

However, serious health concerns have been raised by individuals and supported by this report that warrant further study. We are urging the PSC to stop permitting the installation of large industrial wind turbines until such studies can be completed.

**Public Hearings Scheduled on ATCP 49
Draft Rules Re: Farmland Preservation
Program and Planning**

The Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) have scheduled four hearings (listed below) on draft rules to clarify and establish criteria for the farmland preservation program and county farmland preservation plans. Clarification is to be achieved by providing new definitions in many areas. One of the key proposals in the draft rules is to clarify that the rationale used for identifying the farmland preservation area must be based on objective criteria. The draft rule describes the relationship between the county farmland preservation plan and the county's comprehensive plan.

Further, the rule clarifies that nonfarm residences existing at the time a farmland preservation ordinance is certified may be considered permitted uses rather than prior nonconforming uses. The draft rule describes the types of uses that would qualify as governmental, institutional, religious, or nonprofit community uses. Among other items in the draft rule is the description of the relationship between a political subdivision's farmland preservation ordinance and the county's farmland preservation plan.

We would encourage town officers from towns with town farmland preservation zoning (either under a town approved ordinance or a county ordinance) to take a look at these draft rules. **A link to the rules and notice will be posted on the WTA website (at the home page).** If you have issues with the draft rules or comments, we encourage you to attend one of the four hearings or send written comments to the

DATCP by March 15, 2013. The four hearing dates and locations are:

Thursday, February 14, 2013

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Outagamie County Highway Department
Conference Room
1313 Holland Road
Appleton, Wis. 54911

Thursday, February 21, 2013

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
DNR Service Center
Conference Rooms 158/185
1300 W. Clairemont Avenue
Eau Claire, Wis. 54701

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Marathon County UW-Extension Office
Conference Room #5
212 River Drive
Wausau, Wis. 54403

Thursday, February 28, 2013

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Board Room (1st Floor)
Dept. of Ag, Trade, and Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, Wis. 53718-6777

**Preliminary Report of DOT
Implements of Husbandry Study Group**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation "Implements of Husbandry Study Group" preliminary report was expected to be released on January 31, 2013. Our Association will post on our Association website a copy or link to this preliminary report as soon as it is available early in February, 2013.

The initial recommendations the study group supported focused on establishing by creating or amending clear statutory definitions and categories of Implements of Husbandry (IOH) to assist in determining