



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wisconsin Legislators Introduce Bill to Protect Farmers and Combat Hunger Amidst Rising Trade Deficit

MADISON - Today, Wisconsin legislators introduced LRB-3414, a bill to establish a \$30 million Agricultural Purchase Program (APP) within the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). This timely legislation aims to create a crucial buffer for Wisconsin farmers against economic losses from trade disruptions and bolster food security for vulnerable families across the state.

[As we celebrate National Dairy Month, the USDA quietly delayed and redacted its May 2025 Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade report.](#) The report is vital for farmers predicting future economic conditions.

"At a time when Wisconsin's farmers and their families are facing unprecedented economic uncertainty, our state cannot afford to stick its head in the sand and pretend that it's business as usual for our \$116 billion agricultural industry," said Senator Brad Pfaff (D-Onalaska).

The APP would offer grants to local organizations and food distributors like food pantries. It enables them to purchase food grown or made in Wisconsin. This program serves a dual purpose: providing demand for local food producers and reducing costs for Wisconsin families.

This community support is especially vital given recent federal actions. The U.S. House Budget Reconciliation bill may put 90,000 Wisconsin residents at risk of losing access to federal food assistance. This further underscores the urgent need for state-level interventions.

"We must act now to provide critical support to Wisconsin's essential agricultural sector and ensure food security for our most vulnerable families," added Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon).

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