



# Farmland Preservation Workshop

May 17, 2022

# Goals

1. Why do we want this? Reasons?
2. Would it provide an overall benefit to Levy County?  
Provide reasoning for it.
3. Identify what farmland preservation areas entail.
4. What would the implementation process look like?



# Agricultural Land Conservation Tools

- **FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP) (NATIONAL PROGRAM):** Partnering with state, tribal or local governments and non-governmental organizations, often through existing programs like PACE and PDR programs across the nation, FRPP provides matching funds used to help purchase agricultural conservation easements on productive farm and ranchlands. This program was established in the 1996 Farm Bill
- **AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT PROGRAM (AGRICULTURE SECURITY AREA):** Voluntarily created by farmers in order to receive improved property tax incentives, this program limits the amount of agricultural land being annexed or rezoned for development by adjacent cities
- **AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION EASEMENT:** An easement restricts nonagricultural development of the covered land, but the farmer retains ownership. Participating farmers can augment their income while continuing to farm the land. An easement runs with the land. The farmer may sell the land, but the easement is still in place (it is binding on subsequent landowners). An easement continues indefinitely.
- **LAND TRUSTS:** Trusts can be developed by government entities. They hold conservation easements on properties.

*\*some create agriculture protection areas based on soil quality and grade*

# Current Farmland Preservation in Florida

State level:

- **Florida Forever: Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

[\(Florida Forever | Florida Department of Environmental Protection\)](#)

- **Rural and Family Lands Protection Program**

The Rural and Family Lands Protection Program is an agricultural land preservation program designed to protect important agricultural lands through the acquisition of permanent agricultural land conservation easements. This program is administered by the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#).

# Pros vs. Cons

## Pros

- Supports culture and historic use of land
- Preservation of open space
- State Incentives
- Provide more protections for current fertile lands
- Lack of current policies

## Cons

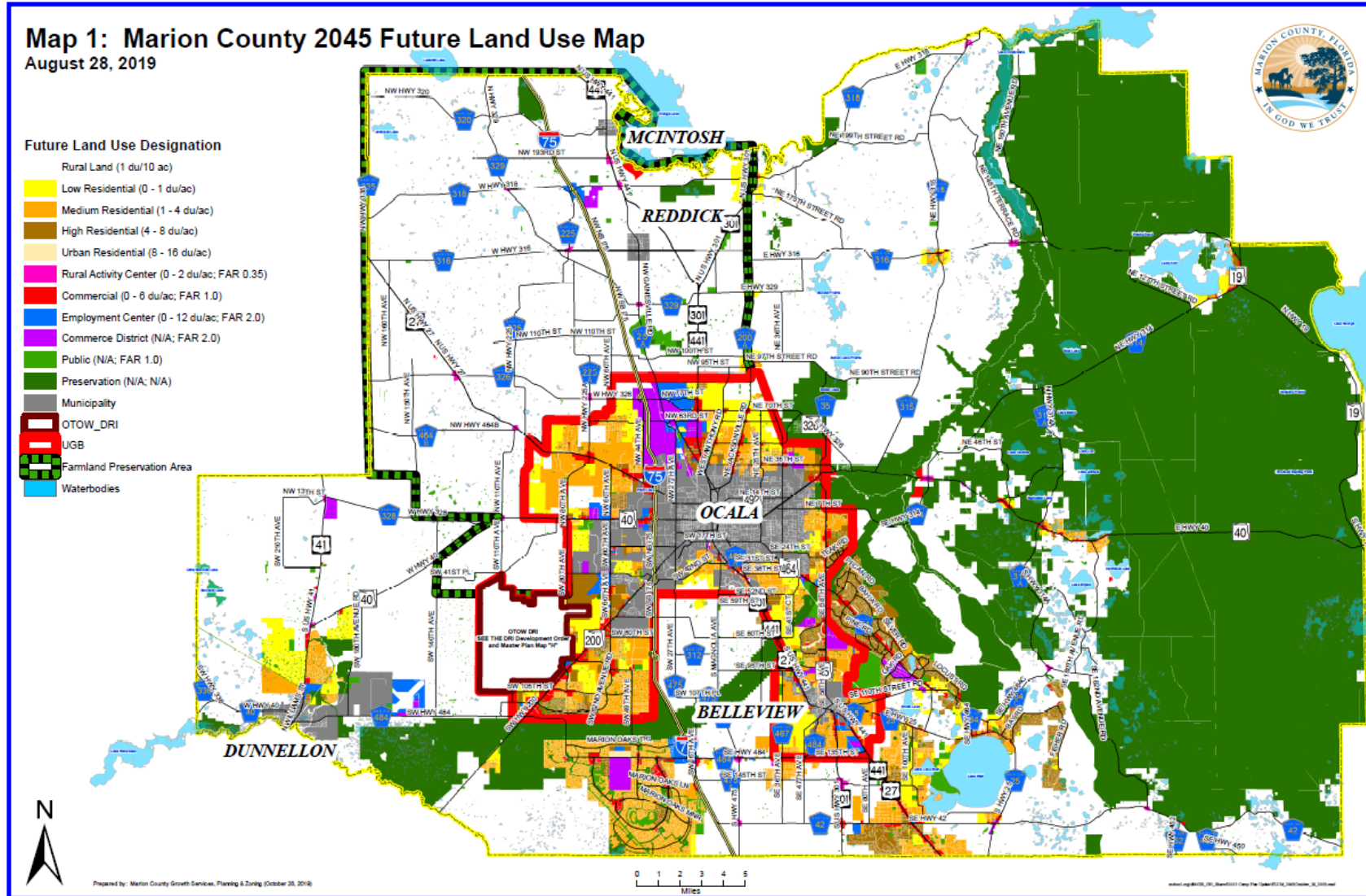
- Requires clear outlines on current and future land use
- Potential added impact on environment (type of farming, springs protection area, fertilizers etc.)
- Added regulations / policies



# Examples: Farmland Preservation Area

- **WISCONSIN:**
  - Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) is a contiguous land area devoted primarily to agricultural use and locally targeted for agricultural preservation and development. The designation of an AEA by the state is based on a voluntary local application
- **PENNSYLVANIA:**
  - Agricultural Security Areas (ASA) is the tool to protect farms and farmland from of non-agricultural uses. To establish an ASA, a petition is submitted to the township supervisors by the farmers. These security areas are re-evaluated every seven years; however, new parcels of farmland may be added to an established ASA at any time. A combined minimum of 250 acres is required for the establishment of an ASA
- Most other examples display state tax incentives

# Examples: Farmland Preservation Area – Marion County



# Where do we go from here?

- BoCC to direct staff as to how they wish to proceed.
  - More research?
  - Invite guests from other places that have had experience in this area?
- This would require a Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment that could either be done in conjunction with the Evaluation and Appraisal Report or done separately. Then subsequent regulations developed for the Land Development Code.



# References

- [Introduction \(louisville.edu\)](https://louisville.edu)
- [Farmland Preservation Area - Horse Farms Forever](#)
- [Farmland Preservation \(pa.gov\)](https://pa.gov)
- [Farmland Preservation Program | Sauk County Wisconsin Official Website](#)
- [Marion County Website](#)

