

February 5, 2001

Dear Pokagon Township Agricultural Landowners:

The Pokagon Township planning commission and township board is currently reviewing its master plan and zoning ordinance in cooperation with the Dowagiac River Watershed Project. One of the issues that has surfaced in this review is farmland preservation techniques. There are several techniques available to the township to help keep farming a viable option for those interested in continuing the farming tradition in Pokagon Township. However, recognizing the complexity of the issue, the township officials wanted to get input from its agricultural landowners before making any decisions.

Pokagon Township invites you and your family to the **Pokagon Township Hall** (30479 Peavine Street) on **Monday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m.** for a public forum to discuss the future of farming and the interest in farmland preservation in Pokagon Township. Your input on this issue is crucial for the township to understand the short-term and long-term needs of its farmers. Please plan to attend.

Please also take the time to fill out the attached survey and return it to the Pokagon Township Hall by **February 20**. Thank you in advance for your input!

Sincerely,

John True  
Pokagon Township Supervisor

◆If you are interested in learning more about farmland preservation in Michigan and what other states are doing, you should attend the free seminar in Kalamazoo on February 26 and 27. (See the enclosed brochure for more details.)

## Pokagon Township - Agricultural Landowners Opinion Survey on Agricultural Issues

In Pokagon Township, how concerned are you about the following? (Check one box per line.)

	Very Concerned	Concerned	Not Very Concerned	Not Concerned At All	No Opinion
Urban/Rural Sprawl					
Loss of Farmland					
Loss of Open Space					
Loss of Wetlands					
Loss of Scenic Resources					
Restrictions on Development					

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Check one box per line.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Preserving farmland in Pokagon Township is important					
Development restrictions are needed to preserve farmland					
I need to sell some of my land for retirement					
I need to sell my farm(s) for retirement					
Nearby residential development is making it difficult to continue farming					
Current local land use restrictions have limited my development opportunities					
State land use restrictions have limited my development opportunities					
Livestock production is viable in Pokagon Twp.					
Stable commodity prices at equalized levels would help keep land in agriculture					

If you are in favor of preserving farmland, please answer the following question - Why do you favor preserving farmland? (Circle top **two** reasons)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. Farming is a way of life              | b. Preserving future food supply                     |
| c. Need open space                       | d. Need for the environment - water, wildlife, trees |
| e. Need the economic base of agriculture | f. Individual farms are the strength of America      |
| g. Other _____                           |  |

- Over for more questions -

List the section numbers in Pokagon Twp. for the agricultural land you currently own and/or operate.

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Please fill in the appropriate **number of acres** -

- a. You own \_\_\_\_\_ b. Acres of owned land in agricultural production \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Acres you rent from others \_\_\_\_\_ d. Acres you rent to others \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you, or your family, owned/operated agricultural land in Pokagon Twp? \_\_\_\_\_ years

Your age, please (Circle correct response) a. Under 35 b. 35-50 c. 51-65 d. Over 65

How long do you, or your family, expect to own agricultural land and/or operate a farm in Pokagon Township? (Circle one response)

- a. Less than one year b. 1-5 years c. 6-10 years d. 11-15 years  
 e. 16-20 years f. 21-25 years g. More than 25 years

Do you plan to make major capital investments (building, machinery or land) over the next 5 years? (Circle one response) a. Yes b. No c. Not sure

Have you participated in the P.A. 116 (Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act) Program?

- a. No, do not plan to enroll b. No, but plan to enroll in future  
 c. Yes, currently enrolled d. Yes, was enrolled in the past, but not now

Would you be interested in any of the following programs to keep your land in farming?

	Interested	Not interested	Not sure, need more information
Agricultural Security Zones			
P.A. 116			
Purchase of Development Rights			
Restrictive zoning			

Circle the **two** most important things your township/county could do to promote agriculture.

- a. Protect farmers from complaints with agricultural security zones  
 b. Enact agricultural zoning  
 c. Create an Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Township Planning Commission  
 d. Promote local agricultural markets  
 e. Keep housing developments at least 500 feet from working farms  
 f. Buy my development rights so I can continue farming  
 g. Lower my property taxes or assessment  
 h. Other: \_\_\_\_\_

General Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return by **February 20**: Pokagon Township Hall, 30479 Peavine Street, Dowagiac MI 49047