



FARMLAND RESOURCES

PRESERVATION OF FARMING AND FARMLAND

Food and farming are cornerstones of our economy and quality of life. Farms, fields, woodlands, and orchards create the rural character that is appreciated by residents and visitors alike. It drives, in part, the region's rapid population growth and tourism industry. Farms here produce a diverse range of crops and products. Our farmland is located in the West Michigan Fruitbelt - a nationally recognized resource which is increasingly threatened by farmland lost to development.

LAND ACCESS INDICATORS

In the next decade many acres of northwest Michigan farmland will change hands. Unfortunately, a significant number of farmers are preparing to retire without sufficient plans to pass their land on to heirs, while young farmers are struggling with access to and the affordability of productive farmland. It is critical that we aid growers in passing their land on to another generation of growers or we risk forever losing it to development.

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture 2007, 2012

