BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

MINUTES
September 17, 2026

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (Board) met via Teams Webinar on **September 17, 2026**. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by Wis. Stat. §19.84.

Call to Order

Board Vice-Chair, Miranda Leis, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members

Present: Paul Palmby, Dr. Clare Hintz, Cindy Brown, Gary Besaw, Andy Hatch, Tina Hinchley, Doug Rebout, Miranda Leis

Not present: Patti Habeck

Minutes

Motion
A motion was made by Paul Palmby and seconded by Gary Besaw to approve July 9, 2026, Board minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

Nathan Houdek, Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance

Secretary Romanski introduced Secretary Nathan Houdek, the Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance. Commissioner Houdek shared a PowerPoint covering what the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance does. He discussed how the work their office does intersects with the work of DATCP's Consumer Protection Division.

DATCP Employees of the Year

Secretary Romanski welcomed DATCP Division Administrators and congratulated staff on being Employee of the Year. The following Division Administers introduced their division award recipients:

- Julie Lassa introduced Jeff Swenson for the Division of Agricultural Development
- Dr. Konkle introduced Becky Podgersky for the Division of Animal Health
- Brian Kuhn introduced Jarrett DeBruin for the Division of Agricultural Resource Management
- Michelle Reinen introduced Carolyn (Carrie) Ketchum for the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Troy Sprecher introduced Sarah Scanlan for the Division of Food and Recreational Safety
- Dustin Grande introduced Roberto Mata Aguilar for the Division of Management Services
- Sam Go introduced Dan Richter for the Office of the Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

**ATCP 93: Flammable, Combustible, and Hazardous Liquids -
Hearing Draft Rule,
Division of Agricultural Resource Management**

Joe Smith, Director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, Division of Trade and Consumer Protection, requested approval from the Board on a Hearing Rule Draft regarding ch. ATCP 93.

Motion

A motion was made by Gary Besaw and seconded by Cindy Brown to approve the Hearing Rule Draft, regarding Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 93: Flammable, Combustible, and Hazardous Liquids. Motion was approved unanimously.

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SURVEY UPDATE

Audra Hubble, State Statistician from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, presented the August 2026 report to the Board on crop production, milk production, commodity prices, chickens and eggs, land values and cash rent, honeybee colonies, farm production expenditures, crop progress and condition, small grain summary, and census of agricultural special release.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT HIGHLIGHTS
Year-to-Date Second Quarter 2026
Division of Agricultural Development

Ira Frydman, Bureau Director of the International Agribusiness Center gave an overview of the Quarter 2 Agricultural Export Highlights Report. Wisconsin food, forestry, and agriculture exports reached $2.13 billion in the first half of 2026—the highest first half year on record. Wisconsin exports increased 5.42% compared to the first half of 2025. They remain 10.7% above 2021, the baseline year for the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports.

STATE VETERINARIAN UPDATE
Division of Animal Health

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.

DIVISION OVERVIEW DIVISION OF FOOD AND RECREATIONAL SAFETY

What is a Meat Product?

Paul Humphrey, Bureau Director for Meat and Poultry Business (BMPM), gave an overview of what the Bureau does. Bureau Basics, explained what “At Least Equal To” means from the most recent Audit, explained ‘What’s a meat product?’, how are they inspected, what exemptions are there and how are standards enforced.

Day in the life of a Milk Sanitation Rating Officer and Laboratory Evaluation Officer

Kate Angeles with the Dairy Section of the Division of Food and Recreational Safety, presented on the Survey Rating Officer (SRO) and the Laboratory Evaluation Officer (LEO) Team. She described what each team does and how thy accomplish their evaluations.

Secretary's Comments

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

- Mandatory Board Trainings due mid-November
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) meeting focused heavily on Animal Health
- 27-29 State Budget was submitted. Included asks for Farmer Mental Health, Dairy Processor Grants, Meat Processor Grants, Conservation Grants. Additional funding requested for cybersecurity, and the tribal elder food box program.
- Food Security Network Grant process open.
- Staff Update: Adam Brock has left as DFRS administrator, Adam Brock is now the division administrator of DFRS and Brian Kuhn is acting division administrator for DARM
- 7th Cohort of WI Agriculture Youth Council had their first meeting Just before today's Board meeting.

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 Palmby, Clare Hintz, Cindy Brown, Gary Besaw, Andy Hatch, Tina Hinchley, and Doug Rebout

Future Agenda Items

Aldo Leopold Conservation award

Adjournment

Motion
A motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Brown and seconded by Clare Hintz. Motion approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at approximately 12:28 p.m.

All reports and any associated documents presented during a Board meeting can be accessed by contacting the datcpboard2@wisconsin.gov or (608) 224-5029.