



Land Services Department
Property Valuation and Classification
Land Services Building
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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upcoming seminar on property tax relief programs for landowners.

Crow Wing County Land Services Department is hosting an information session on property tax reduction programs for Crow Wing County property owners on August 22, 2011 from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Ideal Town Hall in northern Crow Wing County.

The session will provide information on the Green Acres Program, Rural Preserve Program, 2c Managed Forest Program and the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act Program. According to Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor, "Each of these programs has potential to reduce property tax burdens for qualifying agriculture and forest lands, and we want to make sure property owners who qualify are aware of them." Attendees will receive information regarding the benefits and requirements of the different programs to assist landowners in their decisions of whether to participate in these programs.

The Rural Preserves Program. This program allows eligible non productive land that is part of an agricultural homestead or that was "grandfathered" into the Green Acres program to be taxed at a value less than its full estimated market value. Other requirements also apply.

Changes to the Green Acres Law in 2008 created a new land classification called rural vacant land and removed these lands from the Green Acres program. In 2009, the legislature modified the program again by "grandfathering" previously enrolled rural vacant land into the program until 2013. The changes also created the Rural Preserve Program. Lands in the Rural Preserve Program are valued based on a percentage of the average valuation of tillable land in the county. When property is withdrawn from the program or is no longer eligible, the landowner must pay any deferred taxes for the current year and the two previous years, plus any deferred special assessments.

2c Managed Forest Program and the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act Program. Owners of 20 acres or more of forested land, may be eligible to enroll in these property tax programs that are aimed at protecting forestland. The 2c Managed Forest Land Program reduces the property classification rate from 1.00% to .65%. The Sustainable Forest Incentive Act is a state

administered program, which requires filing a covenant, and gives forest landowners a minimum \$7 per acre payment per year on enrolled eligible lands.

A Woodland Stewardship Management Plan is required for these forestland programs, which is an overview of the property developed in accordance with landowner's forest management goals for the property. The plan must be prepared by a qualified Woodland Stewardship Plan Writer. A Woodland Stewardship Management Plan may qualify property owners for cost-share funds that can reduce costs for projects like tree planting on the property.

Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor for Property Valuation and Classification, and Shawn McCutcheon, Property Assessor will present information on these programs. Any questions please call the Crow Wing County Property Valuation and Classification office at 824-1010 or email them at assessor@co.crow-wing.mn.us.

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