5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

There are many state and some federal regulations designated to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. Some state laws, including those for floodplains, shorelands, and wetlands, establish minimum use and protection standards that must be adopted and administered by local governments. But not all natural resources are protected by state law. Local governments throughout the state have the flexibility to plan for and develop their own local ordinances to deal with the unique land use issues/conflicts in their community and to protect the natural resources that they value most. As population growth, land consumption, and technological improvements continue, communities need to take on the additional role of stewards and protectors of these resources.

Land development patterns are directly linked to the natural, agricultural, and cultural resource bases of each community. Therefore, these features need to be considered before making any decisions concerning future development within the community. Development must be carefully adjusted to coincide with the ability of the agricultural, natural and cultural resource base to support the various forms of urban and rural development. This balance must be maintained to each community unique. The agricultural, natural and cultural resources found within the Town of Beaver, as well as Clark County as a whole, are most often not limited to jurisdictional boundaries. The natural features found within the county require coordinated efforts between towns, villages, cities, counties and state. These features promote civic pride and often create a sense of place.

Significant Natural and Cultural Features:

Significant natural and cultural features within the Town of Beaver include:

1. Nelson Creek
2. Rock Creek
3. Large contiguous blocks of privately owned upland forest and forested wetlands especially the northwest and southwest corners of the town and a large contiguous area in Sections 20-22.

The following sections discuss in more detail those features which impact the natural and cultural environment of the Town of Beaver.

5.1 Soils

1. Loyal-Withee-Marshfield Association
    a. These silt loam soils are found within glacial landscapes features know as ground moraines
    b. These soils are very deep, nearly level to moderately sloping, moderately well drained
    c. Covers about 60% of town
    d. Found throughout town, except in areas adjacent to Nelson Creek and Rock Creek
    e. Predominant land use is agriculture for Loyal and Withee Soils
    f. Predominant land use for Marshfield soil is pasture or wetland wildlife habitat
    g. Considered to prime agricultural soil

2. Withee-Hiles-Kert Assocaition
    a. These silt loam soils are found within glacial landscapes known as ground moraines and also these soils are located on pediments formed by running water.
    b. These soils are moderately deep, nearly level to gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained
    c. Some areas are underlain by sandstone-shale bedrock complexes and have a sandy surface texture.
    d. Covers about 40% of town, mainly around stream corridors and wetlands
    e. Predominant land use is cropland, pasture, and wooded wetland wildlife habitat
    f. Considered prime agricultural soil when drained

3. Prime Agricultural Soils
    a. 92% of town's land area is considered prime agricultural soils.
    b. Total Prime Agricultural Soils is 21,294 acres
        i. Ranked 4th for prime soils out of 33 towns
        ii. 5% of Clark County's prime soils are located in Town of Beaver
        iii. Most of prime soils do not rely on additional drainage for productivity
            1. Prime soils when drained = 8,132 acres
            2. Prime soils, as is, = 13,162 acres

5.2 Forest

1. 5,200 acres of total forest

2. 2,336 acres of upland forest

3. 2,864 acres of wetland forest

4. None of the forested acres are located within the Clark County Forest boundaries

5. Wisconsin's Land Legacy Study conducted by the Department of Natural Resources lists large scattered forest blocks, such as those located in the northwest and southwest areas in the Town of Beaver, as being essential for the economic development of the forest products and tourism economies of Clark County. These large scattered blocks of privately owned forestland also provide conservation values in the form of habitat needs to supply the ecological needs of numerous species of animals that require large blocks of contiguous forest habitat to survive.

5.3 Farmland and Agriculture

According to the land use inventory, the town contains approximately 12,476.3 acres of cropland. Approximately 54% of the town's land area is cropland. The total amount of cropland and pasture is 16,940 acres. Approximately 73% of the town's land area is under cropland and pasture management.

5.4 Topography

Glacial activity has influenced the development of land in the Town of Beaver. The Town of Beaver was subject to three glacial advances. The town was last glaciated between about 25,000 and 95,000 years ago. These glacial margins of advance were called the Harrison and
Hamburg. It was glaciated again between 790,000 and 25,000 years ago. This glacial margin is called the Nasonville and is evident around County Highway G. The first glacial period occurred much earlier, probably around 2,400,000 and 790,000 years ago. This glacial margin is associated with the Marshfield Advance and can be driven over on State Highway 10, just east of Neillsville. The glaciers left a gently undulating, rolling topography typically associated with ground moraines.

5.5 Non-metallic Mineral Resources

The Town of Beaver has significant mineral resources, however there are no metallic or nonmetallic mines located within the town.

5.6 Watersheds and Drainage

The Town of Beaver is separated into two distinct DNR drainage basins: Black

River and Yellow River. The Town of Beaver is divided into three distinct DNR

watersheds, Cawley and Rock Creeks, Popple River, and Yellow River. The majority of the town is located in the Cawley and Rock Creek Watershed. 21,404.64 acres or 92% of the town is in the Rock Creek Watershed (DNR has grouped Cawley Creek with Rock Creek; however Cawley Creek does not drain the Town of Beaver.) The Popple River Watershed drains 1,762 acres or 7.6% of the town. Both the Popple River and Cawley and Rock Creeks Watersheds drain to the Black River and eventually to the Mississippi River. The Upper Yellow River Watershed, which is also part of the Yellow River drainage basin that flows to the Wisconsin River, drains 93 acres or .40% of the town. The Wisconsin River also drains to the Mississippi River.

5.7 Wetlands

According to the DNR, there are 4,723 acres of wetland in the Town of Beaver. These wetlands are split into the following categories: 960 acres emergent wet meadow, 5.20 acres of filled wetland, 2,864 forested wetlands, 7.75 acres of open water, and 436 acres of shrub wetland.

5.8 Floodplains

The total amount of floodplain and flood fringe in the Town of Beaver is 1,196.78 acres. The total area of the floodplain is 1,158.55 acres and the total amount of the flood fringe is 38.23 acres.

5.9 Surface Water

The Town of Beaver has two main perennial surface waters- Nelson Creek and Rock Creek. The total miles of perennial streams are 21.97 miles. There is limited WIDNR data on the quality of Nelson Creek; however some data exist for Rock Creek. WIDNR considers Nelson Creek to be a clear, hard water stream that flows westward. The main fishery consists of panfish and forage species. About 80% of the land around the creek is cleared. There is no public frontage, although the public can access the stream at four road crossings. WIDNR considers Rock Creek to be a light brown colored, medium hard water stream that flows westwardly and joins the Black River at Greenwood. It has a high gradient. Smallmouth bass and panfish are the principal sport species, but northern pike may be found seasonally as they migrate up the river from the Black River during spawning season.

About 90% of the land surrounding the creek is considered to be cleared land while 7% of the bank border is wetland. Waterfowl are typically present and increase in number during the migration seasons. There is no public land adjacent to the stream; public access is possible from three road crossings.

The Town of Beaver also has many smaller intermittent streams that flow through the landscape during times of rainfall and snowmelt. These streams typically have a low gradient and become fairly stagnant or even dry during the summer months. Most of these streams are unnamed. The total miles of intermittent streams are 51.67 miles. All of the streams in the Town of Beaver are classified as a warm water sport fishery and none of the streams are fully supporting their potential use.

Data collected from a 2008 stream survey conducted by the Clark County Land Conservation Department reveals that Rock Creek carries the third highest amount of total phosphorus, when compared to other Clark County perennial streams. Phosphorus can degrade water bodies by stimulating excessive algae growth. Surface water quality impacts include sedimentation and excess nutrients being delivered to streams, as well as habitat loss from cropland erosion, barnyard runoff, and stream bank pasturing. Transect survey data from 2011 estimates that this watershed has an average annual soil loss rate of 2.0 tons per acre per year. Water quality problems are exacerbated due to low baseflows (minimal groundwater recharge) during dry periods.

In the Rock Creek Watershed, the soils have low infiltration potential which increases precipitation and snowmelt runoff thereby causing excessive streambank erosion. The overall WIDNR nonpoint source pollution ranking for the watershed is high, meaning that the streams in the Town of Beaver receive significant amount of polluted runoff from adjacent landscapes that cannot be directly linked to one specific portion of the watershed. There are no trout waters or exceptional/outstanding resource waters as delineated by the WIDNR in the Town of Beaver.

5.10 Groundwater

According to WIDNR well records for the period of years, 1988 to 2011, the Town of Beaver had 101 private drinking water wells installed during that timeframe. Other wells installed before that timeframe are present on the landscape and many of these wells are unused and not properly abandoned. Unused and not properly abandoned wells pose a potential threat to groundwater quality because they can act of direct conduits to groundwater allowing surface contaminants to permanently degrade the local groundwater aquifer.

The overall groundwater quality in the town is considered to be impacted by nitrates and bacteria. The WIDNR considers the groundwater contamination potential ranking for the Rock Creek Watershed is high. About 60% of the wells in the town exceed the federal nitrate preventative action limit standard of 2mg/L and about 15% of the wells in the town exceed the federal nitrate enforcement

standard of 10mg/L. Nitrate levels above 2mg/L indicate that groundwater is being influenced by human activities and may also indicate other potential problems such as pesticide residues. Acute exposure to wells with nitrates exceeding 10mg/L is associated with blue baby syndrome among young infants, but long-term chronic exposure at lower levels may increase cancer in adults. Infants less than six months of age and women who are pregnant are the most at risk for experiencing health problems associated with nitrates in drinking water. The most common source of nitrate in groundwater is from fertilizers, both lawn and agricultural. Other sources may include septic systems and animal manure. About 20% of the wells tested in the Town of Beaver were found to contain coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are living microorganisms present in human and animal waste. Bacteria can enter wells through loose well caps, well defects (improper grouting or deteriorating well casings), improperly abandoned or unused and not abandoned wells, and through cracks in the underground rocks.

The Town of Beaver is located in an area of Clark County that is considered to be groundwater quantity deficient. The Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2022 published in 1974 by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the University of Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey titled "Water Availability in Central Wisconsin- An Area of Near-Surface Crystalline Rock" reports that most of Clark County is located in a region of Wisconsin that is considered to be groundwater quantity deficient. This survey can found at http://wi.water.usgs.gov/pubs/water_supply_papers.htm. Many private and public drinking water wells in this area yield low amounts of water, on the order of five gallons per minute. Soils of low permeability impede downward seepage and promote rapid surface runoff. Crystalline rock at or near the surface, generally covered by thin soil deposits of low permeability, limit the groundwater storage potential. The result is a water-poor area in a water-rich state. The average well depth in the town is 119.1 feet and the average well yield is 9.6 gallons per minute. When compared to the other 34 towns in Clark County, the Town of Beaver has the eight lowest yielding wells and town well yields are below the Clark County average of 11.3 gallons per minute.

5.11 Animal Manure

One of the most significant potential surface and groundwater contamination sources is livestock manure. Manure storages currently in use range from pits dug more than fifty years ago to newly engineered and constructed manure storage structures.

The Clark County Land Conservation Department administers the Clark County Animal Manure Management Ordinance. According to the Land Conservation Department, the Town of Beaver has 39 manure storages of which 25 are permitted under the county ordinance and meet some kind of a federal design standard at the time of construction. Many of these permitted facilities were constructed in the mid to late 80’s and have not been maintained or upgraded

according to the new technical standards. The remaining 14 manure storages were constructed before the adoption of the Clark County Animal Manure Management Ordinance and were not designed or constructed according to any federal standard and may pose a pollution threat to surface and groundwater.

Manure that is inappropriately land applied can also be a potential source of contamination to surface and groundwater. Many farmers have implemented Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) that assist with locating environmentally and economically sound places to apply on-farm (manure) and off-farm (fertilizer) nutrients. A NMP strives to maximize crop utilization of nutrients, while minimizing losses of nutrients to the environment. In the Town of Beaver, 30 farmers have implemented NMPs on 6,411.80 acres of cropland.

NR 151 Wis. Adm. Code contains the list of runoff management performance standards and prohibitions that urban (construction sites and transportation) and rural (agriculture) landowners are required to implement in order to reduce nonpoint source polluted runoff. Effective October 1, 2002, and amended in 2010, NR151 set forth minimum performance standards and prohibitions for achieving non-point source pollution control. The role of the Clark County Land Conservation Department is to assist landowners in planning, designing, and installing conservation plans and conservation best management practices that meet NR151 standards. The following is a list of the Agricultural Performance Standards and Prohibitions.

NR151.02 Sheet, Rill, and Wind Erosion Performance Standard
All land where crops or feed are grown shall be cropped to achieve a soil erosion rate equal to, or less than, the "tolerable" (T) rate established for that soil.

NR151.03 Tillage Setback Performance Standard
All landowners may not conduct tillage operations that negatively impact stream bank integrity or deposit soil directly into surface waters.

Tillage operations may not be conducted within five feet of the top of the channel of surface waters. Tillage setbacks that are required to be implemented may not be less than five feet or greater than twenty feet.

NR151.04 Phosphorus Index Performance Standard
All landowners shall manage croplands, pastures, and winter grazing areas to achieve a phosphorus index of 6 or less over the eight year accounting period and may not exceed a phosphorus index of 12 in any individual year.

All landowners may not apply nutrients or manure directly through mechanical

means to surface waters of the state.

NR151.05 Manure Storage Facilities Performance Standard
All landowners building new, substantially altering, or choosing to abandon their manure storage facilities shall comply with this section.

New or substantially altered manure storage facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize the risk of structural failure and minimize the amount of leakage of the facility in order to comply with the groundwater standards.

Closure of a manure storage facility shall occur when an operation where the facility is located ceases operation, or manure has not been added or removed from the facility for a period of 24 months. The owner may retain the facility for a longer period of time by demonstrating all of the following conditions are met:

1. The facility is designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with an accepted standard.
2. The facility is designed to store manure for a period of time longer than 24 months.
3. Retention of the facility is warranted based on anticipated future use.

Manure storage facilities in existence as of October 1, 2002, that pose an imminent threat to public health or fish and aquatic life or are causing a violation of groundwater standards shall be upgraded, replaced, or abandoned in accordance with this section.

NR151.055 Process Wastewater Handling Performance Standard
All landowners shall manage their operations in a manner that does not allow for significant discharge of process wastewaters, namely feed leachate and milkhouse wastewater, to waters of the state.

NR151.06 Clean Water Diversions Performance Standard
All livestock producers within a water quality management area shall comply with this section. A water quality management area, as defined by NR151 is the area within 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters that

consist of a lake, pond, or flowage, except that, for a navigable water that is a glacial pothole lake, the term means the area within 1,000 feet from the high water mark of the lake; the area within 300 feet from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters that consist of a river or stream; and a site that is susceptible to groundwater contamination, or that has the potential to be a direct conduit for contamination to groundwater.

Runoff shall be diverted away from contacting feedlot, manure storage areas, and barnyard areas within water quality management areas. A diversion to protect

private wells is only required when the feedlot, manure storage area, or barnyard area is located upslope from the private well.

NR151.07 Nutrient Management Performance Standard
All livestock and crop producers that apply manure or other nutrients directly or through contract to agricultural fields shall comply with this section.

Manure, commercial fertilizer, and other nutrients shall be applied in conformance with a nutrient management plan. Industrial, municipal, and residential wastewater and sludge must be accounted for in the nutrient management plan. The nutrient management plan shall be designed to limit or reduce the discharge of nutrients and sediment to the waters of the state for the purpose of complying with state water quality standards and groundwater standards.

NR151.005 Performance Standard for Total Maximum Daily Loads
If compliance with a more stringent standard or additional performance standards are required to meet a load allocation in a US EPA and state approved TMDL, the WDNR may promulgate the more stringent or additional performance standards by rule.

NR151.08 Manure Management Prohibitions
The manure management prohibitions have been included in the 1999 revision of the Clark County Animal Waste Management Ordinance. They were also included in the recreation of the Clark County Animal Manure Management Ordinance in 2005. The prohibitions are as follows:

1. No overflow of manure storage facilities.
2. No unconfined manure piles in a Water Quality Management Area.
3. No direct runoff from a feedlot or stored manure into the waters of the state.
4. No unlimited access by livestock to waters of the state, where high concentrations of livestock prevent the maintenance of adequate sod cover or self-sustaining vegetation.

The WIDNR regulates large livestock operations with 1,000 animal units (715 milk cows) or more and also small and medium livestock operations that have or have had significant discharges to surface and groundwater. NR 243 Wis. Adm. Code is used to administer the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (WPDES). WPDES livestock operations are required to maintain and abide by a specific set of permit conditions that are more restrictive than the performance standards listed in NR 151. The NR 243 WPDES permit requires livestock facilities to achieve zero discharge of nonpoint source pollutants.

5.12 Air Quality

The Town of Beaver is considered to be an attainment area that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that have been developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as established in section 109 of the Clean Air Act. According to the Wisconsin Air Quality Report, as prepared by the WDNR, the air pollutants affecting the Town of Beaver include sulfur dioxide, suspended particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, oxides of nitrogen, lead, sulfates, and nitrates. There are limited federal standards concerning odors originating from animal manure, however, it is expected that in the future animal manure will become a focus of air quality standards.

5.13 Environmental Corridors/Sensitive Areas

There are no specifically designated environmental corridors in the Town of Beaver. However the following landscape features are of environmental significance in the town.

1. Nelson Creek

2. Rock Creek

3. Large contiguous blocks of privately owned upland forest and forested wetlands especially the northwest and southwest corners of the town and a large contiguous area in Sections 20-22.

4. WIDNR designated wetlands and intermittent streams

5. Riparian corridors surrounding perennial and intermittent streams and creeks

5.14 Habitat and Ecology

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed a report that has been called the “green print” for conservation and recreation over the next 50 years. *Wisconsin’s Land Legacy Report*, released in January of 2006, identifies places that are critical in meeting conservation and recreation needs in the future. The report defines which places have the highest priority to protect for the future and why. The areas listed below were identified as being within or partially within the Town of Beaver and are included within the study.

Central Wisconsin's Grassland

This large landscape in central Wisconsin extends into eastern Clark County and northern and eastern portions of the Town of Beaver. It provides one of the state's best opportunities to maintain and restore habitat for a number of rare grassland birds, including the prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse. Mead and McMillan Marsh Wildlife Areas form the core of this large grassland area. These wildlife areas host a variety of vegetative communities including tamarack and black spruce bogs, sedge meadow, upland grass, agricultural areas, various successional stages of timber, and extensive wetlands. Farmland (both active and retired) and individual or multiple home developments dominate the rural landscape. The area is in close proximity to Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, and Wausau and hosts many recreational activities including hunting of deer, waterfowl, and upland birds; trapping; hiking; berry picking; bird watching; snowmobiling; snow-shoeing; and cross country skiing.

Large Scattered Forest Blocks

Many large blocks of industrial forest provide wood products that are important to Wisconsin's economy. Much of this industrial forest is enrolled in the Wisconsin's Forest Crop Law (FCL) or Managed Forest Law (MFL) programs and provides considerable conservation values and public recreation opportunities. These working forests also harbor many valuable features such as spring ponds, small undeveloped lakes, marshes, and trout streams. Often these lands are large enough to provide visitors with a remote, quiet experience. Some of these large blocks of forest are in danger of being divided into smaller parcels and closed to public access. Maintaining these large blocks as working forests will ensure that they continue to meet society's economic and recreational needs and will also help meet the ecological needs of those species that require large acreages of habitat to survive.

5.15 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) lists species as "endangered" when the continued existence of that species as a viable component of the state's wild animals or wild plants is determined to be in jeopardy on the basis of scientific evidence. "Threatened" species are listed when it appears likely, based on scientific evidence, that the species may become endangered within the foreseeable future. The WDNR also lists species of "special concern" of which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected, but not yet proved; the intent of this classification is to focus attention on certain species before

becoming endangered or threatened. Another source for information on rare and natural animals and features is the Natural Heritage Inventory Program. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) program is part of an international network of NHI programs. This network was established by The Nature Conservancy and is currently coordinated by NatureServe, an international non-profit organization. NHI programs focus on locating and documenting occurrences of rare species and natural communities, including state and federal endangered and threatened species.

Wildlife habitat can simply be defined as the presence of enough food, cover, and water to sustain a species. The Town of Beaver landscape provides habitat for a variety of plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish. Habitat areas within the town are critical components of the state's biodiversity and provide habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The WDNR also lists important examples of natural community types found in the town. The Town of Beaver straddles Wisconsin's tension zone, where southern deciduous forests are intermingled with northern coniferous forest types. For this reason, the Town of Beaver's natural communities are very diverse and extremely ecologically important as they bridge the northern pine forest to the southern deciduous forest and prairie. Although these communities are not legally protected, they are critical components of Wisconsin's biodiversity and may provide the habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species. The native natural community types found within the Town of Beaver are as follows: alder thicket, bird rookery, emergent marsh, northern dry forest, northern dry-mesic forest, northern sedge meadow, northern wet forest, open bog, southern dry-mesic forest, southern mesic forest, and southern sedge meadow.

5.16 Terrestrial and Aquatic Invasive Species

Invasive plants, animals, and disease-causing microorganisms are taking a toll on some of Clark County's lakes, rivers, and landscapes, as well as the local economy and recreation opportunities. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function, structure, and economic value. The WDNR has been working with citizens and partners to develop ways to prevent and control invasive species. On September 1, 2009, the Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control rule went into effect. The Invasive Species Rule (Wis. Adm. Code Chapter NR40) makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce certain invasive species in Wisconsin without a permit. The rule creates a comprehensive, science-based system with

criteria to classify invasive species into 2 categories: “Prohibited” and “Restricted”. With certain exceptions, the transport, possession, transfer, and introduction of prohibited species is banned. Restricted species are also subject to a ban on transport, transfer, and introduction, but possession is allowed, with the exception of fish and crayfish. WDNR may issue permits for research or public display of any listed invasive species. This comprehensive invasive species law helps prevent new invaders from getting to Wisconsin (and Clark County) in the first place and allows the WDNR to attempt to contain new invasive species before they become established.

Invasive species are plants, animals, and pathogens that are “out of place.” A species is regarded as invasive if it has been introduced by human action to a location, area, or region where it did not previously occur naturally (i.e., not native), becomes capable of establishing a breeding population in the new location without further intervention by humans, and spreads widely throughout the new location.

One of the reasons that invasive species are able to succeed is that they often leave their predators and competitors behind in their native ecosystems. Without these natural checks and balances they are able to reproduce rapidly and out-compete native species.

Towns have control over the maintenance of town road right of ways. Any maintenance (mowing, ditch cleaning, etc.) must be conducted in a manner that limits the spread of invasive vegetation and seeds to new locations. Careful cleaning of mowing equipment and specific directional mowing can reduce the spread of invasive species.

According the WDNR, Clark County has the following terrestrial invasive plant species:

Common Name	**NR40 Classification**
Amur Honeysuckle	Prohibited/Restricted
Amur Maple	Not Listed
Aquatic Forget-Me-Not	Not Listed
Autumn Olive	Restricted
Bells Honeysuckle	Restricted
Bird’s-Foot Trefoil	Not Listed
Black Bindweed	Not Listed
Black Locust	Not Listed

Blackberries & Raspberries	Not Listed
Bouncing Bet	Not Listed
Box elder	Not Listed
Bracken Fern	Not Listed
Bull Thistle	Not Listed
Burdock	Not Listed
Butter and Eggs	Not Listed
Canada Bluegrass	Not Listed
Canada Thistle	Restricted
Cattail Hybrid	Restricted
Chicory	Not Listed
Chinese Elm	Not Listed
Common Buckthorn	Restricted
Common Ragweed	Not Listed
Creeping Bellflower	Restricted
Creeping Charlie	Not Listed
Crown Vetch	Not Listed
Curly Dock	Not Listed
Cypress Spurge	Restricted
Dame's Rocket	Restricted
Eastern Cottonwood	Not Listed
Eastern Red-Cedar	Not Listed
Field, Sheep Sorrel	Not Listed
Garlic mustard	Restricted
Giant Ragweed	Not Listed
Glossy Buckthorn	Restricted
Grey Dogwood	Not Listed
Hemp Nettle, Brittlestem	Restricted
Hemp, Marijuana	Not Listed
Hoary Alyssum	Non-Restricted
Honey Locust	Not Listed
Horsetail	Not Listed
Japanese Barberry	Not Listed
Kentucky Bluegrass	Not Listed

Leafy Spurge	Restricted
Morrow's Honeysuckle	Restricted
Motherwort	Not Listed
Mullein	Not Listed
Multiflora Rose	Restricted
Narrow-Leaf Cattail	Restricted
Norway Maple	Not Listed
Orange Daylily	Not Listed
Orange Hawkweed	Not Listed
Orchard Grass	Not Listed
Oriental Bittersweet	Restricted
Ox-Eye Daisy	Not Listed
Phragmites, Common Reed	Restricted
Plumeless Thistle	Restricted
Poison Ivy	Not Listed
Prickly Ash	Not Listed
Purple Loosestrife	Restricted
Quackgrass	Not Listed
Quaking Aspen	Not Listed
Queen Anne's Lace	Not Listed
Raspberry	Not Listed
Red Clover	Not Listed
Red Osier Dogwood	Not Listed
Red-Twig Dogwood	Not Listed
Reed Canary Grass	Not Listed
Russian Olive	Restricted
Scotch Pine	Non-Restricted
Siberian Pea Shrub	Not Listed
Smooth Brome	Not Listed
Spotted Knapweed	Restricted
Staghorn Sumac	Not Listed
Stinging Nettle	Not Listed
Tall Fescue	Not Listed
Tall Hawkweed	Not Listed

Tall or Reed Manna Grass	Prohibited/Restricted
Tansy	Restricted
Tartarian Honeysuckle	Restricted
White Champion	Not Listed
White Clover	Not Listed
White Poplar	Not Listed
White Sweet Clover	Not Listed
Wild Parsnip	Restricted
Wood Nettle	Not Listed
Yellow Iris	Not Listed
Yellow Sedum	Not Listed
Yellow Sweet-Clover	Not Listed

5.17 Wisconsin's Working Lands Initiative (WLI) and Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA)

In 2011, town officials and citizens from the Towns of Mayville, Colby, Beaver, Unity, and Loyal submitted a petition to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection requesting the establishment of the Heart of America's Dairyland Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA). The petition was prepared according to s. 91.86 Wis. Stats. Guidance in order to meet the requirements established by the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative. The mission statement of the AEA is "To preserve and promote the agricultural economy and its social, cultural, and economic heritage."

More than 150 farms and 30 local agribusinesses and farm organizations supported the petition. The AEA encompasses more than 61,000 acres spread across northeastern Clark County. The Town of Beaver has 15,113.29 acres within the boundary of the AEA. In total, the land that is associated primarily with agricultural use is approximately 59,469 acres. Clearly, the Heart of America's Dairyland AEA primarily consists of working lands predominately under agricultural management. More than 250 businesses in the immediate area support and rely on agriculture for income. The Heart of America's Dairyland AEA was recommended for formal designation in May 2011. The AEA was officially designated on January 1st, 2012. Landowners who own land included in the designated AEA boundary may become eligible for refundable income tax credits. Before the tax credit can be claimed, landowners must be either located in a town zoned for exclusive agriculture or located in an AEA and have signed a voluntary Farmland Preservation Agreement. Landowners can receive higher refunds for meeting both of the previous location requirements. Landowners with land in the Town of Beaver that is

located within the boundary of the AEA are eligible for a $5.00/acre refundable income tax credit, on all land (not just cropland, but also woods, wetlands, building site, etc.) covered by their voluntary Farmland Preservation Agreement. All participating landowners must be in compliance with the soil and water conservation requirements listed NR151 and ATCP50. Landowners must only be in compliance with those conservation requirements that were in existence at the time of the signing of their Farmland Preservation Agreement. Landowners are not required to be compliant with requirements adopted after they sign their agreements. Public access is not required.