

News release

March 4, 2003

Town of Bayfield – The Town of Bayfield Farmland Preservation Program is seeking applications for its second round of purchasing development rights (PDR). Landowners with an active agricultural operation in the Town of Bayfield are eligible to apply by March 15. There is no obligation to apply.

The Town of Bayfield's Farmland Preservation Program's goal is to permanently preserve farmland by buying out the development rights. Landowner's are paid for the value of the development rights as valued by a qualified appraiser. Ownership of the land is retained by the farmer, but is restricted for agricultural or open space use.

Each application is ranked locally by the Farmland Review Committee and must compete statewide for funding. The Town is dependent on federal funds to complete the purchase of development rights transactions.

A recent survey done for the comprehensive planning process showed that 80.5% of respondents favored the efforts the Town is taking to preserve farmland. In 2003, the Town purchased development rights on Blue Vista Farm and Highland Valley Farm.

For more information or an application packet, please contact Ruth Oppedahl at 779-5263. The forms are also found on-line at www.brcland.org/farmland.htm

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