



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Mark Spreitzer Statement on Special Session on Agriculture

MADISON- Following Governor Evers's call for a special session on agriculture beginning today, State Representative Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) released the following statement:

"I am grateful to Governor Evers for calling a special session on agriculture, and for proposing eight bills focused on investing in our farmers and rural communities. I hope that these bills will promptly receive a public hearing and executive session, and will be scheduled for a floor vote in the Assembly soon."

The [eight bills proposed by the Governor](#) would do the following:

- Expand the Farm Center to provide farmers additional no-cost services such as financial planning and farm succession planning
- Create the Wisconsin Initiative for Dairy Exports to increase our state's dairy exports in the international market
- Expand access to mental health resources and programs for farmers
- Increase staffing at UW Extension to support farmers in their local communities
- Expand the Farm-to-School program
- Create a grant system to support small farmers in diversifying their crops
- Expand funding for grants allowing dairy processors to innovate and increase efficiencies
- Provide funding and technical assistance to producers focused on increasing the value of products grown by Wisconsin farmers, including providing organic and grazing grants and creating a Farm-to-Fork program and a Resource Conservation Technical Assistance program

"As a member of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, I agree with Governor Evers that there is much left to do this legislative session to support our farmers and rural communities. In addition to the Governor's special session bills, there are important bills introduced by members of both parties in the Assembly Committee on Agriculture and other committees that have not yet been scheduled to receive a public hearing, including providing baseline funding for county conservation staffing, increasing farmland preservation tax credit amounts for the first time in over a decade, creating a beginning farmer student loan assistance program, and creating grant programs for farmers that use sustainable practices, protect our state's water, or reduce nitrate loading. Many of these include bipartisan bills endorsed by the Water Quality Task Force. I hope that each of these pending bills, as well as Governor Evers's proposals, will receive a public hearing and will move quickly through the committee process.

45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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“Our state is in the midst of an agricultural crisis. Wisconsin has now led the nation in farm bankruptcies for the third straight year, and it is increasingly difficult for our state’s small and medium-sized family farms to compete in a volatile agricultural economy. Regardless of political party, we must come together to develop solutions. We must promptly take meaningful action on the Governor’s proposals, and on other bills pending in committee. Our farmers can’t wait.”

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