

Dear Property Owner:

On April 15, 2011, a bill was signed into law that makes changes to the Rural Preserve program. These changes may affect your class 2b rural vacant land property that you may have or had enrolled in Green Acres or Rural Preserve. Please read this letter carefully, and if you have further questions contact your county assessor's office for additional information. Please note that these changes are effective starting with the 2011 assessment (for taxes payable 2012) and note the specific deadlines that are mentioned with the changes as they are described below.

The 2011 Legislature made the following changes to the Rural Preserve program:

- Removed the requirement for lands to be subject to a covenant
- Removed the minimum eight-year commitment
- Removed the requirement to have a conservation assessment plan developed for the land
- For the 2011 assessment only, the application deadline was extended to the August 1 (all future years will have a deadline of May1)

### **Eligibility Requirements for Rural Preserve**

Under the newly revised program requirements, only class 2b rural vacant land is eligible for Rural Preserve. You must also meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Have an agricultural homestead and have adjacent class 2a agricultural land enrolled in the Green Acres program;or
- Have class 2b rural vacant land that was properly enrolled in Green Acres for taxes payable 2008 and have adjacent class 2a agricultural land enrolled in the Green Acres program

If your property is not currently enrolled in Green Acres, the county assessor's office will help you with this application process and will determine your eligibility.

### **What if I Previously Removed My Land From Green Acres?**

Property owners who withdrew class 2a lands from Green Acres at any time since May 21, 2008, may apply for re-enrollment in Green Acres until as late as **August 1, 2011**, to be eligible for taxes payable in 2012 and going forward.

Property owners who withdrew **properly** enrolled class 2b lands from Green Acres at any times since May 21,2008, may enroll those acres into Rural Preserve as late as August 1, 2011. This makes it possible for a property that is not an agricultural homestead to be regarded as if the qualifications for enrollment in Rural Preserve are currently met.

Additionally, if you withdrew class 2a acres from Green Acres at any time since May 21, 2008, or if you withdrew class 2b acres after August 16, 2010, and if you paid deferred taxes, those taxes will be repaid to you if you re-enroll in Green Acres or enroll in Rural Preserve as outlined above.

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