

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MINUTES

July 9, 2026

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Board) met in the DATCP Boardroom, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 and via zoom on **July 9, 2026**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. §19.84.

Call to Order

Board Chair Doug Rebout called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members Present

Present: Cindy Brown, Dr. Clare Hintz, Miranda Leis, Paul Palmby, Doug Rebout

Not present: Tina Hinchley, Gary Besaw, Andy Hatch

Minutes

Motion – A motion was made by Miranda Leis and seconded by Cindy Brown to approve the May 7, 2026 Board minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

2026 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners

Beth Schaefer of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Ag in the Classroom spoke on The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation - Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. The annual essay challenges students to research and write an informative essay and supports Wisconsin academic standards including English Language Arts and Social Studies. This year students were asked to write a 300-word essay with the theme “Dig into Wisconsin Soil Where Good Things Grow!”

Beth Schaefer introduced this year’s contest winners:

- 4th Grade Winner – Calvin Schneider, Chilton, WI; Essay Title: Soil... God’s Blessing!
- 5th Grade Winner – Nellie Jo Erickson, Mauston, WI; Essay Title: The Cycle of Soil on a Wisconsin Dairy Farm

Both students read their essays and were presented with plaques from DATCP Secretary, Randy Romanski.

Public Appearances

The following made public appearances in front of the Board today:

Noreen Mucha – *Wisconsin Organics’ 2027-2029 Strategic Plan*

Administrative Rules

ATCP 90, 91, 92 – Weights and Measures – Scope Statement

Division of Trade and Consumer Protection

David Woldseth, Program and Policy Analyst, Division of Trade and Consumer Protection, requested approval from the Board on the Scope Statement, regarding Wis. Admin. Code chs. ATCP 90, 91, 92.

Motion – A motion was made by Cindy Brown and seconded by Miranda Leis to approve the Scope Statement, regarding Wis. Admin. Code chs. ATCP 90, 91, 92, Weights and Measures. Motion was approved unanimously.

Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Survey Update – Audra Hubbell

Audra Hubbell, Research Analyst, presented the June 2026 report to the Board on crop planting intentions, milk production, prices received, crop progress as of June 2026.

For more information: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/index.php

State Vet Update

Dr. Darlene Konkle, Division Administrator, Division of Animal Health and State Veterinarian, presented an update on staffing and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) local and national trends.

Featured Division – Division of Agricultural Development**Expanding Farm Center Impact Through the Wisconsin Rural Health Transformation Program**

Dan Bauer, Wisconsin Farm Center Program Supervisor, presented to the board on the Farm Center, its programs, and staff; the federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHT) - what has been achieved thus far, and why it's so important.

Expanding Global Opportunity, Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports (WIAE) and the International Agribusiness Center

Ira Frydman, Director of the Export and Business Development Bureau, and his staff presented on the International Agribusiness Center. They presented the WIAE 5-Year Report, showing Wisconsin Exports have grown 35% in the past 5 years. They shared success stories from China, Thailand, Europe, and the World Dairy Expo.

Office of the Secretary Report

Secretary Randy Romanski provided the Office of the Secretary update to the Board on the following:

- Ag Export Advisory Council meeting discussed 5-year report, in the port of Milwaukee;
- MASDA – Youth Leadership and Exports Event

Board Member Updates

The following DATCP Board members commented on industry, business, training and personal agricultural issues that arose since the last Board meeting: Cindy Brown, Patti Habeck, Miranda Leis, and Doug Rebut.

Future Agenda Items

DATCP Employees of the year at September meeting

Aldo Leopold Award Presentation in November

Board Suggestions: Hydroponics, Urban Agriculture, Another DNR Board crossover meeting, Catching up with past Youth Council members to see what they are doing.

Adjournment**Motion**

A motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Brown and seconded by Miranda Leis. Motion approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at approximately 12:21 p.m.