

Farm Bureau Federation: Joint Committee on Finance supports agriculture in proposed budget

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MADISON – Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is supportive of the recent votes from the Joint Committee on Finance members on issues that impact the state’s farming community.

“Wisconsin Farm Bureau appreciates the work of the Joint Committee on Finance and thanks them for passing several key provisions that will have a direct impact on farmers and rural residents in the state,” said WFBF’s Executive Director of Governmental Relations Jason Mugnani.

The committee adopted the following budget items:

Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection

- An additional \$800,000 per year for meat processor grants.
- An additional \$300,000 per year for grants to dairy processors.
- \$2 million for the Wisconsin Agricultural Export Promotion program
- Farmer mental health funding of \$100,000 per year.
- \$2 million for nitrogen optimization pilot program grants.
- \$70,000 per year for livestock premises registration.
- An additional \$50,000 per year for Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Program.
- Provided \$1.6 million for cover crop rebates.
- Maintain funding for producer-led watershed protection grants.

Department of Natural Resources

- \$500,000 in 2024-25 for well compensation and well abandonment grants.
- \$6.5 million for rural nonpoint source water pollution abatement grants.
- An additional \$200,000 per year for Targeted Runoff Management grants.

“These are important priorities that we are pleased and excited to see included in the proposed budget,” Mugnaini said. “We appreciate the leadership of the Joint Committee on Finance for the inclusion of these provisions and look forward to continuing to work on these issues.”

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state’s largest general farm organization representing farms of different sizes, commodities and management styles.