

Wisconsin Farm Center



Angie Sullivan & Frank Friar
Division of Agricultural Development,
Department of Agriculture, Trade and
Consumer Protection (DATCP)



Division of Agricultural Development

Two Bureaus:

- Wisconsin International Agribusiness Center
- Wisconsin Agriculture and Farm Center



WI International Agribusiness Center

- Exporter Education
- Market Entry
- Market Development
- Promotion
- Buyers Mission
- Reverse Buyers Mission



WI Agriculture and Farm Center

- Something Special from Wisconsin
- Farm to schools and institutions
- Local/Regional food development
- Grant programs: Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin, Dairy Processor
- Dairy and Livestock Specialists
- Alice in Dairyland
- County Fairs
- Marketing Orders



Wisconsin Farm Center

- Help producers navigate farming lifecycle from beginning, through growth, change, challenging times, succession, and retirement
- Help to grow Wisconsin agriculture and improve farmer's quality of life
- Primary Goal: To keep Wisconsin farmers farming



Farm Center Services

- Financial Planning
- Farm Succession
- Conflict Mediation
- Herd-Based Diagnostics
- Farmer Outreach
- Organics, Grazing and Specialty Crop Consulting
- Counseling Vouchers



Farm Center Staff Expertise

- 8 staff certified in Mental Health First Aid
- 4 staff certified in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention
- Combined average of 30+ years working with farmers/farm families
- Division staff are members and serve on over 85 industry boards and councils



Farmer Mental Health Statistics

- 29% of farmers suffer from depression*
- 35% suffer from anxiety*

These statistics are increasing due to the current farm economy.



Farm Center Metrics

- 2,500 calls per year to 800 helpline
 - 3.5% increase in the first 6 months of 2019
- 50-60 calls per week to individual staff in addition to helpline calls
- 180 on-site visits/year
- 40 presentations/year
- 10 staff, full and part-time



Counseling Voucher Program

- Originally grant-funded (Sowing the Seeds of Hope)
 - Funding no longer available
- Voucher requests are up 36% in 2019
- 70+ mental health providers
- In recent years, **NOT** advertised as funding level reaching critically low levels
 - Staff trained to identify most critical cases to provide vouchers
- Funding remaining for 5 farm families – **the need is now.**



\$100,000 Supplemental GPR Funding: Farmer Mental Health

- \$25,000 counseling vouchers
- \$50,000 farmers and farm family workshops
- \$25,000 counselor workshops dealing with farmers and farm families
- Currently, we only have funds available to assist 5 farmers/farm family members with counseling vouchers

The need is **NOW**.



Future Programming

- \$50,000 - 1 and 2 day Workshops
 - Programming for families and peer facilitators
- \$10,000 - Farmer's Job Hunting Workbook
- \$25,000 - Farmer Peer to Peer training
- 2 full-time staff to manage programming

Wisconsin Farm Center

(800) 942-2474

FarmCenter@Wisconsin.gov

<http://datcp.wi.gov/>



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