

Gov. Evers: Celebrates National Agriculture Day by signing bipartisan bill to bolster dairy exports from America's dairyland

Posted on Tuesday, Mar 22, 2022

>> WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)

PLYMOUTH — Gov. Tony Evers today celebrated National Agriculture Day in his hometown of Plymouth, Wisconsin—renowned for being the Cheese Capital of the World—by signing Senate Bill 827, now Wisconsin Act 207, to help bolster Wisconsin's dairy exports.

In [December](#), Gov. Evers signed Assembly Bill 314, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 92, which required the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to work collaboratively with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to increase the value of Wisconsin's milk and dairy, meat, crop, and other product exports by 25 percent by June 30, 2026. The bill was modeled after legislation originally proposed by Gov. Evers during his [2020 State of the State address](#), during which the governor announced a [package of legislation and a special session of the Legislature](#) as part of a three-pronged plan to support and invest in Wisconsin's farmers and rural communities. Funds for the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports were released by the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee [last month](#).

Wisconsin Act 207, which the governor signed today, allows the DATCP to supplement these efforts by investing \$883,160 from an existing, unused appropriation to be used for the newly created agricultural exports program for the purpose of promoting dairy exports. "We're darn proud to be America's Dairyland, and I'm glad to be celebrating National Agriculture Day right here in Plymouth—the Cheese Capital of the World—to sign bipartisan legislation to help continue supporting Wisconsin dairy," said Gov. Evers. "Our dairy industry is not only core to our economy, but it's core to who we are as a state. This bipartisan legislation builds on our work to expand and increase our dairy exports so folks around the globe can experience the high-quality dairy products we know and love produced right here in Wisconsin."

Gov. Evers has long advocated for strategic investments in Wisconsin's agricultural exports, starting in his 2019-21 biennial budget when he proposed a \$200,000 investment to develop the Wisconsin Initiative for Dairy Exports. Unfortunately, that provision was rejected by the Legislature during the budget process. Following this and following the governor's 2020 State of the State address and special session call, the Legislature failed to pass the governor's special session proposal. Gov. Evers again proposed investing in Wisconsin's agriculture exports in his [2021-23 biennial budget](#). Gov. Evers signed the 2021-23 budget [last summer](#), marking the first time that state funding has been allocated to DATCP's International Agribusiness Center to help promote Wisconsin agriculture exports.

[Senate Bill 827](#), now 2021 Wisconsin Act 207:

- Allows DATCP to use funds intended for rural development loans for the purpose of expanding dairy exports.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).