

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MINUTES

May 9, 2024

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Board) met in the DATCP Boardroom, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718 and via zoom on **May 9, 2024**. 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 9:00 a.m.

Members Present

Paul Bauer, Cindy Brown, Tina Hinchley, Dr. Clare Hintz, Miranda Leis, Paul Palmby, Doug Rebout, Dan Smith, Carla Washington

Not present:

Minutes

Motion

A motion was made by Cindy Brown and seconded by Paul Palmby to approve the March 7, 2024, Board minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council

Ashley Andre, Policy Initiative Advisor, from the Secretary's Office introduced the 2023-2024 Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council (AYC) to the Board. The AYC comprises Wisconsin high school seniors that serve on the council for one year. The four goals of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council are to highlight the agricultural-related career opportunities available including those in government, share the state tools available to support Wisconsin farmers, provide insight on how to effectively engage in state agricultural policy development, and increase networking opportunities for participants across the agricultural industry. The AYC members introduced themselves, discussed their final reflections, and shared future plans.

The 2023-2024 AYC members are:

- Chance Austin, Milton
- Josie Bailey, Tomah
- Elizabeth Colburn, Viroqua
- Lilah Feyen, East Troy
- Tyson Gehrke, Stitzer
- Logan Guilette, Casco
- Abel Kooima, Waupun
- Emi McCarville, Mineral Point
- Samuel Mell, Waunakee
- Sonya Merrit, Arpin

- Layten Sobieski, Berlin
- Emily Sydow, Columbus
- Allis Teska, Auburndale
- Samuel Tuttle, Drummond

Safeguarding Animal Health Panel

Julie Sweney, Executive Director Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC); Jason Mugnaini, Executive Director of Government Relations, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF); Keri Retallick Executive Vice President Wisconsin Pork Association (WPA); and Jeff Morris, Member of the WPA Board of Directors and UW-Extension Swine Outreach Specialist, provided the following information about their organizations' activities in safeguarding animal health:

- WLIC is a private, non-profit organization working with DATCP to protect animal health and prevent the spread of disease through livestock premises identification and traceability. All livestock owners in Wisconsin are required to register premises with WLIC. There are currently 39,246 active premises. WLIC also enters veterinary inspection reports for DATCP, which assists with disease traceability. WLIC is a unique animal disease traceability organization in the United States, and its existence allows it to provide DATCP with valuable information during vulnerable situations.
- WFBF's role in safeguarding animal health to getting information to farmers both during animal disease events and ahead of time. This includes information about biosecurity and emergency preparedness best practices. WFBF works with WLIC and DATCP provide information. Mugnaini provided suggestions for additional ways for WFBF to partner with DATCP and WLIC to add robustness and depth to WFBF's animal disease preparedness and response.
- WPA works to protect animals on farms, protect human health, and maintain economic viability. WPA and Extension have worked on foreign animal disease preparedness in several ways. Morris explained the importance of partnering with DATCP, and Retallick described WPA's opportunities and challenges regarding swine health and made suggestions that would benefit the swine industry.

DATCP Board members and the panel discussed safeguarding animal health, including DATCP's public responses and getting youth interested in animal disease response and prevention.

Public Appearances

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

None

The Board took a break from 10:30 a.m. to 10:41 a.m.

Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Survey Update

Greg Bussler

Greg Bussler, State Statistician from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, presented his May 2024 report to the Board on crop planting intentions, milk production, prices received, crop progress as of April 21, 2024, layer chickens on hand and egg production, and upcoming NASS program changes and surveys.

2021 – 2023 Farmland Preservation Program Biennial Report Division of Agriculture Resource Management

Katy Smith, Land and Resource Management Section Manager from the Bureau of Land and Water, gave the Board presented the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program 2021–2023 biennial report to the Board. The Farmland Preservation Program provides farmers and local government tools to help ensure that land remains available and viable for current and future generations of farmers by preserving farmland, protecting soil and water, and minimizing land use conflicts. The report contains information on preservation planning, zoning, Agricultural Enterprise Areas, Farmland Preservation Agreements and tax credits, conservation compliance, and planning grants. It also includes information about issues, opportunities, and recommendations for the program.

Statewide Groundwater Survey Results Division of Agriculture Resource Management

Carla Romano, Groundwater Specialist from the Bureau of Agricultural Resource Management, presented a report about a statewide survey of agricultural chemicals in Wisconsin’s groundwater. The survey was conducted by DATCP and NASS to get up-to-date data and compare results with past surveys. Testing was conducted for nitrate and 106 pesticides. The survey detected 30 compounds, with nitrate as the most detected. Compounds of concern are compared with available groundwater standards or the Department of Health Services’ Health Advisory Levels.

Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, H5N1 Division of Animal Health

Dr. Darlene Konkle, Division Administrator and State Veterinarian from the Division of Animal Health, presented on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). HPAI came to North America in 2021, and there were cases in Wisconsin in 2022. It has never gone away. HPAI was discovered in a Texas dairy herd in March. HPAI had not been seen previously in cattle. HPAI is highly pathogenic in poultry but is not acting highly pathogenic in cattle. It is causing reduced feeding and milk production, but the cattle are recovering. High levels of the virus appear in milk. There are now thirty-six affected herds in nine states. USDA–APHIS released a rule in April in to address

(1) mandatory reporting of influenza in livestock, which was already the rule in Wisconsin, and (2) mandatory testing of dairy cattle before moving across state lines, except for cattle going to slaughter. DATCP has been conducting outreach on the rule to markets and registered premises and veterinarians. It has also been evaluating and modifying disease response plans and working with other public health agencies. There have been no positive tests in cattle in Wisconsin.

**Equine Program Topics
Division of Animal Health**

Dr. Heather Roney, Program Veterinarian, Bureau of Animal Disease Control in the Division of Animal Health, presented on the outbreak of Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy. It can be a neurologic disease and can cause abortion in pregnant mares. Vaccination can reduce spread, not shown to reduce neurologic symptoms. Positive tests must be reported to DATCP, and infected or exposed animals cannot be moved. Eight cases were reported in Wisconsin in 2024 in six counties. DATCP quarantined affected locations. Some of the quarantines have been released.

The Board took a lunch break from 11:57 a.m. to 12:18 p.m.

**ATCP 10 Animal Disease and Movement
Division of Animal Health
Scope Statement**

Angela Fisher, Program and Policy Analyst from the Division of Animal Health requested approval of the Scope Statement for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 10 from the Board.

Motion

A motion was made by Miranda Leis and seconded by Cindy Brown to approve the Scope Statement for Notice for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 10. Motion was approved unanimously.

**ATCP 12 Animal Markets, Dealers and Truckers
Division of Animal Health
Scope Statement**

Angela Fisher, Program and Policy Analyst from the Division of Animal Health requested approval of the Scope Statement for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 12 from the Board.

Motion

A motion was made by Carla Washington and seconded by Tina Hinchley to approve the Scope Statement for Notice for Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 12. Motion was approved unanimously.

Deputy Secretary Aileen Switzer presented the Office of the Secretary update to the Board on:

- Thanked DATCP’s Division of Animal Health for its work to protect animal health in Wisconsin.
- Eighteen projects are receiving funding for the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program projects.
- Conversations have begun for the 2025–2027 state budget.
- Secretary Romanski is in Chile on a trade mission. Chile is one of largest export markets for United States food products and is a gateway to exports to South America.
- Hailey Heinzl was selected as the 77th Alice in Dairyland in Door County.
- Planning is underway for the fifth Agricultural Youth Council, and DATCP has announced the new group of student members.
- Secretary Romanski will attend the Ag Education Workforce Development Council and the Dairy Symposium. He will also participate in a school garden event and a USDA visit.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. DATCP is proud to increase access to mental health assistance and reduce stigma of seeking assistance through the Veterinary Assistance Program and the Farm Center.

Board Member Updates

The following DATCP Board members commented on industry, business, training and personal agricultural issues that arose since the last Board meeting: Paul Bauer, Cindy Brown, Tina Hinchley, Dr. Clare Hintz, Miranda Leis, Paul Palmby, Doug Rebut, Dan Smith, Carla Washington.

Future Agenda Items

The July meeting will include a tour of Port Milwaukee in the morning and the meeting in the afternoon. Secretary Romanski will present the winners of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest.

The September meeting will be in Madison

It may be necessary to hold a special meeting before July to consider scope statements. If needed, it will likely first week in June.

Adjournment

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Bauer and seconded by Miranda Leis. Motion approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Tour of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Keith Paulsen, Director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, located at 445 Easterday Ln, Madison, WI 53706, gave some board members and DATCP staff a tour of the facility.