



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Tony Evers

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Secretary Randy Romanski

**DATE:** May 8, 2025

**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 2024-2025 Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is comprised of Wisconsin high school seniors from across the state. Members serve a one-year term and receive a certificate at the completion of their year.

Current members are:

- Jordan Berg, Neillsville
- Rylee Brattlie, Cambridge
- Ashton Brusveen, Cambria
- Jamie Damm, Columbus
- Gracy Fox, Burlington
- Logan Harbaugh, Marion
- Alexa Heitkamp, Mindoro
- Max Luedtke, Beaver Dam
- Lydia Marquardt, Eau Claire
- Elsja Meijer, Glenwood City
- Ella Raatz, Colby
- Kayziah Smith, Milwaukee
- Makayla Staudinger, De Pere
- Madison Wiese, Greenleaf
- Matthew Winch, Fennimore

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### *Selection*

To be a member of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council, members nominated themselves by 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 commitment to meet the determined goals.

### *Expectations*

Council members participated in monthly sessions, held on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m., beginning in September 2024. Council members 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 four 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 to draft a monthly news article about the session
- Social Media Manager: Submit draft social media posts for the month about the session

### *Topics*

The first Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council session included a DATCP and state government overview. Five sessions included program presentations from DATCP's divisions: Agricultural Development, Agricultural Resource Management, Animal Health, Food and Recreational Safety, and Trade and Consumer Protection.

Two sessions included agricultural career panels. Examples of careers highlighted include education, food safety, engineering, livestock nutrition, livestock genetics, agronomy, and production agriculture.

The final session includes a presentation by Halei Heinzl, the 77<sup>th</sup> Alice in Dairyland, and a member discussion. Each session is interactive, offering a question and answer period, Zoom polls, and breakout room discussions.

### *Board presentation*

During the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council presentation to the DATCP Board on May 8, 2025, Ashley Andre will provide a brief council overview before welcoming the members to introduce themselves. Several members will also read their final reflections. Finally, there will be time for the DATCP Board members to ask questions.