



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

DATE: May 11, 2023

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 2022-2023 Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is comprised of Wisconsin high school seniors from across the state. Members serve a one-year term and will receive a certificate at the completion of their year.

Current members are:

- Morgan Baerwolf, Sun Prairie
- Rachel Boehlke, Thorp
- Brandon Boyd, Watertown
- Ava Endres, Waunakee
- Claire Esselman, Clinton
- Arionna Harris, Milwaukee
- Jacob Harbaugh, Marion
- Natalie Hensen, Waunakee
- Henry Koerner, Walworth
- Henry Larson, Reedsburg
- Ethan Lulich, Lyndon Station
- Brianna Meyer, Chilton
- Alyssa Schauer, Mukwonago
- Talena Sprecher, Lone Rock
- Jescey Thompson, Galesville

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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 7:00 – 8:30 a.m., beginning in September 2022. 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 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 two social media posts for the month about the session

Topics

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

- Introducing state government
- Featuring agriculture in your community
- Ensuring the safety of the food supply
- Exporting international products around the world
- Keeping our animals healthy
- Consulting with the Farm Center and the Mediation/Arbitration Program
- Managing our land and water resources
- Protecting farmers, consumers, and businesses

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 beef industry professionals, legislators, lawyers, and veterinarians.

Board presentation

During the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council presentation to the DATCP Board on May 11, 2023, 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.