



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

DATE: May 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council

FROM: Ashley Andre, Policy Initiatives Advisor - Executive

RECOMMENDATION: This is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY / BACKGROUND:

Purpose

The purpose of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is to encourage young people to engage with state government and increase their awareness of DATCP's interactions with Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

Goals

The four goals of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council are:

- 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
- Increase networking opportunities for participants across the agricultural industry

Structure

The 2021-2022 Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is comprised of 15 Wisconsin high school seniors from across the state. Students serve a one-year term and will receive a certificate at the completion of their year.

Current members are:

- Crystal Anhalt, Manitowoc
- Lauren Breunig, Sauk City
- Connor Fields, Plain
- Kelly Herness, Whitehall
- Amy Jentges, Port Washington
- Sophie Koehler, Chippewa Falls
- Isabella Kraus, Beaver Dam
- Katelyn Meinholz, Deforest
- Ainsley Noble, Lancaster
- Cameron Pokorny, Waupun
- Michael Schaal, Burlington
- Mary Schrieber, East Troy
- Emily Stumpf, Appleton
- Rebecca Tank, New London
- Maria Zillges, Larsen

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Selection

To be a member of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council, members nominated themselves, completing an application form, sharing a letter of recommendation, writing a brief essay, and making a one-minute video. Council members were selected based on their submitted materials and plan to meet the determined goals.

Expectations

Council members participated in monthly sessions, held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00 a.m., beginning in September 2021. For each session, members had to prepare at least one question and complete a follow-up survey. All Council members also had to complete a final written reflection about their experience. The May session and this board meeting are the conclusion of their year.

Leadership roles

For each session, members rotated in serving in three leadership roles. They were:

- Chair: Introduce and thank the speakers
- Vice Chair: Initiate the question and answer period and encourage others to ask questions
- Secretary: Take notes and provide content for a monthly *Agri-View* article about the Council.

Topics

Each Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council session included DATCP staff, speaking about a variety of programs. Examples of session topics included:

- Introducing state government
- Highlighting the dairy industry
- Conserving land and water resources
- Ensuring plant and pest health
- Meeting crop nutrient needs
- Marketing agricultural products
- Maintaining animal health
- Considering farm management

DATCP also coordinated optional office hours for the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council members to meet with and ask questions to professionals who work in Wisconsin agriculture. Examples of office hour topics include meeting with farm managers, conservation contacts, agricultural leadership, and agricultural communicators.

Board presentation

During the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council presentation to the Board on May 12, 2022, Ashley Andre will provide a brief overview before welcoming the students to introduce themselves. Three students will also read their final reflections. There will be time for discussion, and the students have been encouraged to ask questions. We also welcome you as board members to ask questions of the members to make the conversation as valuable and interactive as possible.