



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

- BUREAU OF AGRICHEMICAL MANAGEMENT -
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Bureau of Agrichemical Management:

Overview

Part of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Division of Agricultural Resource Management, the Bureau of Agrichemical Management (ACM) administers Wisconsin's regulatory and enforcement programs associated with commercial animal feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other plant production and pest control materials used in agricultural, urban, and industrial settings. This report provides a financial overview, an overview of bureau and work unit structures, program statistics, and enforcement and compliance actions.

More information about ACM and prior annual reports are available on the [Bureau of Agrichemical Management webpage](#).

ACM's Mission

Protect human health and the environment, promote agriculture, and ensure a fair marketplace by mitigating risks and preserving the benefits of regulated products.

Strategic Plan

During 2025, ACM continued implementation of the 2021-2025 strategic plan. The strategic plan guides the bureau's use of financial and human resources in critical areas and on important tasks as it strives to meet its mission. Implementing this strategic plan assists the bureau with continuously improving efficiency and effectiveness while meeting its mission and regulatory responsibilities.

The plan included three strategic goals:

- Maintain established connections with stakeholder groups to reinforce existing trust in the bureau. These connections will support stakeholders as their industries evolve, grow our partnership base, and ensure ACM provides proactive and relevant information to our partners and stakeholders.
- Optimize ACM operational functions through effective programs and efficient use of resources (including technology) to support the mission of the bureau.
- Recruit, invest in, and develop the ACM workforce to provide employees with appropriate professional and technical skills to lead critical programs and have opportunities to grow professionally.

ACM's annual work planning process utilizes this strategic plan to align work activities to meet these goals. The strategic plan is re-evaluated at the end of each five-year cycle to continue to guide the bureau in meeting its mission. The bureau initiated the 2026-2030 Strategic Planning process at the end of 2025.

Bureau Structure

ACM is separated into two sections: the Agrichemical Programs Section and the Investigation and Compliance Section. Each of these sections has multiple units and multiple programs. The remainder of this report provides an overview of each section, and highlights from FY 2025. An organizational chart displaying the bureau structure, staff, and position types is available in Appendix A.

Financials

ACM's financial information includes data from the state fiscal year (FY) 2025, which was from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. ACM's cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) operated from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. This report covers those portions of the federal grants that occurred during the state fiscal year. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) environmental fund provides \$1 million to support Clean Sweep Program grants to local governments. ACM recognizes these important partnerships with industry and the federal government and works diligently to maximize the use of this funding for the benefit of industry, consumers, and the environment.

The primary sources of revenue for ACM include industry fees from licenses, permits, registrations, and tonnage under the feed, fertilizer, soil and plant additive, lime, and pesticide programs.

Agrichemical Management Fund

The ACM fund is the primary source of funding for the regulatory, investigative, and enforcement aspects of ACM. This includes staff, supplies and services, and laboratory functions. Table 1 shows the ACM fund balance sheet for FY 2025.

In addition to industry fees, funding through a cooperative agreement with the EPA supports ACM programs. ACM uses this cooperative agreement to implement, investigate, and enforce pesticide use laws and regulations. In FY 2025, ACM received \$694,393 in funding via the cooperative agreement with the EPA. EPA funding included supplemental funds for a regional and national lab workshop. Table 1 highlights the ACM funding situation.

Table 1: FY 2025 ACM Fund

Opening Balance	Revenue	Expenditures	Ending Balance
\$12,537,000	\$8,598,000	\$8,855,000	\$12,280,000

Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program Fund

ACM uses the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP) fund to provide reimbursement payments for eligible agricultural chemical spill cleanups in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code, ch. ATCP 35. Table 2 shows the revenue collected and deposited into the ACCP fund from industry surcharges for FY 2025. The fee holiday ended and the surcharge fee was reinstated at half the full rate on July 1, 2024 in accordance with Wisconsin Stats., § 94.73. The balance amount continued to decrease because ACM collected revenue after the end of FY 2024. ACCP surcharge fees collected after July 1, 2025 remained at half the full rate and will be collected in FY 2026. ACM will provide revenue, expenditures, and opening

and ending fund balances in the 2026 ACM annual report. Current information regarding ACCP the fund and surcharges can be found on the [ACCP Fund and Surcharges webpage](#).

Table 2: FY 2025 ACCP Fund

Opening Balance	Revenue	Expenditures	Ending Balance
\$1,148,000	\$204,000	\$1,002,000	\$350,000

Revenue Collected for Other Agencies and Programs

The ACM fund is statutorily required to support several programs that are not part of ACM. Table 3 shows non-ACM programs that are supported by fees paid into the ACM fund.

Table 3: FY 2025 ACM Fund Expenditures for Non-ACM Programs

Non-ACM Program	Amount
DATCP Division of Animal Health	\$495,142
UW Discovery Farms	\$263,306
DATCP Ag in the Classroom	\$143,900
Livestock Premises Registration	\$70,000
Total	\$972,348

Per statute, ACM collects fees for several other agencies and distributes the funds to those agencies each year. Table 4 shows the fee revenue collected on behalf of, and transferred to, other agencies and non-ACM programs.

Table 4: FY 2025 Non-ACM Program Revenue

Non-ACM Program	Revenue Collected
DNR Environmental Fund	\$1,709,010.89
UW Fertilizer Research Council	\$399,880.48
UW Nutrient Management Program	\$237,869.33
UW Lime Research Program	\$13,160.63
DATCP Weights and Measures	\$163,063.34
Total	\$2,522,984.67

Agrichemical Programs Section

The agrichemical programs section consists of the following units:

- Environmental Quality
- Feed, Fertilizer, and Containment
- Pesticides

Each unit is led by a supervisor and contains multiple programs. Programs are managed by subject matter experts and their supervisor.

Environmental Quality Unit:

The environmental quality unit includes the following program areas:

- Non-point Source Surface and Groundwater Monitoring
- Agricultural Chemical Cleanup and Reimbursement
- Pesticide Product Restrictions

Non-point Surface and Groundwater Monitoring Programs

These program areas perform routine monitoring for pesticides and nitrate to evaluate the occurrence of agrichemicals in surface and groundwater within or near agricultural fields where agricultural chemicals and fertilizer are applied in accordance with labeled use rates. Non-point monitoring programs include the following:

- Targeted
- Field-Edge
- Surface Water
- Exceedance Well

Table 5 provides the sample collection for ground and surface water in 2025 and the preceding four years.

Table 5: Number of Surface and Groundwater Samples Collected

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Groundwater	285	269	511	306	318
Surface water	121	150	64	186	145
Total	406	419	575	492	463

The DATCP Bureau of Laboratory Services analyzed all water samples for nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen (N) and pesticide compounds. ACM staff prepare annual program reports summarizing key findings. Annual reports for each monitoring program are available on DATCP's [Surface and Groundwater Monitoring webpage](#).

Multi-Agency Review of Groundwater Quality Standards

The DNR is responsible for creating new standards within Wis. Admin. Code, ch. NR 140. When DATCP detects pesticides in groundwater samples, the agency shares the data with the DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for consideration in public safety concerns. In 2025, no additional work was completed by staff in support of the DNR rulemaking process.

As previously reported, DATCP submitted a list of pesticides for consideration to DNR, and the DNR submitted a list of compounds to DHS on March 2, 2018. Additional pesticides were also included on the "cycle 11" list submitted to DHS on September 19, 2019. DHS responded with recommendation standards for the cycle 10 list on June 21, 2019, and the cycle 11 list on November 19, 2019. On February 23, 2022, DNR's Natural Resources Board considered and did not approve the cycle 10 list. The scope statement for cycle 10 expired on March 3, 2022. The scope statement for cycle 11 expired on Sept. 15, 2023. Any future rulemaking conducted by the DNR will take place under a new scope statement.

ACM program staff will continue to assist the DNR with technical advice and data support for rulemaking efforts for pesticides with proposed groundwater standards. One can find the status of the combined agencies efforts to draft new standards under Wis. Admin. Code, ch. NR 140 on the DNR's [NR 140 Groundwater Quality Standards Update webpage](#) and on DATCP's [Groundwater Standards for Pesticides webpage](#).

DHS considers a proposed standard to be a Drinking Water Health Advisory. The following is a list of pesticide active ingredients/metabolites with DHS established health advisories:

• Clothianidin	1,000 µg/l
• Dacthal, Dacthal MTP, Dacthal TPA	70 µg/l
• Glyphosate,	10,000 µg/l
• Glyphosate AMPA	10,000 µg/l
• Imidacloprid	0.2 µg/l
• Isoxaflutole, Isoxaflutole DKN	3 µg/l
• Isoxaflutole BA	800 µg/l
• Sulfentrazone	1,000 µg/l
• Thiamethoxam	120 µg/l
• Thien carbazon-methyl	10,000 µg/l
• Metalaxyl	800 µg/l
• Chlorantraniliprole	16,000 µg/l
• Flumetsulam	10,000 µg/l
• Fomesafen	25 µg/l
• Hexazinone	400 µg/l
• Saflufenacil	460 µg/l
• Cyantraniliprole	10 µg/l
• Norflurazon	15 µg/l

ACM program staff published fact sheets for all pesticides under consideration for review of groundwater standards. These fact sheets are available to view on DATCP's [Groundwater Standards for Pesticides webpage](#).

Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program

The Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP) helps cleanup eligible pesticide and fertilizer spills in an effort to prevent these spills/releases from contaminating groundwater. The ACCP also reimburses the responsible persons (RP) for eligible cleanup costs. The ACCP works with the RP for the spill and consults with the RP to ensure cleanups are completed in a timely, cost-effective manner in accordance with environmental regulations and standards.

Corrective action often includes an environmental investigation and removal of contaminated soil. For cases where residual contamination remains, groundwater monitoring is often performed for several years to evaluate natural attenuation as a final remedial response. Groundwater monitoring may be required for an extended period of time at some sites, particularly at sites where contaminants adsorb to fine grained, low permeability soil.

The Environmental Quality Unit Spill Coordinator, in conjunction with Environmental Enforcement Specialists (EES) within the Investigation and Compliance Section, responds to an average of 32 agrichemical spills each year. The Spill Coordinator also works closely with the DNR on spill response investigations. Agrichemical spills reported to the DNR Emergency Hotline are then transferred to the DATCP Spill Coordinator, who will refer the reported spill to the Investigations and Compliance section to assign to an EES based on available staff and territorial responsibilities. The EES mobilizes to the site, often within a few hours after the spill was reported. Upon arrival at the spill site, EES staff meet with the RP to discuss the appropriate spill response. Spill clean-up methods can include the use of hand tools, absorbent material, or vacuum trucks and street sweepers. Occasionally, contaminated soil is also removed as part of the spill response. EES staff collect soil samples to verify that the spill had been remediated to the extent practicable. The EES prepares a report to document the cause of the spill and the corrective action(s) taken.

Table 6 details ACCP case numbers for 2025 and the preceding four years.

Table 6: Number of Cases Managed

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ACCP					
Applications received	45	28	21	31	28
Open cases	120	119	113	102	95
Long-term cases – new	6	3	2	5	4
Long-term cases – re-opened	3	3	7	6	7
Long-term cases – closed	17	10	14	22	20
Long-term cases – total closed	653	663	677	699	719
Spill Cases					
New	24	28	34	16	32
Closed – same year	9	0	0	6	2
Closed each year – total	18	13	18	44	14
Total closed cases	1,336	1,349	1,367	1,411	1,425

The ACCP reimburses for a portion of eligible cleanup costs. The discharge site maximum is \$650,000 for eligible costs incurred on or after July 1, 2017. The Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Council (ACCC), a six-member advisory council composed of farmers and members of the regulated community, reviews and makes recommendations to DATCP regarding reimbursements.

The ACCC plays a key role in the ACCP reimbursement program. Following review of each reimbursement application, bureau staff recommend to the council an amount for reimbursement and seek approval during quarterly meetings. The council also advises ACM staff on proposed rule changes, fees, and surcharges to fund reimbursement for cleanup. Per Wis. Admin. Code, ch. ATCP 35, the council must include two farmers, two pesticide dealers or commercial applicators, one environmental consultant, and one agricultural chemical manufacturer or wholesaler. All council members are appointed by the DATCP Secretary for two-year terms. To ensure council member terms overlap, three appointments are made each year. Members may be reappointed to serve another term, or new members may be recruited.

ACM would like to thank the following council members who served in 2025:

- Agricultural chemical manufacturer or wholesaler: William Whitworth with Rosen's Inc., of Sparta (member since November 2024)
- Environmental consultant: Thomas Culp with True North Consultants of Madison (member since January 2024)
- Farmer: Arch Morton, Jr., of Janesville (member since September 2015)
- Farmer: Kevin Solum of Deer Park (member since July 2022)
- Pesticide dealer or commercial applicator: Jennifer B. Wickman with Cooperative Network of Madison (member since July 2019)
- Pesticide dealer or commercial applicator: Joe Sikora with Insight FS of Jefferson (member since February 2018)

More information on the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program is available on DATCP's [Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program webpage](#).

Pesticide Product Restrictions Program

The Pesticide Product Restrictions Program has the responsibility to review, determine, issue, or deny permit requests for the special use of several pesticide active ingredients. Use of these active ingredients can also include limits on certain products for specific uses (e.g., bat control), application methods or timing, or specifying other management practices for a specific pesticide product. This responsibility also allows increased restrictions on uses of aldicarb and atrazine, two pesticides known to have caused groundwater contamination. Monitoring efforts include groundwater and surface water monitoring via the collection of samples, marketplace inspections, and pesticide use observation inspections.

Feed, Fertilizer, and Containment Unit

The Feed, Fertilizer, and Containment unit includes the following programs:

- Feed
- Fertilizer
- Soil or plant additives
- Lime
- Containment of pesticides and fertilizers

Commercial Feed Program

The Commercial Feed Program provides the following services:

- Licensing and tonnage reporting: The program annually licenses more than 1,500 commercial feed and pet food companies. Each year, these feed companies distribute over 4.5 million tons of feed in Wisconsin. These products consist of feed for Wisconsin's livestock and poultry industries as well as pet food. Commercial animal feed license holders must report and pay inspection fees on each ton of feed distributed during the prior calendar year.
- Certificates of free sale: Certificates of free sale confirm that the company is licensed and legally able to sell in Wisconsin the feed or feed ingredient being exported. Annually, the program issues approximately 200 certificates of free sale to companies exporting feeds and feed ingredients. Companies apply for the certificate of free sale and provide a label of the feed they

want to export. Label(s) are reviewed to ensure they meet the Wisconsin commercial feed labeling requirements that are set forth within Wis. Admin. Code, ch. ATCP 42. If the product label(s) meet those requirements, a certificate of free sale is issued. Applications are submitted through an online process via AccessGov. This system prevents incomplete applications and reduces intake time for customers.

- Inspections and sampling: The program routinely inspects feed mills for compliance with good manufacturing practices and collects samples to ensure the nutrients in the feeds are present at the levels guaranteed on the label. EESs and program staff complete approximately 100 inspections and collect 300 to 600 feed samples each year, sending those samples to DATCP's laboratory for analysis.

During 2025, the feed licensing and tonnage reporting process was redeveloped. This process uses an enterprise-wide database and combines the licensing process with the inspection fee (tonnage) reporting into a single, more functional Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. Another major benefit is that it allows industry to apply for licenses, report inspection fees (tonnage), and pay fees online for the first time. The commercial animal feed program was the first in the department to implement the new MyDATCP v3 software. This software works as a forward-facing internet portal that provides industry members customers with the ability to apply for licenses and report inspection fees (tonnage) online. This enhancement has decreased the time of license review and issuance and has aided in reducing errors that were commonly found in paper applications. Despite first year familiarization with implementing a new version of the MyDATCP portal and CRM database, 42% of licenses and 32% of inspection reports were received electronically.

Inspection Prioritization

New facilities receive an initial risk assessment using information from their first license application submitted to DATCP, and a risk assessment questionnaire completed during an outreach visit by an EES subsequent to licensure. With the information provided by the Risk Assessment, past inspection reports, and sampling results, the commercial feed program is able to better assign inspections at an efficient rate that continues to meet the needs of industry and consumers alike. Fifty-four outreach visits were completed in 2025.

Commonly Found Violations

Violations are occasionally observed during inspection and sampling activities. Below are common violations, what they mean, and how to avoid them.

Violation: Wis. Admin. Code, ch. ATCP 42.02 - Commercial Feed Licensing

Found when a business does not obtain and/or renew their annual license and pay all applicable fees. The Commercial Animal Feed License is valid March 1 through the last day of February in the subsequent year. DATCP sends expiration notices to businesses each year reminding them of the requirement to renew their license and submit tonnage for commercial feed distributed in Wisconsin the prior calendar year. If the business does not complete the renewal requirements, there are late fees and potential enforcement action(s) that could occur

Violation: Wis. Admin. Code, ch. ATCP 42.04 - Commercial Feed Labeling

DATCP has labeling requirements for all commercial feed products. DATCP often encounters species-specific feeds that do not have all the guarantees required for the species listed on the label.

Table 7 provides feed program data from 2021 to 2025, including licensing, tonnage, and inspection data.

Table 7: Feed Program Data

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feed Program Activity Areas					
Licenses issued	1,570	1,540	1,520	1,576	1,132
Tonnage reported	5,131,796	4,785,035	4,564,711	4,923,000	5,041,938
Certificates of free sale issued	152	184	246	267	187
Surveillance samples collected	633	614	597	470	248
Inspections					
Commercial Feed	111	112	89	213	84

More information about the Commercial Feed Program is available on DATCP's [Livestock Feed and Pet Food webpage](#).

Fertilizer Program

The Fertilizer Program provides the following services:

- **License:** A license is required for each business location and mobile unit used for manufacturing or distributing fertilizer, soil and plant additive, or lime. The program issues approximately 900 fertilizer, 300 soil and plant additive, and 100 lime licenses annually. Fertilizer, soil and plant additive, and lime licenses need to be renewed annually.
- **Tonnage:** The program collects tonnage reports and fees for approximately two million tons of fertilizer, 90,000 tons of soil and plant additives, and 800,000 tons of agricultural lime distributed in Wisconsin annually. Each product has a tonnage reporting requirement that involves the reporting of tons of fertilizer distributed and submitting inspection fees and surcharges collected.
- **Permits:** The program has approximately 3,100 fertilizer products permitted and approximately 2,500 exempt fertilizers listed, with approximately 400 permitted annually. Permits are issued for fertilizers less than 24% total NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) and all soil and plant additive products. For soil and plant additives, there are approximately 1,663 products permitted with approximately 280 products permitted annually. Businesses voluntarily cancel approximately 300 permits per year.
- **Sampling:** The program collects samples to ensure the fertilizer meets the label guarantees and economic value. EESs and program staff collect approximately 300 to 400 samples each year, which get analyzed by DATCP. Samples are typically collected in the spring prior to crop planting.

Online Licensing, Permitting, and Tonnage Reporting

In 2025, DATCP began initial steps to migrate program data into the enterprise database and MyDATCP v3 online portal were completed. This process consolidated five databases into a single system. Industry members can now apply for licenses and permits, report tonnage, or designate a representative to do so on their behalf all online. Online application processes tend to be processed faster and decrease application errors. To apply online, visit [MyDATCP](#).

Failed Samples and How to Avoid Them

Failed samples are a violation of Wis. Admin. Code, ch. ATPC 40.14. The DATCP lab analyzes samples for four components: total nitrogen, available phosphate, soluble potash, and the combined nutrient index (CNI). The CNI is the economic value portion of the fertilizer, and it is calculated by {total nitrogen (N) guarantee} + {available phosphate (P₂O₅) guarantee} + {soluble potash (K₂O) guarantee}. Out of 147 samples collected in 2025, failures were reported as follows:

Combined Nutrient Index (CNI): 16

Soluble Potash: 8

Available Phosphorus: 8

Total Nitrogen: 9

There are ways fertilizer facilities can help prevent failures. Ingredients should be periodically tested by an independent laboratory to confirm the guarantee(s) as reported by the manufacturer. Agrichemical manufacturing procedures are current and followed to ensure correct weight of ingredients before mixing. Facility housekeeping is also important to avoid contamination of a blend.

Table 8 details fertilizer programs information from 2021 to 2025, including sampling, permitting and licensing, soil and plant additives, and lime.

Table 8: Fertilizer Program Data

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fertilizer					
Samples collected	304	268	274	124	147
Licenses issued	811	876	720	840	767
Total permits issued	3,565	3,965	3,668	3,536	2,694
Fertilizer-additive permits*					549
Permits issued – new	387	400	473	231	459
Exempt fertilizer products* reported					2,536
Tonnage reported	2,434,501	2,007,647	2,318,906	2,354,031	2,461,750
Soil and plant additive					
Licenses issued	242	281	277	246	278
Total permits issued	1,443	1,744	1,663	1,618	1,148
Permits issued – new	190	287	289	280	247
Tonnage reported	113,548	114,871	73,557	89,704	87,100
Lime					
Licenses issued	92	92	88	90	71
Tonnage reported	743,135	1,144,060	1,115,661	1,654,874	889,060

*The 2025 database conversion allows the program to separately track fertilizer-additive products. These products contain both fertilizer and soil or plant additive substances. They were previously counted as a fertilizer permit and a soil or plant additive permit. The new database also allows better tracking of the exempt fertilizer products (single ingredient or over 24% NPK) businesses voluntarily submit. There are also 25 organic exempt products reported.

More information about the Fertilizer Program is available on DATCP's [Commercial Fertilizer Dealers webpage](#).

Containment Program

The Containment Program regulates the storage and handling of bulk fertilizer, pesticide, and non-bulk pesticide to protect against groundwater contamination resulting from both chronic and acute fertilizers and pesticides spillage at storage and handling facilities.

Staff review the design and construction of these facilities, conduct ongoing inspections of these facilities, and investigate facilities that are not complying with the environmental protection sections of applicable rules and statutes. Containment structure construction observations are performed by conservation engineering staff in DATCP's Bureau of Land and Water Resources.

Emerging Violations

There is a pattern developing within the agrichemical industry with an increase in the uncontained storage of minibulk containers used for holding fertilizer and/or pesticide products. Several agrichemical facilities are making the business decision to purchase quantities of these products for which the facility has inadequate storage capabilities.

Table 9 outlines the volume of containment inspections and cases addressed in 2025 as well as the preceding four years.

Table 9: Containment Program Data

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Inspections					
Full	3	3	3	5	9
Small	114	103	106	122	91
Mix/load	17	10	12	20	6
Sump test	66	48	52	60	40
Cases: Containment Plan Sets					
Reviewed	23	18	40	41	33
Projects	16	9	20	25	14

More information about the Containment Program is available on DATCP's [Agricultural Chemical Storage and Containment webpage](#).

Pesticides Unit

The pesticides unit includes the following services and programs:

- Applicator Certification and Licensing
- Pesticide Product Registration
- Agricultural Worker Protection
- Inspections

- Community Programs

Applicator Certification and Licensing

Certification:

- Commercial and private applicators: Individuals who commercially apply pesticides and anyone who applies restricted use pesticides must be certified by passing a written examination.
- Reciprocal applicator: For individuals who are properly certified outside of Wisconsin in their state of residence and apply pesticides in Wisconsin in settings which require certification and licensure.
- 30-day trainee registration (temporary certification): Allows an individual to make pesticide applications for-hire while under the direct supervision of an applicator who is certified and licensed.

Licensing:

- Commercial pesticide business location: Businesses that make pesticide applications on a for-hire basis must obtain a pesticide business license and employ individuals who are licensed as an individual commercial applicator.
- Individual commercial applicator: Anyone applying any pesticides on a for-hire basis and anyone who applies a restricted-use pesticide must have a license.
- Restricted-use pesticide dealers and distributors: A license is required of any business that sells or distributes restricted-use pesticides (RUPs), either into or within the state.

During the 2025 season, multiple process changes were implemented to improve lead time for issuing licenses to Commercial Pesticide Application Businesses, Dealers/Distributors of Restricted-Use Pesticides, and Individual Commercial Pesticide Applicators. In addition to this, much of the time saved was repurposed to provide additional outreach to industry. Multiple forms of outreach have been pursued, including increased notification for expiring commercial pesticide applicator certification and additional provision of resources to assist with compliance.

Table 10 details pesticide licensing and certification levels from 2021 through 2025.

Table 10: Pesticide Applicator Licenses and Certifications

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Licenses Issued					
Pesticide business location	2,396	2,392	2,368	2,367	2,412
Individual commercial applicator	7,874	7,448	7,828	7,162	8,635
Reciprocal	466	513	419	417	387
Restricted use dealer	391	350	381	384	382
Certifications Conducted					
Commercial exams passed	2,312	5,662	5,100	5,070	4,655
Commercial exams failed	data not available	2,532	2,165	2,092	2,003
Total commercial certified applicators**	20,265	21,936	22,897	23,649	24,273
Private exams passed	453	3,375	2,045	1,525	1,419
Private exams failed	data not available	data not available	53	27	46
Total private certified applicators**	9,081	10,808	11,860	10,398	10,434

**Applicators can have more than one certification.

Online Commercial and Private Pesticide Applicator Certification

The Pesticide Applicator Certification Program continues to partner with Pearson Vue to offer computer-based testing options. This is a computer-based exam that can be taken at a remote location or at one of Pearson Vue's locations, which include most technical colleges in Wisconsin. Certification through Pearson Vue is treated the same way as in-person testing at DATCP, and applicators are granted five-year certifications. This option generated positive feedback from the industry. Applicators test faster and get results and certification within three days of testing. The Pearson Vue online testing went live in November 2021. Since then, approximately 3,000 applicators have received their certification through this format.

More information about the Pesticide Applicator Certification Program is available on DATCP's [Pesticides and Fertilizers: Certification and Licensing webpage](#).

Pesticide Product Registration

Pesticide manufacturer and labeler licensing:

- Pesticide products distributed, sold, or used in Wisconsin must be registered with both EPA and DATCP. Companies that manufacture or label pesticide products must also be licensed with DATCP to sell or distribute their products in Wisconsin, regardless of whether the company is located in Wisconsin or manufactures pesticides here. The program licenses nearly 1,600 companies annually.

Pesticide product listing:

- Pesticide manufacturer and labeler licensees must report the pesticide products they are listing for distribution in the U.S. There are two types of pesticide products, based on Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) classifications: Section 3 and 25b (minimum risk) products. Wisconsin charges a fee to list FIFRA Section 3 products (those products regulated by the EPA) on the state registry. Listing of these products ensures they are properly registered by the EPA. Wisconsin also requires 25b products, which are exempt from EPA registration, are listed, but no fees are assessed. In 2025, there were over 13,000 pesticide products listed for distribution.

Special registrations and use authorizations:

- Pesticide products are registered and labeled for specific uses and must be used according to label directions. The program does have the ability to register products for use in Wisconsin to meet specific needs, such as Federal Section 18 emergency exemptions, Wisconsin emergency use permits, and special local need registrations. DATCP also receives requests to conduct experimental research with pesticides in Wisconsin.

Table 11 details the different pesticide product registration that occurred in 2025, as well as the preceding four years for comparison.

Table 11: Product Registrations

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Manufacturers and labelers	1,669	1,649	1602	1586	1554
Pesticide products	13,264	13,340	13,074	13,055	13,074
24(c) special local need (new)	6	2	7	0	4
Section 18 emergency exemption	0	0	0	0	1
Experimental use permits	0	1	2	0	1

More information about the Product Registration Program is available on DATCP's [Pesticide Manufacturers and Labelers: Registering Pesticide Products for Distribution in Wisconsin webpage](#).

Agricultural Worker Protection

DATCP enforces the federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS) in Wisconsin. The WPS requirements are developed and administered by the EPA. The intention of these requirements is to use information, training, and practices to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to pesticide handlers and other workers producing crops:

- On farms
- In forests
- In nurseries
- In greenhouses

Workers and handlers include employees, self-employed contractors and, in some cases, owners. DATCP strives to conduct 60 WPS inspections on an annual basis, with a significant and continual focus on outreach. On average, DATCP's WPS program reaches 300 workers through WPS inspections. The

WPS program manager regularly presents to state grower groups/associations reminding them of their WPS responsibilities as well as collaborating with other state and local agencies to enhance WPS awareness.

On DATCP's [WPS webpage](#), various resources are available that an establishment can utilize to create or refresh their program including how-to-comply manuals and videos, the WPS safety poster, training and recording keeping example forms, and references to the University of Wisconsin-Extension Pesticide Applicator Training and federal EPA resources.

In 2025, the WPS program manager presented to four grower associations and multiple government agencies regarding the responsibilities of the WPS rule and DATCP's enforcement. WPS program material was available at two additional industry association conferences, and the program released a new compliance outreach piece and maintained program reminders via the e-newsletter started in 2024. In 2025, DATCP conducted 62 WPS inspections.

More information about the Worker Protection Standard Program is available on DATCP's [Worker Protection Standard webpage](#).

Inspections

Storage, transport, and sale of pesticides:

- Monitored through inspections and pesticide use observations.

Pesticide handling, records, disposal, and spills:

- Monitored through inspections and some functions of the ACCP and containment programs.

Agricultural WPS:

- An EPA regulation adopted into Wisconsin law that requires employers that use pesticides in raising agricultural crops in farm, forest, nursery, or in enclosed space settings to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from illness or injury from pesticide use.
- Wisconsin's WPS inspections are part of the annual cooperative agreement between DATCP and the EPA.
- ACM's goal is to perform 60 WPS inspections each year.

Private applicator records:

- Inspections of individuals who purchase and/or apply RUPs to determine whether applicable recordkeeping requirements are being followed. Environmental enforcement staff provide training offered by the Universities of Wisconsin's (UW) pesticide applicator training program.

Table 12 provides inspections conducted for 2021 to 2025.

Table 12: Number of Pesticide Inspections Conducted

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Commercial Applicator Record Inspection	110	130	136	121	96
Restricted Use Dealer Record Inspection	60	64	63	63	53
Pesticide Use Observations	124	139	134	168	138
Private Applicator Record Inspection	74	69	65	34	48
Producer Establishment (federal)	8	5	5	10	8
Marketplace (federal)	4	12	12	15	9
Marketplace (state)	173	503	400	494	0
Worker Protection	51	58	45	36	62

Commonly Found Violations and How to Avoid Them

Violations are occasionally observed during inspection activities. Below is a list of common violations, what they mean, and how to avoid them. Additional information and assistance on these requirements can be found within the [How to Comply Manuals](#) document on DATCP's website. For more information on Pesticide Application Certification and Licensure, visit DATCP's [Pesticides and Fertilizers: Certification and Licensing webpage](#).

Lack of Pesticide Business License

This license is required when a business (person), including sole proprietor, makes commercial pesticide applications. The license is valid for one calendar year, January 1 through December 31. A license is required for each location that a business operates at as a pesticide applicator for hire.

Lack of certification in the proper category

Certification is required when making commercial pesticide applications, when using restricted-use pesticides, or both. There are 20 commercial pesticide applicator certification categories. Certifications are valid for five years.

Lack of a current Individual Commercial Applicator License (ICAL)

Licensure is required when making commercial pesticide applications for-hire or when making commercial pesticide applications of a restricted-use pesticide. The individual licenses are valid for one calendar year, January 1 through December 31, and are not transferable. Applicators shall carry their license when involved in commercial pesticide work.

Lacking application records or required elements

An application record must be created for each application of a restricted use pesticide and each commercial pesticide application. Records must be kept for two years, or three years for atrazine. Common missing elements include date and/or start/stop time, location of mixing/loading, and missing EPA Registration Number.

Missing required information to customers

Information on requirements can be found within DATCP's [How to Comply Manuals](#) document.

Community Programs

Landscape Pesticide Registry:

- Allows Wisconsin residents to receive a notification before lawn care and landscape companies apply pesticides to neighboring property. This list is made available publicly to assist commercial pesticide application businesses to notify residents of the registry prior to the application of pesticides.
- More information about the Landscape Pesticide Registry is available on DATCP's [Landscape Pesticide Registry webpage](#).

Clean Sweep Program:

- Provides grants to municipalities, counties, Tribes, and regional planning commissions to help create and operate local programs for the collection and disposal of agricultural pesticides, farm chemical waste, household hazardous waste (HHW), and unwanted prescription drugs. Annual funding for these grants is provided by the DNR's environmental fund. The funding available is \$1,000,000. In addition, the program provides limited funding each year to support very small quantity generator (VSQG) waste disposal.
- More information about the Clean Sweep Program is available on DATCP's [Clean Sweep webpage](#).

Table 13 provides the volume of landscape pesticide registry use by Wisconsin residents and volume of Clean Sweep Program waste collections for 2025 and the preceding four years.

Table 13: Community Services and Programs

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Landscape pesticide registry					
Addresses registered	4,461	4,445	4,319	4,858	3,576
Warning notices issued	35	48	21	30	17
Clean Sweep					
HHW (lbs.)	2,058,879	3,268,820	3,121,217	3,177,590	3,085,136
Ag and ag business (lbs.)	70,337	82,604	74,369	141,382	74,863
Prescription drugs (lbs.)	13,411	22,991	20,626	15,847	15,368
VSQG (lbs.)	231,230	233,413	252,479	337,516	249,990

Investigation and Compliance Section

The Investigation and Compliance Section performs inspection and sampling activities detailed in this report as well as investigations related to the commercial animal feed, fertilizer, pesticide, and groundwater program areas. These cases can involve product distribution, storage, use, disposal, or environmental contamination.

Staffing

The section consists of 15 environmental enforcement specialists, two supervisors, and a section manager:

- Environmental Enforcement Specialists (EES staff) complete inspection fieldwork, along with investigations that support the work of the Agrichemical Programs Section.

- Two EES staff are classified as advanced; one as the Investigation Program Manager and the other as the Inspection Program Manager. Both positions have statewide responsibility.
- Two supervisors and a section manager conduct and oversee activities associated with inspections and investigations for ACM program areas.

A map depicting the territories assigned to each EES staff during 2025 and their contact information is available in the appendices. Industry members are encouraged to reach out to their local EES if they ever need assistance with compliance or regulatory issues.

Investigation Program Activities

In 2025, the section conducted a total of 128 investigations, with the following types of cases: 115 pesticide, six commercial animal feed, two containment, and five fertilizer. No worker protection or remediation investigations were conducted.

Table 14 provides counts of minor enforcement issues in unregistered products and worker protection warnings.

Table 14: Minor Enforcement by Program

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Marketplace unregistered products found	61	120	149	174	0
Worker protection written and verbal warnings	26	53	47	43	51

Table 15 breaks out the number of enforcement cases by program and type.

Table 15: Enforcement Cases by Program

Program	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pesticide	100	109	127	126	126
Groundwater investigations	0	0	0	0	0
Toxic response	0	0	0	0	0
Remediation	9	8	7	0	0
License/certification	0	0	0	0	0
Feed	11	7	14	21	3
Fertilizer	1	4	1	3	4
Containment	3	2	13	13	2
Worker protection	1	0	2	0	0
Cases with documented violations	70	71	117	132	97
Percent violation rate	56%	55%	71%	85%	72%

Violations may result in enforcement actions ranging from verbal warnings to a court action with civil or criminal penalties, depending on the statutory authorities in specific program areas. All civil or criminal cases conducted by the section are prosecuted by the district attorney's office in the county where the alleged violation(s) occurred. Occasionally, cases are referred to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. A majority of the formal enforcement actions are conducted by the section through stipulated settlements, with court documents being prepared by the section. In 2025, 103 cases were delivered to

county district attorney offices for disposition. These cases include investigations from previous years. DATCP assigns the highest response to complaints involving alleged human exposure to pesticides and commercial feed complaints involving impacts to human food supply species.

Table 16 provides the numbers of various enforcement actions taken during 2025.

Table 16: Enforcement Action Taken

Action Type	2025
Verbal warning	128
Warning notice – investigator	28
Warning notice – office	1
Administrative order	1
Compliance conferences	94
Civil forfeiture action submitted to DA	103
Criminal action submitted to DA	0
Referred to EPA	0
Total	355

Table 17 details the volume and types of pesticide compliance cases for 2021-2025.

Table 17: Types of Pesticide Cases

Case Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aerial – airplane/unmanned aerial vehicle	7	6	5	2	9
Aerial – helicopter	0	0	0	1	3
Greenhouse – nursery	0	0	0	0	0
Ground application-ag	21	28	23	35	30
Improper disposal	0	1	3	7	4
Other non-ag	2	5	14	7	9
Poor operating practices	44	40	40	57	39
Right-of-way	4	0	1	5	4
Structural	1	3	7	7	2
Turf and ornamental	21	24	35	18	15
Vandalism	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	107	128	139	115

Updates on Completed and Ongoing Initiatives

Digital Submission of Sample Collection Records

DATCP's Bureau of Laboratory Services (BLS) and ACM staff have recently completed the implementation of digital record creation and submission for Sample Collection Record documents. Previously, this process was done via paper. Moving forward, it will allow for a more efficient process for submission of Sample Collection Records, improving department functions and decreasing lead time on sample processing. Development of the digital submission process and implementation are complete.

Case Tracking Technology Conversion to a New Licensing System

DATCP's efforts to transition to a Customer Relationship Management application for managing multiple database and licensing programs continue. In 2025, licensing completed transition to this new system for additional ACM Programs, yielding improved processes and decreased wait time for customers to receive their licenses while providing additional services. Additional activities for ACM will continue to transition into this system to promote efficiency in ACM.

MyDATCP

As part of the same database conversion activities listed above, licenses, permitting, and tonnage reporting for Commercial Pesticide Application; Commercial Feed Manufacturing; and Commercial Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Additive, and Agricultural Liming materials can now be completed online in DATCP's newest version of [MyDATCP](#). This can further decrease licensing lead time for customers while providing additional services. In addition, ACM currently offers online application submittal for the Landscape Pesticide Registry. This program and the Licensing for Pesticide Manufacturing and Labeling are in the process of transitioning to the new version of the MyDATCP online portal.

AccessGov for Agrichemical Containment Structure Design Plan Submittals

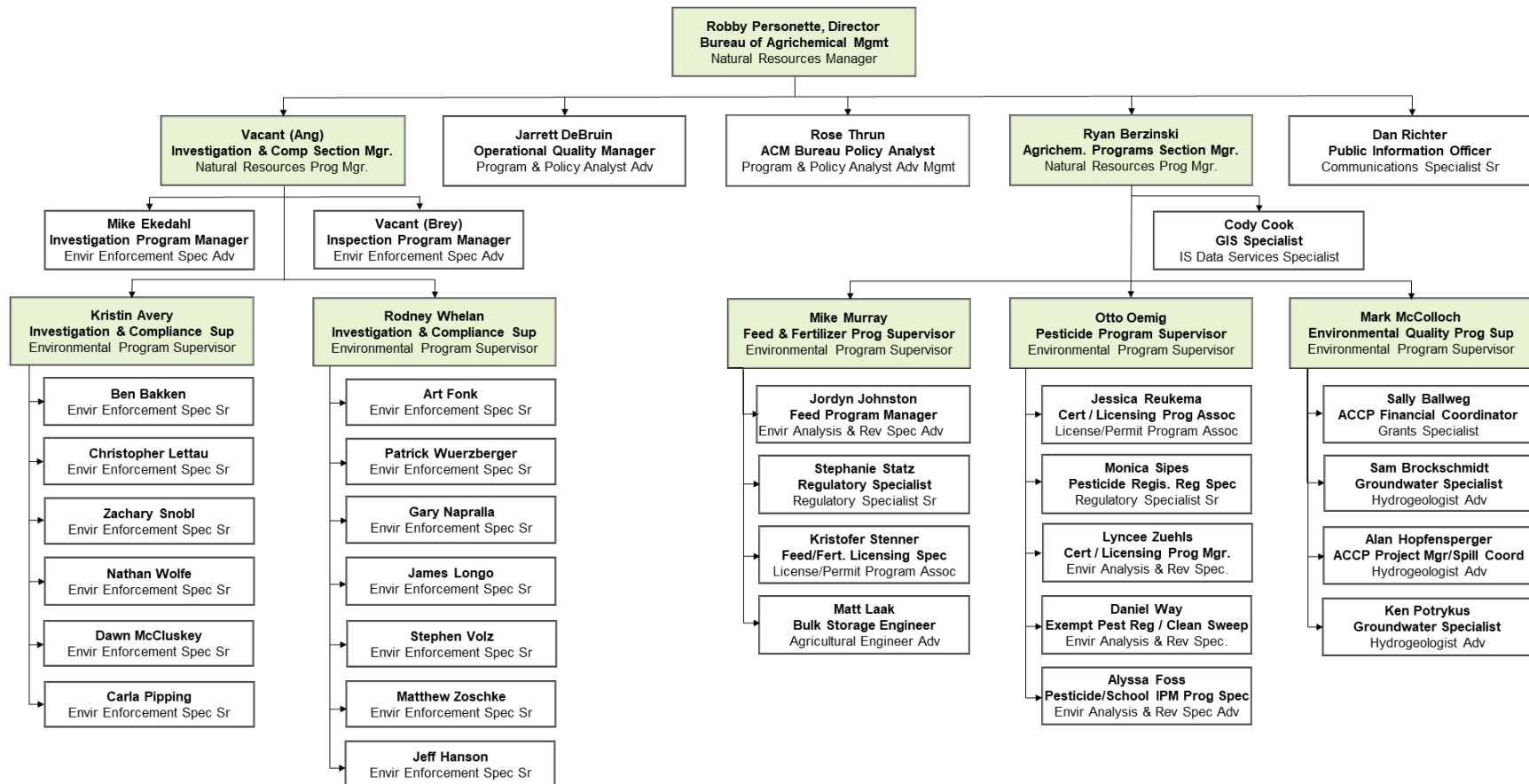
ACM is required to review design plans for agrichemical containment structures prior to the construction of said structures. A new process was implemented in 2025 to allow for design plans to be submitted through an online application portal. This new process streamlines the workflow to assist with a more expedient turnaround while allowing design plan submitters to be able to check on the status of their plan's review.

Continuous Improvement in the State of Wisconsin

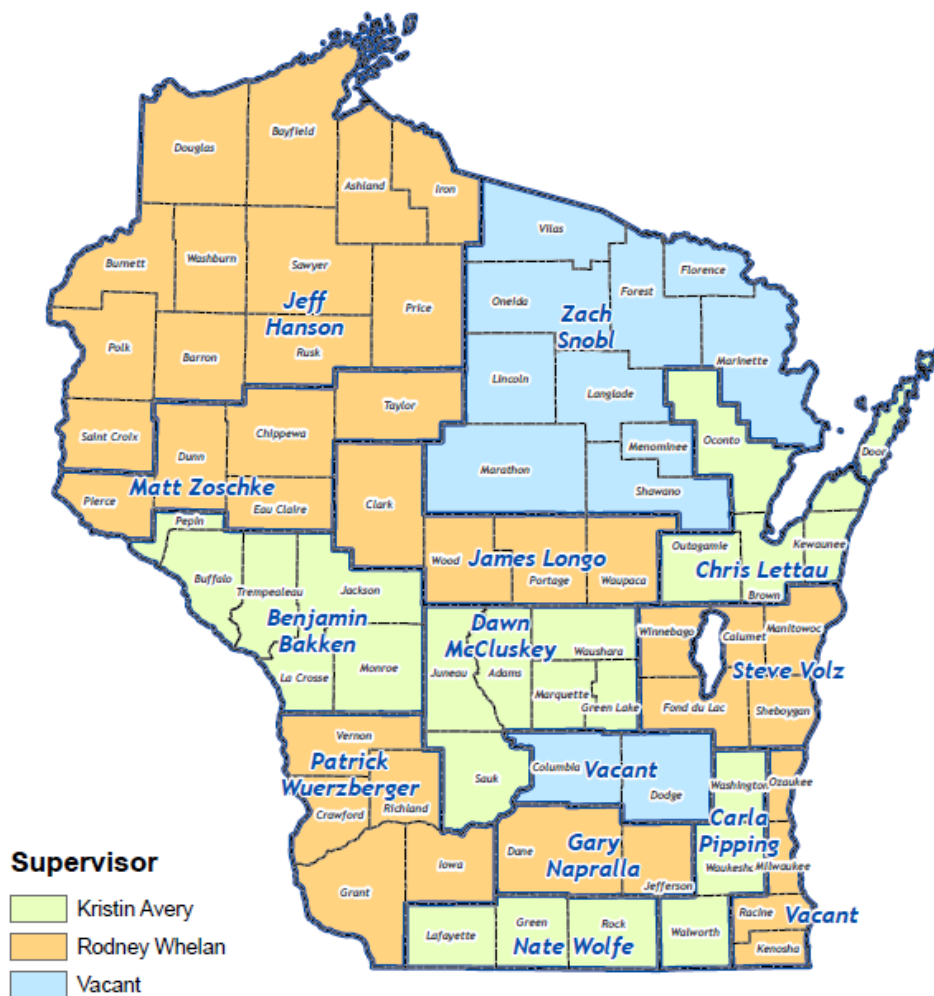
DATCP participates in Wisconsin's Continuous Improvement Program, organized by the Department of Administration. This program serves to gather data metrics on projects conducted at participating state agencies and to share them with the public. An emphasis on this reporting is to share projects that have led to new efficiencies with state resources and improved stakeholder experiences. Some of the efforts listed in this report have resulted in Continuous Improvement projects which were reported for the Continuous Improvement Program. To learn more about continuous improvement projects across state agencies and some of their benefits, visit the State of Wisconsin's [Continuous Improvement webpage](#).

Appendices

Appendix A: 2025 ACM Organizational Chart



Appendix B: 2025 Environmental Enforcement Specialist Territory Map



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Updated: 12/16/2025



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Resource Management
Bureau of Agrichemical Management
P-DARM599 (07/2026)