For Immediate Release: Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske
April 23rd, 2024 (608) 237-9192

**Wisconsin Act 244**

As summer in Wisconsin is quickly approaching, I am reminded of all of the summer festivities that take place. Whether its softball leagues, floating down the river, boating, fairs, or other warm weather activities, summer in Wisconsin is almost unbeatable.

Fairs especially bring out communities from counties, cities, and towns alike. Fairs have fun rides, great food, tractor pulls, and animals galore. A large part of these fairs, are the kids who show livestock. The kids who show livestock usually have the opportunity to win prize money.

This past legislative session, over 250 bills were signed into law. One of these bills that Governor Ever signed into law was Senate Bill 311 (SB 311). SB 311 was authored by Senator Joan Ballweg (R – 14) and Representative Tony Kurtz (R – 50). SB 311 became Wisconsin Act 244 on March 28th, 2024.

As mentioned previously, prize money is an incentive for people who their livestock at county fairs. This incentive based system increases competition and the desire to win. Until this past legislative session, the Department of Agricultural, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) was required to provide $10,000 to counties around the state to help with the costs of paying out individuals at these fairs. Wisconsin Act 244 simply raised that threshold to $20,000.

This bill makes a lot of sense and further encourages community involvement in local fairs. As I said previously, fairs are necessary to bringing up a community.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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