



# Agriculture Enterprise Area

Preserve farmland. Protect the environment. Grow the economy.

# SNAPSHOT

## Antigo Flats

Langlade and Marathon County

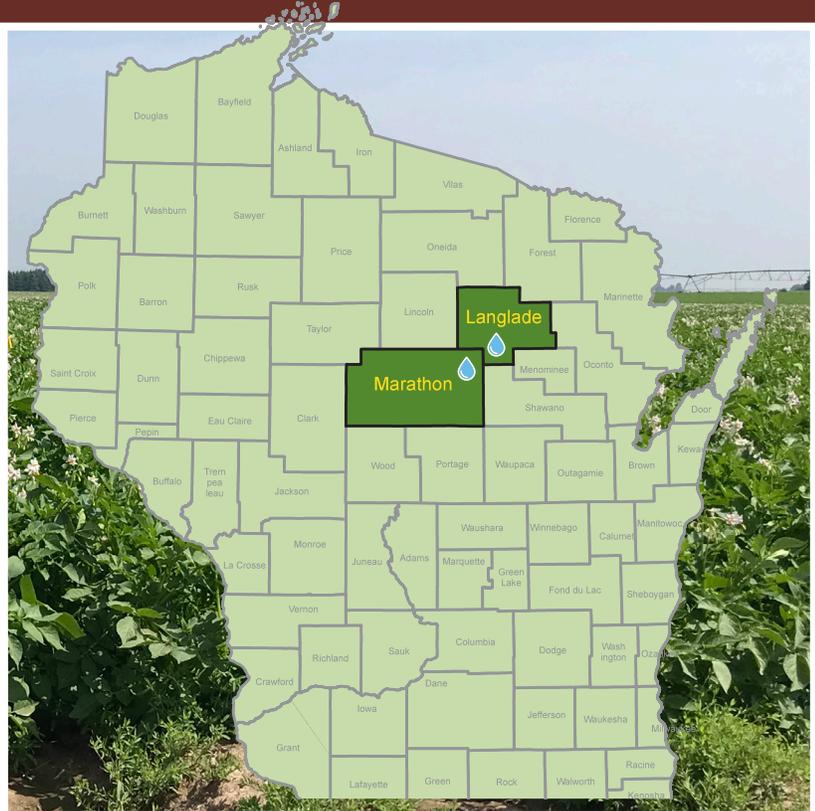
Designation Year: 2010

Acres: 13,859

AEA located in: Langlade County – Ackley, Antigo, Neva, Peck, Polar, Price, Rolling, and Vilas; Marathon County - Harrison

### Background

In 2010, driven by the community’s desire to protect and preserve its farmland, the Antigo Flats agricultural enterprise area (AEA) was designated as part of the state’s first AEA petition cycle. In the heart of Wisconsin’s potato country in southwestern Langlade and northeastern Marathon counties, this AEA includes over 11,000 acres of potato fields and the Langlade Agricultural Research Station, a 34-acre research facility operated by UW-Madison Division of Extension. Producers here have been early leaders in nutrient management, integrated pest management, and conservation practices. With the addition of the AEA, the community hopes to cultivate a strong support system of multigenerational farms that support each other through generational farm transfers, operation diversification, and adoption of new conservation practices.



“We are seeing a lot of our older farmers leave the industry, but there has been a steady increase in new farmers taking over operations,” said Chris Arrowood of the Langlade County Conservation Department.

“The heart of the farmland preservation program is farmer preservation.”

**11**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

**2**  
AG CO-OPS & BUSINESSES

**16**  
PRODUCERS & LANDOWNERS

Larger farms within the AEA are finding ways to become more efficient in their production, and smaller family farms are starting community-supported agriculture operations. But as in many farming communities across the nation, more farmers in the area are approaching retirement. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, 58.9% of producers in Langlade County are 55 years or older.

County staff hope the AEA program can be used as one more way to help offset the cost of farming and keep operations viable year after year. Being part of an AEA gives landowners the option to sign a farmland preservation agreement. These are 15-year voluntary agreements a landowner can make with the state to maintain state soil and water conservation standards and commit their lands to stay in



Supported and surrounded by the following ag enterprises, businesses, nonprofits and institutions:

 Potato producers

 Milk producers

 Retail food establishments

 Grain dealer

 Food processing

 Livestock dealer

 Animal truckers

 Cheese plants

 Aquaculture

 Deer farms

 Pasture, row and forage crop enterprises

 Organic farms and businesses

 Wisconsin Seed Potato Improvement Association

 Antigo Silt Loam State Historical Marker

 UW-Extension Potato Research Facility

agricultural use. Landowners with farmland preservation agreements in the Antigo Flats AEA are also eligible to claim the farmland preservation tax credit. Depending on where the farm is located, landowners may be able to claim at a rate of \$5/acre or \$10/acre.

The Langlade County Conservation Department is excited to work with landowners interested in signing a farmland preservation agreement. In 2021, the county is offering a onetime incentive payment of \$100/acre up to \$2,000 to

landowners who sign a new farmland preservation agreement. The funds are available to encourage new participation and help offset any cost incurred by coming into compliance. This opportunity is available to any eligible landowner within one of the two AEAs located in Langlade County—Antigo Flats or Evergreen-Wolf River. For additional information about signing a farmland preservation agreement and the incentive payment, contact the Langlade County Conservation Department at (715) 627-6292.

Home to the historical marker for the state soil the Antigo Silt Loam, the community within the Antigo Flats AEA has always considered its soil as one of its most important resources. The main tool that operators use to protect this soil, and other local soil and water resources, are nutrient management plans. These plans provide the foundation for landowners to increase their soil health, reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, and maximize the efficiency of their applied nutrients each year. Nutrient management plans can also be used as a tool to help farms diversify their operation or introduce new practices into their system. The Langlade County Land Conservation Department has cost-share opportunities for landowners looking to write their first nutrient management plan.

## Preserve Local Agriculture

-  Preserve farmland, open space and agricultural heritage
-  Support farm transfers to the next generation
-  Promote farm and agribusiness viability through tax credits

## Protect Natural Resources

-  Promote farmer-written nutrient management plans
-  Provide incentives to cover conservation costs
-  Protect soil and water

To find out if your farmland is located in the Antigo Flats AEA, to sign a farmland preservation agreement, or to learn more about conservation initiatives and resources in Langlade County, contact the:

**Langlade County Land Conservation Department at (715) 627-6292 or by email at [CArrowood@co.langlade.wi.us](mailto:CArrowood@co.langlade.wi.us).**

To learn more about AEAs and the Farmland Preservation Program, visit: [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/AgriculturalEnterpriseAreas.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/AgriculturalEnterpriseAreas.aspx).

To start or join an AEA, contact the county land conservation department in the county where your land is located.