



BRAD PFAFF
STATE SENATOR

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Wisconsin Farmers Feed the World

Consumers around the world enjoy products grown and harvested right here in Wisconsin and the 32nd Senate district; but for Wisconsin's farmers to feed the world, we need modern and efficient harbors. Fortunately in western Wisconsin, we have the Mississippi River, which is a crucial access point to spread our products across the globe.

To fully utilize this resource and export our agricultural products, we need modern distribution infrastructure. The recent \$2 million harbor grant allocated by Governor Evers to Hanke Terminals in La Crosse is a step toward modernization made possible by funding from the 2021-23 state budget I voted for. This grant will provide a significant boost to the distribution of our western Wisconsin exports as it is used to construct a state-of-the-art agricultural commodity transloading facility.

Strong harbors provide for strong exports. The state of Wisconsin currently ranks in the top five in the U.S. for the production of more than 17 commodities, but we can do better.

This session, I supported legislation to enhance the value of our dairy, meat, and crop exports by promoting what we produce in Wisconsin. Raising the value of our exports by 25% will ensure we remain a leader in agriculture production and keep farmers in their fields. Now signed into law, this legislation affirms that our state's economy is built on "America's Dairyland."

To continue producing high-quality agriculture products in western Wisconsin, we must also continue to take care of our land. In the Driftless Region, we are blessed with a beautiful landscape of rolling hills, coulees and valleys.

This session, I was proud to work on and pass nitrogen optimization legislation with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, which will help our farmers enhance their land while pioneering new programs. Creating a commercial nitrogen optimization pilot program and providing a crop insurance premium rebate to farmers who plant cover crops is a win-win – a win for soil health and a win for our farmers.

By planting cover crops, farmers are investing in better soil health, which will lead to healthier crops with higher yields that can then be distributed across Wisconsin and the globe.

We've made progress for the farmers of western Wisconsin, but the work doesn't end here. As the proud son of many generations of family farmers, I will continue to support and advocate for agriculture across the Driftless Region.

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Senator Brad Pfaff represents the 32nd Senate District, which includes La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford, and southern Monroe County.