



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Sen. Joan Ballweg

November 8, 2021
(608) 266-0751

Agriculture Exports Legislation Passes the Legislature

Madison... The state senate unanimously passed legislation authored by Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Representative Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) which establishes a comprehensive agriculture and agribusiness export program. This bill now goes to the governor to be signed into law.

"Agriculture contributes over \$100 billion to our state's economy each year," said Ballweg. "This program provides an opportunity for Wisconsin to find footholds in emerging markets and strengthen our second largest industry for years to come."

The bill will require the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to work with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to create a plan and achieve export objectives by June 30, 2026.

Objectives include, spending \$2.5 million on increasing the value of Wisconsin's milk and other dairy products, \$1.25 million to increase the value of Wisconsin meat exports and \$1.25 million to increase the value of Wisconsin's crop exports.

To ensure this program is creating real outcomes for Wisconsin's agriculture economy, DATCP and WEDC are required to submit a report on the program's progress. Additionally, the Legislative Audit Bureau is required to conduct an evaluation of the program's effectiveness by no later than December 31, 2026.

"I am proud to see this legislation, which was supported by numerous agriculture groups, advance. I believe there is tremendous opportunity for Wisconsin to create lasting partnerships that will support our local communities for years to come," said Ballweg.

To reach Sen. Ballweg with questions or comments please call (608) 266-0751 or email Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov. The 14th Senate District is located in Central Wisconsin, and is composed of parts of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Outagamie, Sauk, Waupaca, and Waushara counties.

###