



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

January 2020 Special Session

LRB-5412/1
KP&MCP:amn

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1 **AN ACT to create** 93.01 (17), 93.37, 93.495 and 93.61 of the statutes; **relating**
2 **to:** promoting production of value-added agricultural products; creating an
3 organic farming education grant program, a grazing education grant program,
4 and a farm to fork grant program; providing resource conservation technical
5 assistance; granting rule-making authority; and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to provide education and technical assistance related to producing value-added agricultural products. The bill defines a “value-added agricultural product” as a farm product that satisfies any of the following: 1) has undergone a change in physical state; 2) is produced in a manner that enhances its value; 3) is physically segregated in a manner that enhances its value; 4) is a source of farm-based or ranch-based renewable energy; or 5) is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced product. As a part of providing education and assistance related to producing value-added agricultural products, DATCP must provide education and assistance related to organic farming practices, collaborate with organic producers, industry participants, and local organizations that coordinate organic farming, and stimulate interest and investment in organic production. The bill authorizes a position in DATCP to perform these duties and also requires DATCP to provide grants to organic producers, industry participants, and local organizations, which may be used to provide education and technical assistance related to organic

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farming, to help create organic farming plans, and to assist farmers in transitioning to organic farming. The bill also requires DATCP to provide grants to entities to provide education and training to farmers about best practices related to grazing. DATCP is also required under the bill to help farmers market value-added agricultural products.

In addition, the bill creates a farm to fork program, similar to the existing farm to school program, to connect entities, other than school districts, that have cafeterias to nearby farms to provide locally produced foods in meals and snacks, to help the public develop healthy eating habits, to provide nutritional and agricultural education, and to improve farmers' incomes and direct access to markets. Under the bill, DATCP must provide grants to entities for these purposes. The bill authorizes a position in DATCP to act as a program coordinator for the farm to fork program.

The bill also creates a resource conservation technical assistance program in DATCP for providing technical assistance to farmers relating to increasing or maintaining agricultural yields while promoting soil health, water quality, and regenerative agricultural practices and for providing grants to local governments, nongovernmental organizations, federally recognized American Indian tribes or bands, businesses, and individuals. The bill authorizes a position in DATCP to administer this program.

Finally, the bill authorizes a position in DATCP to serve as a grants coordinator for grants administered under DATCP's division of agricultural development.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 93.01 (17) of the statutes is created to read:

2 93.01 (17) "Value-added agricultural product" means a farm product that
3 satisfies any of the following:

4 (a) The product has undergone a change in physical state.

5 (b) The product is produced in a manner that enhances its value.

6 (c) The product is physically segregated in a manner that enhances its value.

7 (d) The product is a source of farm-based or ranch-based renewable energy.

8 (e) The product is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced farm product.

9 **SECTION 2.** 93.37 of the statutes is created to read:

1 **93.37 Value-added agricultural practices. (1) VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.**

2 The department shall provide education and technical assistance related to
3 promoting and implementing agricultural practices that produce value-added
4 agricultural products, including by doing all of the following:

5 (a) *Assistance for organic farming practices.* Providing education and technical
6 assistance related to organic farming practices, including business and market
7 development assistance; collaborate with organic producers, industry participants,
8 and local organizations that coordinate organic farming; and stimulate interest and
9 investment in organic production. From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the
10 department shall provide grants to organic producers, industry participants, and
11 local organizations that coordinate organic farming. The department may provide
12 a grant to an organic producer, industry participant, or local organization under this
13 paragraph for any of the following purposes:

- 14 1. Providing education and technical assistance related to implementing
15 organic farming practices.
16 2. Helping to create organic farming plans.
17 3. Assisting farmers to transition to organic farming.

18 (b) *Grazing grants.* From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (3) (a), providing
19 grants to appropriate entities to provide education and training to farmers about
20 best practices related to grazing.

21 (c) *Promotion.* Helping producers market value-added agricultural products,
22 including products produced through the use of a practice described in s. 93.61.

23 **(2) RULES.** The department may promulgate rules for the administration of this
24 section.

25 **SECTION 3.** 93.495 of the statutes is created to read:

1 **93.495 Farm to fork program. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section, “farm to fork
2 program” means a program to connect entities that are not school districts and that
3 have cafeterias to nearby farms to provide locally produced fresh fruits and
4 vegetables, dairy products, and other nutritious, locally produced foods in meals and
5 snacks; to help the public develop healthy eating habits; to provide nutritional and
6 agricultural education; and to improve farmers’ incomes and direct access to
7 markets.

8 **(2) GRANTS.** (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the department
9 shall provide grants to businesses, universities, hospitals, and other entities that are
10 not school districts and that have cafeterias for the creation and expansion of farm
11 to fork programs. The department shall give preference to proposals that are
12 innovative or that provide models that other entities can adopt.

13 (b) In providing grants under this section, the department shall promote
14 agricultural development and farm profitability by supporting the development and
15 adoption of practices and agribusiness opportunities that involve the production of
16 value-added agricultural products.

17 (c) The department may provide funding under this subsection for projects that
18 do any of the following:

19 1. Create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing, and
20 distribution of food produced in this state for sale to entities in this state other than
21 schools.

22 2. Create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for
23 the facilities, that would ensure the use of food produced in this state in locations in
24 this state other than schools.

1 3. Provide, expand, or promote training for food service personnel, farmers, and
2 distributors.

3 4. Provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education.

4 (d) The department shall consult with interested persons to establish grant
5 priorities for each fiscal year.

6 **(3) RULES.** The department may promulgate rules for the administration of this
7 section.

8 **(4) REPORTS.** At least annually, the department shall report to the legislature
9 under s. 13.172 (2) and to the secretary on the needs and opportunities for farm to
10 fork programs.

11 **SECTION 4.** 93.61 of the statutes is created to read:

12 **93.61 Technical assistance on resource conservation.** (1) The
13 department shall provide technical assistance to farmers relating to increasing or
14 maintaining agricultural yields while promoting soil health, water quality, and
15 regenerative agricultural practices, including by doing all of the following:

16 (a) Connecting farmers with technologies or practices that address water
17 quality and other environmental sustainability goals, including technologies or
18 practices developed by the University of Wisconsin System, private sector
19 businesses, and other agricultural producers.

20 (b) Developing technical resources to assist farmers in promoting soil health,
21 water quality, and regenerative agricultural practices.

22 (c) Providing grants under sub. (2).

23 **(2)** (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (7) (a), the department shall
24 provide grants to local governments, nongovernmental organizations, federally
25 recognized American Indian tribes or bands, businesses, and individuals for

1 developing technologies and strategies that support conservation efforts on working
2 lands and for developing market-based solutions to environmental and resource
3 challenges in modern farming systems.

4 (b) The department may not award a grant under this section of more than
5 \$25,000.

6 (3) The department may promulgate rules for the administration of this
7 section.

8 **SECTION 5. Fiscal changes.**

9 (1) VALUE-ADDED PRODUCT SPECIALIST. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the
10 appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection
11 under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by
12 \$70,600 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by 1.0 GPR
13 position to promote organic farming practices, grazing best practices, and production
14 of value-added agricultural products under s. 93.37. In the schedule under s. 20.005
15 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer
16 protection under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is
17 increased by \$20,000 to provide supplies and services for the position authorized
18 under this subsection.

19 (2) ORGANIC FARMING ASSISTANCE GRANTS. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for
20 the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection
21 under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by
22 \$200,000 for providing assistance for organic farming practices under s. 93.37 (1) (a).

23 (3) GRAZING GRANTS. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation
24 to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection under s. 20.115 (3)

1 (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by \$200,000 to provide
2 grants under s. 93.37 (3).

3 (4) FARM TO FORK PROGRAM. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the
4 appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection
5 under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by
6 \$200,000 to provide grants under s. 93.495.

7 (5) FARM TO FORK PROGRAM COORDINATOR. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for
8 the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection
9 under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by
10 \$71,600 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by 1.0 GPR
11 position to serve as the coordinator for the grant program under s. 93.495. In the
12 schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture,
13 trade and consumer protection under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal
14 year 2020-21 is increased by \$16,000 to provide supplies and services for the position
15 authorized under this subsection.

16 (6) GRANTS COORDINATOR. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the
17 appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection
18 under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by
19 \$61,700 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by 1.0 GPR
20 position to serve as a grants coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact of
21 all grant programs administered under the department of agriculture, trade and
22 consumer protection's division of agricultural development. In the schedule under
23 s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and
24 consumer protection under s. 20.115 (3) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21

1 is increased by \$16,000 to provide supplies and services for the position authorized
2 under this subsection.

3 (7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON RESOURCE CONSERVATION. In the schedule under s.
4 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and
5 consumer protection under s. 20.115 (7) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21
6 is increased by \$200,000 to provide funding for the program under s. 93.61.

7 (8) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for
8 the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection
9 under s. 20.115 (7) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2019-20 is increased by
10 \$64,800 to increase the authorized FTE positions for the department by 1.0 GPR
11 position to administer the program under s. 93.61. In the schedule under s. 20.005
12 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer
13 protection under s. 20.115 (7) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2019-20 is
14 increased by \$20,000 to provide supplies and services for the position authorized
15 under this subsection. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to
16 the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection under s. 20.115 (7) (a),
17 the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is increased by \$86,400 to provide funding
18 for the position authorized under this subsection. In the schedule under s. 20.005
19 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer
20 protection under s. 20.115 (7) (a), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2020-21 is
21 increased by \$20,000 to provide supplies and services for the position authorized
22 under this subsection.

23 (END)