricultural land and maintaining agriculture as a major economic activity.

Task 1: Maintain and encourage agricultural uses of land with population limits appropriate to the acreage (must meet stricter criteria to develop this land).

Task 2: Consider characteristics of the land and soil when determining allowable development.

Task 4: Adopt an ordinance governing development adjacent to agricultural lands including appropriate buffer zones between agricultural uses and residential uses. This will include compliance with the Farm Law, as well as adherence to requirements for appropriate notification to potential developers/owners.”

In support of this objective, the Town's Land Use Map indicates the area is primarily for Agricultural use, with some mixed agriculture/residential use and some residential use.

The Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan Land Use section also identifies agricultural preservation as important:

“Goal 4: Protect and preserve agricultural uses and the economic viability of farming operations within Bayfield County.

- Objective: Promote clustering the allowable number of lots within all agricultural land uses within Bayfield County.

- Objective: Develop and update the County's Agricultural Preservation Plan as a means of creating tax credits for agricultural preservation, soil and water conservation.

- As a means of protecting active farmland within this land use, the County should incorporate the Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) tool.

7. What nonagricultural development trends affect the proposed AEA?

Explain current development trends affecting the proposed AEA. Describe the likelihood that land in the AEA will transition out of agriculture in the foreseeable future (note that an AEA may not include any area planned for nonagricultural development within the next 15 years). Attach supporting documentation, where appropriate.

The mass retirement of the affluent baby boomers and the desire for rural retreats near Lake Superior is placing intense second-home and resort development pressure on agricultural land in the Bayfield area. From an agricultural perspective, the community is addressing the development pressure in three ways. The first is to designate areas for second-home development as expressed through the Comprehensive Plan and evolution of the zoning districts. The second way to is protect existing farmland through farmland preservation agreements and/or purchase of agricultural conservation easements. The third way is to enhance the economic viability of existing and future farms through market development, capitalization, education and training, horticultural research, and support of value-added processing.

There is no doubt the area in and around the BAEA will face development pressure over the next 15 years, however, the mitigation steps already in place and those being planned will help ensure that the vast majority of land within the BAEA will produce agricultural products for years to come. Designation of the BAEA will only help ensure agriculture remains a central focus of land-use planning in the area.

8. How will current or proposed land use controls support the proposed AEA?

Describe current and proposed land use controls such as zoning ordinances (farmland preservation, shoreland, wetland), farmland preservation agreements, easements, subdivision ordinances, natural area protections or other similar controls. If the area is zoned, attach a zoning map for the area (at the town or county scale). Attach documentation, where appropriate.

The majority of the BAEA is currently zoned Agriculture-1 by Bayfield County which limits parcelization and allows for commercial agriculture.

The Comprehensive Plan developed by the Town of Bayfield will help guide zoning and other land-use decisions. Because the Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the proposed BAEA, the plan will support the BAEA.

The Town and County both have Conservation Subdivision ordinances which cluster housing units and preserve open space that could be used for agricultural production.

There are 4 farms within the AEA that have sold their development rights and have conservation easements on their land. The development rights were purchased through the Town of Bayfield Farmland Preservation Program.

The Town of Bayfield's Future Land Use Map clearly designates the majority of the BAEA as agricultural use while it does include a relatively small amount Residential use that is currently in mixed use.

9. How will the proposed AEA promote compliance with the state’s soil and water standards for nonpoint source pollution?

Farmers in an AEA who enter into a farmland preservation agreement must meet the following state standards (ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code), to claim a tax credit. Please indicate whether any of the petitioners are already in compliance with these standards. Explain how the proposed AEA will promote compliance with conservation standards. Attach documentation, where appropriate.

- *Control of soil erosion*
- *Nutrient management planning*
- *Prevention of direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters*
- *Prevention of overflowing manure storage structures*
- *Repair of failing and leaking manure storage structures and closure of abandoned manure storage structures*
- *Construction of new or substantially altered manure storage structures to technical standards*
- *No stacking of manure in unconfined piles in water quality management areas*
- *Diversion of clean water from feedlots, manure storage areas and barnyards in the water quality management area*
- *Maintenance of self-sustaining sod cover along waterways*

The majority of agriculture in the proposed BAEA is tree and small fruit production with some hay, vegetable, and flower production. The perennial crops and sod-culture of the orchards minimize nonpoint source pollution and, thus, the farms already comply with the State’s soil and water standards. There are currently no livestock operations within the BAEA and, thus, no manure concerns.

With support from UW-Extension, the orchard owners are developing integrated pest management plans for their operations which include nutrient management, pollinator management, and pesticide management details.

10. How will the proposed AEA promote agricultural and related investment?

Describe current and proposed investment within the AEA. Identify key current and potential investors and their level of commitment. Explain how the AEA will promote or facilitate agricultural and related investment. Attach documentation, where appropriate.

At this point, the primary investors in the farm operations are the farm and agribusiness owners. Preliminary discussions have been held regarding formation of a Bayfield Agricultural Development Fund to highlight investment opportunities in Bayfield fruit orchards and capitalize farm expansions and value-added processing enterprises.

Designation of the BAEA along with other efforts to stabilize and grow the fruit and agri-tourist economy will help improve the long-term outlook for the fruit economy and attract additional investment. Many of the growers are currently in or will be soon involved in a farm transition. Due to an increasing market for Bayfield fruit products both in Bayfield and outside the region, the fruit economy is very much in an upward swing. Revenue from fruit sales in Bayfield County nearly doubled from 2002 to 2007 according to census data, a trend that is likely to continue. The decline experienced during the last half of the twentieth century is being reversed and the fruit growers and supporting partners are working hard to stabilize and expand the economy. Designation of the BAEA will facilitate the process.

11. How will the proposed AEA support economic activity within the community?

Explain how the AEA will promote economic activity between agricultural enterprises or between agricultural and nonagricultural enterprises. This may include, for example, joint marketing opportunities, purchase of feed, shared facilities and equipment, custom manure spreading or other opportunities. Attach documentation, where appropriate.

The 2008 Fruit Summit and resulting Bayfield Fruit Growers Initiative outlined steps necessary to expand the fruit economy of the region. Grower cooperation and collaboration were identified as crucial to that expansion. The Bayfield Orchard Marketing Task Force and Bayfield Regional Food Producers Association are both examples of such cooperation and both are expected to increase their efforts in the coming years. Formal designation of the BAEA will further the inertia of the ongoing efforts and formally recognize the Bayfield fruit growing region as one of Wisconsin's important fruit production and agri-tourist areas.

12. What is the level of cooperator support for this petition?

Describe the level of support by other farmers, and by affected businesses, community organizations, and government entities. Attach cooperator "signature pages," if any.

The Town of Bayfield, Bayfield Chamber, and City of Bayfield are active supporters of the orchard district near Bayfield. Their support of the Bayfield Applefest and the Town of Bayfield Farmland Preservation Program are examples of their commitment to a vibrant agricultural economy and recognition of the importance of the orchards to the larger economy of the region. As further indication of support for the orchard district, the residents of the Town of Bayfield voted to raise their taxes to financially support the Town's Purchase of Development Rights program.

Are there any other compelling reasons to choose this AEA proposal from among competing AEA proposals? Explain, and attach documentation where appropriate.

Production and sales of fresh fruit and fruit-based value-added products is one of the few economic sectors poised for growth in far Northern Wisconsin. The Bayfield fruit growing region has ideal climate and soils for production of a wide range of fruits and other specialty crops. The region has a long history of fruit production, but, until recently, has been on the decline due to the difficulty of competing in commodity markets. With the resurgence in demand for locally and sustainably produced products and the rise in interest in agri-tourism, the Bayfield fruit growing region is poised for a renaissance. The near doubling in fruit sales from 2002 to 2007 is a evidence of the renewed agricultural vitality of the region. Unfortunately, the opportunity could be lost as the region is also seeing a boom in second home development. Designation of the BAEA along with the ongoing agricultural development efforts of the fruit growers, UW-Extension, the Town of Bayfield, and the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce, will help protect the agricultural land-base and maintain fruit production as a long-term part of the region's economy.

If the State of Wisconsin is serious about protecting and enhancing the diversity of its agricultural economy and the vibrancy of its fruit and agri-tourist economy than it must be a partner in the effort to protect the agricultural economy of the Bayfield area. Few areas are as ideally suited for fruit production and robust agri-tourist development as Bayfield, WI.
