



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## County of Dane

ROOM 118, CITY-COUNTY BUILDING  
210 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-3342  
608/266-5758 • FAX 266-4361 • TDD 266-4121



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, May 7, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Supervisor Kyle Richmond, 251-3171

## County Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee Will Develop An 'Action Agenda' This Summer

MADISON – A committee of the Dane County Board has established a Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee which will develop an “action agenda” for approval by the Board this autumn. Interested individuals are being encouraged to participate in the three-month process.

In late April, the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources (EANR) Committee voted to create the new subcommittee, which will employ policy suggestions from work groups in the following areas:

- Beginning Farmers
- Farmland Preservation & Conservation
- Food Security & Urban Agriculture
- Profitability

Policy areas for the work groups were determined from input from public meetings in December and March, and an e-mail poll of interested parties. Volunteers are needed for the work groups.

“This is important work and some very capable people have agreed to help,” said Sup. Kyle Richmond, EANR Committee Chair. “With a specific charge and clear timeline, we intend for the subcommittee to produce policy recommendations that the Board and County Executive can wholeheartedly endorse this fall.”

The subcommittee will be co-chaired by **Supervisor Duane Gau** (Sun Prairie) and **Margaret Krome** of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute.\* Conveners for the four work groups also have been appointed; they are: **Paul Dietmann** (Wisconsin Farm Center), Beginning Farmers; **Steve Hiniker** (1000 Friends of Wisconsin), Farmland Preservation & Conservation; **Anne Reynolds** (UW Center for Cooperatives), Profitability; and **Jane Voichick** (Dane County Food Council), Food Security & Urban Agriculture. A seventh subcommittee member is yet to be named.

For more information about the Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee or creation of the “action agenda,” contact the Dane Department of Land and Water Resources at (608) 224-3730, or Supervisor Richmond at 251-3171.

###

\*organizational references for identification purposes only

Dane County Board  
Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
Spring 2009

**Subcommittee on Sustainable Agriculture**

**Members:**

Supervisor **Duane Gau**, co-chair

**Margaret Krome**, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, co-chair

Beginning Farmers work group: **Paul Dietmann**, Department of Ag, Trade & Cons. Protection

Farmland Preservation/Conservation work group: **Steve Hiniker**, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin

Food Security/Urban Agriculture work group: **Jane Voichick**, Dane County Food Council

Profitability/Value-Added/Marketing work group: **Anne Reynolds**, UW Center for Cooperatives

[*seventh member*]

**Work groups:**

- Beginning Farmers
- Farmland Preservation/Conservation
- Food Security/Urban Agriculture
- Profitability/Value-Added/Marketing

**Charge for each work group:**

To research, develop and submit a four-pronged action agenda on the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Dane County. The agenda put in resolution form and reviewed by the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources (EANR) Committee in late summer 2009, before submission to the Dane County Board for approval.

Sustainable agriculture integrates three main goals--environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity. Sustainability rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Stewardship of both natural and human resources is of prime importance. A systems perspective is essential; the system is envisioned in its broadest sense, from the individual farm, to the local ecosystem, to communities affected by this farming system both locally and globally.

Recommendations will be developed by four work groups to be convened by four members of the subcommittee, and with an emphasis on the following criteria:

- Must demonstrate need, or ability to improve current conditions/situations
- Must be prioritized by level of practicality, and ease of implementation
- Must be suitable for development/implementation at the county level
- No more than four action items for possible inclusion in the 2010 Dane County budget and/or current County programs

**Timeline:**

- Establish subcommittee/work groups: April 21, 2009
- Convene work groups: May 2009
- Develop work group recommendations: May-July 2009
- Prepare resolution & submit to EANR: August 2009
- Submit resolution to County Board: August/September 2009