

Yvonne 258-3400

WMC

- Cancel room reservation for June 23, July 11, July 12
- Reserve for July 13<sup>th</sup> a.m.

(ae) 2 8-5 pm  
 lunch, beverages, WMC hours  
 coffee, juice, soda

Kim | {9:30}  
 Call Curtis Bear  
 3-7930  
 \*called again 10:15

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(ae) July 11-12  
 meet w/ Curtis



**Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension**

610 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 262-9960 FAX (608) 262-6250

**Community Dynamics Institute**

June 14, 1994

The Honorable Alvin Ott  
Member of Assembly  
Room 318N  
State Capital  
Madison WI 53702

Dear Al,

I am pleased you invited me to interact with the planning group yesterday. I agree that the conversation was necessary to understand where we are to go. Thank you for inviting me.

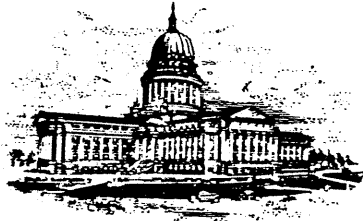
Enclosed is my business card as you requested. On the back is information about two publications I mentioned in our conversation. You may purchase them at Borders Book Shop. I have placed a copy of each on hold in your name until June 22, 1994. You may reach them at 232-2600.

232-2600

Cordially ,

Curtis E. Gear, Jr.  
Community Development Specialist

CEG:fk



Wisconsin Legislature  
Assembly Chamber

P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53708

June 23, 1994

To: Assembly Republican Legislators  
From: Dave Prosser, Al Ott and John Ainsworth  
Subject: Development of an Assembly Republican Caucus position on rural issues

All Assembly Republican Legislators and staff have one common goal -- a Republican majority in January. When the majority is reached, we must have agendas ready to push forward. One of those agendas must focus on rural Wisconsin.

On behalf of the Republican Assembly members, Reps. Al Ott and John Ainsworth recently contacted hundreds of organizations interested in agriculture issues and/or the economic development of rural Wisconsin.

The organizations were asked to identify areas that inhibit rural Wisconsin's growth and prosperity. The responses have been summarized and are attached.

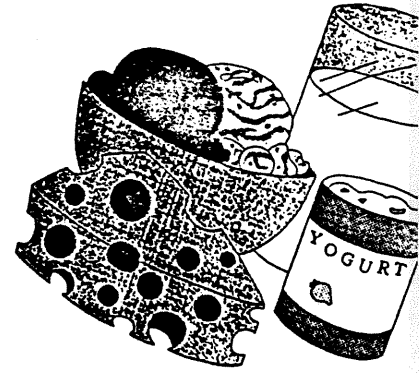
Now we need your help! We are asking you to review the attached information by July 1 and identify the top five areas Assembly Republicans should focus on when establishing an agenda for rural Wisconsin. Please review all the information to get a comprehensive view of the issues and stimulate your thinking. Written replies may be sent to either Kim in Al Ott's office (318N) or Delora in John Ainsworth's office (418N).

All Legislator responses will be prioritized. Solutions to the identified areas of focus will be discussed on July 13 during a nominal group process involving all Assembly Republican members.

The meeting will be held in Madison with details announced at a later date. Please RSVP to Kim (6-5831) or Delora (6-3097) by July 1 and keep July 13 open on your calendar.

The recommendations resulting from the nominal group process will be used to establish a Republican agenda for rural Wisconsin and may be used by candidates in the coming elections.

**AGRICULTURE 1995...**



**AGRICULTURAL PROFITABILITY**

*CO-OPS CALL FOR  
MILK ORDER REFORM*

**Dairymen told to  
chart own destiny**

***BGH Label Bill***

**Downward trend in  
young farmer numbers**

**'Dairy 2020'**

**Rural health must be addressed**

*GOVERNOR SIGNS  
PECFA LEGISLATION*

Agricultural Organizations  
TOP 10 (Plus One)

1. Property Taxes (13 of 15 organizations listed)
  - \*Greater farm property tax equity
  - \*STOP campaign - School Taxes Off Property
  - \*Shift to other sources of school funding based on ability to pay
  - \*Property taxes disproportionately burden farm land owners
2. Animal Welfare (9 of 15 organizations listed)
3. Right to Farm (7 of 15 organizations listed)
  - \*Develop stronger Right to Farm legislation
  - \*Support further legislation to protect the right of livestock producers and agriculturalists to farm and continue to have a livelihood providing the food and fiber supply
  - \*Current statute is vague and ineffective in protecting farmers from nuisance suits and governmental actions affecting farming operations
4. Health Care - 100% deduction (6 of 15 organizations listed)
5. Wetlands (6 of 15 organizations listed)
6. Ethanol (5 of 15 organizations listed)
7. Retirement - IRAs (4 of 15 organizations listed)
8. Use-Value Assessment (4 of 15 organizations listed)
9. Capital Gains (3 of 15 organizations listed)
10. DNR Citations (3 of 15 organizations listed)
11. BGH (3 of 15 organizations listed)

## TAXES

### CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

- \*Property tax fails to distribute tax burden on an equitable basis
  - Support greater farm property tax equity
  - Support taking much of school tax off farmers (top priority for legislature)
- \*Oppose additional restrictions on existing state farmland preservation participants
- \*Support use-value assessment for agricultural land

### WI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

- \*Support more reliance on sales and income tax to support education
  - Support STOP campaign to get school taxes off property
  - Urge the elimination or significant reduction of the property tax levied for the VTAE System and the substitution of state collected revenues
  - Support limiting the amount of property taxes that can be levied by all units of government using property tax as a revenue source.
  - Support legislation that will provide fair market value in agricultural use taxation of agricultural land. Also, classify production agricultural land as a production tool and hence it is tax exempt.
  - Work to achieve real estate tax parity in county, state and nation
  - Urge that all materials used directly in farming be tax exempted
  - Recognize that government owned properties and federal trust lands share in the cost of local services by paying taxes equal to taxes paid on similar privately owned property
  - Urge that all real estate make a payment for municipal services
  - Strongly support phase out of inheritance and gift taxes
- \*Support continuation and improvements in Farmland Tax Relief Credit
  - Recommend that the Farmland Preservation Act be revised to provide greater property tax relief to more farm families and family farm corporations and urge that: the income and property tax limits be increased; the \$25,000 ceiling on depreciation be eliminated or increased; the minimum credit be increased; farmers residing in towns that are decertified should be allowed to enter into farmland preservation agreements and receive a portion of the available credit.
  - Urge that the Farmland Preservation Program Formula be modified to provide additional credits or that tax credits be made available to all farmers who implement or incorporate approved soil conservation erosion and pollution abatement programs.

- \*Support use-value assessment
  - Support eliminating the adding back of depreciation in calculating income and credits under the Homestead Tax Credit Program
  - Oppose mandating each county to adopt the county assessor system

### FARMERS UNION Milk Marketing Cooperative

- \*Support a shift to other sources of school funding based on ability to pay
  - Seek reform of current policies which encourage wealthy non-farm investors to buy into drylot dairy operations and other industrial type agricultural ventures for tax write-off purposes

FARMERS UNION (cont.)	<u>Encourage</u> state legislature to disallow the use of recent sales of agricultural property which has been sold for hunting, recreation and other purposes to set property tax valuations on other agricultural property in the townships
WI FARMERS UNION	<p>*<u>Support</u> efforts to remove major portion of school funding from the property tax; raise state's share of funding to 50% or higher with emphasis on income and excise taxes to offset</p> <p><u>Support</u> legislation enabling any farmer who qualifies for the Farmland Preservation Program to be able to receive full credit</p> <p><u>Request</u> that areas be zoned exclusively agricultural with property rights and a lower tax rate since agriculture is still the main industry in Wisconsin</p>
WI PORK PRODUCERS	(nothing stated regarding taxes)
WI WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE	(nothing stated regarding taxes)
WI FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES	<p>*<u>Recommend</u> that there be less reliance on property taxes to support elementary, secondary and VTAE education systems</p> <p><u>Urge</u> that facilities used in agricultural production be exempt from property taxes</p>
EQUITY COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC.	<p>*<u>Urge</u> legislators to continue researching school tax funding from other than land in agricultural production</p> <p><u>Propose</u> the equalized value should more accurately reflect farmland's actual use value</p>
WI SHEEP BREEDERS	* <u>Insist</u> that elected officials institute a process to substantially reduce farm property taxes because Wisconsin's high property tax places sheep producers at a competitive disadvantage to producers in other states and the world
WI POTATO & VEGETABLE GROWERS	<p>*<u>Support</u> efforts to fund public schools using a more evenly distributed tax because property tax has placed a disproportionate burden on farm land owners</p> <p><u>Oppose</u> the imposition of sales tax on any farm production inputs including machinery because the original intent of sales tax legislation was to give agriculture an exemption</p> <p>*<u>Support</u> a Use Value Assessment based property tax plan that takes into consideration a standard three-year rotation and remove the irrigability of the land as an assessment consideration</p>
WI CORN GROWERS	* <u>Support</u> school funding coming from residential dwellings including farm homes and the balance from an income tax; all property would be taxed for non-school funding for services related to the property (i.e. snow removal, fire, etc.)

WI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION \*Support fundamental property tax reform because soybean producers in Wisconsin are not as competitive with soybean farmers in neighboring states due to high property taxes  
Believe that true property tax reform cannot take place unless state and local government spending and education spending is controlled

WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION \*Provide a major new K-12 school aid funding system to the school districts in distressed rural communities are located to insure at least average per teacher and per student expenditures (also, provide statutory definition of a distressed rural community)

WI AGRI-BUS. COUNCIL \*Revise state taxing policy to more equitably assess taxes as to the amount of services required and to redistribute the education tax base to other methods of financing  
Agricultural property tax puts WI agriculture and its products at an economic disadvantage with other producing areas

\*Agricultural land in WI being valued at the highest use potential rather than at its value for producing agricultural products carries an additional burden of property taxes

\*Request the legislature to review all state laws and actions which require the imposition of higher property taxes due to inadequately and/or unfunded state mandates

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS \*Property taxes place an unfair burden on farmers as it has little to do with the ability to pay  
There is a REAL and IMMEDIATE need for greater farm property tax equity and the 1994 Legislature should make their top priority taking much of the school tax off farmers

\*The sales tax on production inputs, including supplies, service and electricity for agriculture and business should not be considered as a replacement for the property tax for these inputs are necessary to create positive growth in our state's economy

## ENVIRONMENT

CATTLEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

\*Oppose DNR authority to issue environmental citations  
Oppose exceeding current federal guidelines for Clean Water Act  
Support sound land and water management practices which do not unnecessarily impinge on the farmer's right to earn a living and if legislation is enacted that impinges on this right, the state should bear the cost

\*Urge that any new legislation to regulate wetlands allow and recognize environmentally sound agriculture practices to continue

\*Support the used of ethanol in state owned vehicles



WI FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

\*Urge DILHR & DNR to review PECFA and determine where costs can be cut and duplication of efforts be curtailed  
Urge that farm fuel tank regulations be rewritten so they are less expensive to comply with and easier to understand  
Support legislation to revise and update drainage laws and believe that DATCP should be given more authority over agricultural drainage matters  
Support more flexibility in NR243 (Animal Waste Runoff Program) to allow cost sharing if relocation of an operation is necessary  
Urge the formation of an agricultural chemical clean-up fund which is not funded by user fees, but rather by the consumers as a whole, being the ultimate beneficiaries of our food production system  
Support a public policy which would require all public agencies to use lands which are less valuable for agricultural use for public projects.  
Oppose funding for any more land purchases by DNR and believe that agricultural land currently owned by DNR be leased back to farmers at local rates and under local customs

\*Believe that farmer's rights should be recognized in any wetlands legislation, including the right to maintain farm drainage systems and ditches. Any such legislation should compensate (property tax credits) farmers for restrictions placed on any lands classified as wetlands  
Believe that a consistent set of definitions and guidelines needs to be adopted for all wetlands and wetlands that have been farmed should be allowed to remain in agricultural production  
Urge DOT to treat agricultural land equal to wetlands when obtaining land for building roads

\*Support legislation providing direct tax credits to manufacturing plants here in the state producing ethanol and other corn products

FARMERS UNION  
Milk Marketing Cooperative

(nothing stated regarding environment)

WI FARMERS UNION

\*Support state legislation providing for the maintenance of streams (widening & clearing of brush & debris) in order that there will be adequate capacity to avert flooding of homes and farmlands

\*Promote the increased use of ethanol and soy diesel as alternative fuels

WI PORK PRODUCERS

(nothing stated regarding environment)

WI WOMEN FOR  
AGRICULTURE

\*Support DATCP authority of prevention of groundwater contamination and the use of pesticides

\*Support the production of ethanol in Wisconsin plants

WI FEDERATION OF  
COOPERATIVES

\*Urge that state officials recognize the variety of sources of pollution and request that they more carefully coordinate their efforts and consolidate their resources to identify these sources, the actual impact and damage as well as the realistic remedies

Urge the legislature to use general tax revenues in addition to imposing user fees or surtaxes to establish a compensation program for remediation required to protect groundwater

- (Federation of Coops cont.) \*Support incentives for the use of state-produced alternative fuels in the form of fuel tax relief
- EQUITY COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC. \*Recommend that if citations are to be issued for environmental violations, regulatory authority be given to the County Land Conservation Committee rather to DNR
- WI SHEEP BREEDERS \*Oppose allowing DNR wardens to issue citations for environmental violations on private lands
- \*Support the just compensation and respect of individual property rights for producers affected by state mandates to address clean water, air and the preservation of plants and animals
- WI POTATO & VEGETABLE GROWERS \*Oppose efforts by the legislature and agencies to expand shoreland zoning authority and delineate wetlands that would preempt federal law because the federal government is in the process of developing a uniform wetland delineation manual that would preempt any state action
- Oppose the confiscation of private wetlands without full value compensation of these same wetlands because the DNR's Wetland Water Quality rules expropriate private wetlands for public use and preclude development of these lands for agricultural use
- WI CORN GROWERS \*Support a less restrictive atrazine level in Wisconsin and nationally in response to research data from scientists within and outside EPA that supports changing the Maximum Contaminant Level
- \*Urge that, regarding wetlands, farmers be allowed to maintain existing drainage structures and make repairs and improvements to drainage systems as necessary and that exemptions from wetland protection be allowed for lands cropped or considered cropped six out of ten years or converted to agricultural uses prior to 12-23-85 and that proper compensation is provided to property owners if wetlands protection results in an economic loss on a parcel of land
- WI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION \*Believe that any further restrictions on agricultural use of wetlands needs to be clearly defined and that proper analysis be given to the impact on agriculture and the environment
- Strongly oppose state or local environmental standards stricter than those of federal agencies
- WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION \*Establish priority project funding for distressed rural communities in the Stream Bank Protection Program
- WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL \*The WI environmental regulations relating to air and water quality, erosion, animal waste and pesticide and fertilizer usage consider the competitive factor in relation to other states and nations. Some environmental costs place a great burden on farmers and they cannot recover their costs in a market where prices are based on a national standard.

(Agri-Business Council cont.)

**\*Oppose laws expanding DNR authority over agricultural practices in wetlands including authority for 404 type programs and any extension of shoreland zoning**

**\*Urge that legislation be enacted to allow farmers to reduce the wildlife population so that crop damage may be lowered to acceptable levels**

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

**\*If land and water management regulations unnecessarily impinge on the farmers' right to earn a living, the state should bear the cost of such regulations**

## **RETIREMENT/FINANCE**

CATTLEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

**\*Recommend that the federal government restore the Capital Gains for agriculture to its status prior to the 1987 Federal Tax Reform Program**

WI FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

**\*Support reinstatement of capital gains treatment for timber, livestock, depreciable assets and land**

**Support a capital gains exclusion for insolvent farmers on liquidation of farm property**

**Support a capital gains exclusion for landowners who are forced to sell by condemnation and don't wish to purchase new land to continue agricultural operations**

**\*Support allowing farmers, other business owners or self-employed taxpayers to invest proceeds from the sale of real and personal property in an IRA, Keogh plan, etc.**

**\*Support revisions in Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Law because of its effect on the selling of farm property. Revisions are necessary to protect all parties of property transfer and indebtedness**

FARMERS UNION  
Milk Marketing Cooperative

(nothing stated)

WI FARMERS UNION

**\*Support reform of capital gains and inheritance taxes to aid the transfer of family farms from one generation to the next**

**\*Recommend that full-time farmers for a minimum of 5 years in farming be eligible for a decent retirement. Farmer and spouse should be able to accumulate \$10,000 per year with a limit of \$500,000 per farm and be able to put complete amount in and IRA when they sell out. The funding would be from the sale of qualified farm assets such as farm real estate and all capital and non-capital assets. Farmers and self-employed would be allowed to set up their own individual retirement plan thereby deferring income taxes on their investments**

**\*Request that deficiency payments be made at pre-projected rates to all livestock farmers in an area declared a disaster area**

WI PORK PRODUCERS

(nothing stated)

WI WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE	<p><u>*Support</u> life-time exemption from capital gains tax of \$200,000 per individual for property used in a trade or business in which the individual or spouse has actively participated</p> <p><u>Support</u> the Farm Equity Act of 1994 which would allow for the transfer of assets from a farm sale into special accounts similar to IRAs to be sheltered from tax liabilities until funds are actually used</p>
WI FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES	<p><u>*Urge</u> the Governor and legislature to continue the CROP Program and <u>oppose</u> blanket moratoriums on foreclosures which may reduce the availability and raise the cost of credit to other farm borrowers</p>
EQUITY COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC.	(nothing stated)
WI SHEEP BREEDERS	(nothing stated)
WI POTATO & VEGETABLE GROWERS	<p><u>*Support</u> a revision in the Unemployment Compensation schedule to raise the quarterly \$20,000 gross wage exclusion to reflect the rate of inflation and current minimum wage rate because small agricultural employers that were intentionally excluded by the law when it was written in 1978 are now subject to the law due to increases in the Minimum Wage requirements</p> <p><u>Support</u> streamlining credit delivery systems of all lenders to assure the availability of long-term fixed rate financing to improve the economic safety and soundness of agriculture</p> <p><u>Support</u> enhancing ag credit methods and policies to enable farmers to effectively compete in world markets</p>
WI CORN GROWERS	<p><u>*Request</u> that the state and federal governments enact legislation stating that a farmer maintain ownership of his grain until the check from the purchaser clears</p> <p><u>Support</u> legislation that allows producers to receive a premium for each point below 15% because corn producers are discounted for each point of moisture over 15% and to store corn long term it must be dried below 15%</p>
WI SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION	<p><u>*Oppose</u> policies or legislation at the state level which would artificially or arbitrarily set the price of commodities, goods or services</p> <p><u>*Support</u> a program that grants tax deferral rollover treatment and privileges to the farm sale proceeds such as are granted to IRAs, 401Ks, Keough, etc. for those who pass the "hands on management test"</p>
WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION	(nothing agriculture related)
WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL	(nothing stated)
WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS	(nothing stated)

## HEALTH CARE

(Only listed groups which had a position)

WI FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

**\*Support** a 100% deduction of medical insurance and if this is not granted the cost of all employer provided health care should be taxed

FARMERS UNION  
Milk Marketing Cooperative.

**\*Support** 100% deductibility of health care premiums for self-employed

WI FARMERS UNION

**\*Support** national health care system  
**Support** 100% deduction of health care premiums for state and federal income tax purposes  
**Support** state rural health education development and promotion efforts

WI WOMEN FOR  
AGRICULTURE

**\*Support** 100% deduction of health care premiums  
**Support** voluntary programs which encourage farm safety

WI FEDERATION OF  
COOPERATIVES

**\*Urge** that health insurance premiums paid by self employed individuals be fully deductible  
**Recognize** that the maintenance of a decentralized health care system is critical to rural development  
**Urge** the Legislature and Governor to avoid all future efforts to mandate more services on health insurance coverage and urges them to support stricter controls and utilization limits on current mandates

**\*Supports** the formation of a legislative environment which is conducive to the successful operation of HMOs

**Supports** all legislative efforts to keep competitive closed panel provisions intact for HMOs which permit the HMO to contract with all types of health care providers on a closed panel basis. The bargaining power of HMOs to contract with only certain providers promotes competition, lowers costs and encourages prevention-oriented care

**Supports** the right of consumer-sponsored HMOs to determine the benefit plans they wish to offer. Expansion of the current benefit structure mandated through insurance laws serves only to interfere with the market place's right to determine the coverage it wishes to purchase and aggravate a competitive inequity between state regulated HMOs and the unregulated self-insured plans of many employers

**Opposes** any direct or indirect taxation of the premiums of HMOs including HIRSP assessments as a tax on essential health care services required by the citizenry

**Supports** the immediate development and implementation of a variety of loan forgiveness options, the acceleration of the current loan forgiveness program and other innovative state initiatives to attract health care providers to rural areas

**Urges** incorporation of successful coop models in health care reform at both the state and federal level and further supports health care reform initiatives which: improve access to health care services particularly in rural and undeserved areas; seek to establish a managed health care environment that facilitates the delivery of affordable, high-quality, cost effective health care;

(Fed. of Coops cont.)

create incentives for employers, individuals, providers and insurers to participate in reform efforts as partners; address issues of insurance reform in order to create more affordable insurance coverage and correct the current imbalance toward specialty providers and specialty care in favor of primary care providers, primary care and prevention of illness

WI CORN GROWERS

\*Encourage the state and federal government to allow 100% deductibility of health insurance premiums

WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION

\*Amend the Physician Loan Assets Program (560.183) to include distressed rural communities. Increase amounts of loans and grants in these areas

## ANIMAL WELFARE

(Only listed those groups which stated a position)

CATTLEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

\*Support programs and accurate information aimed at schools and the general public to show how people benefit from today's farming methods and animal care. Because fewer people have agriculture backgrounds it is necessary to provide information on animal care consistent with commercial livestock raising

WI FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

\*Support animal welfare and reject the concept of animal rights - support the right of farmers to raise livestock in accordance with commonly accepted agricultural practices

FARMERS UNION  
Milk Marketing Cooperative

\*Deeply concerned about the false claims and actions of animal rights groups based on misinformation on livestock production - Urge the education of the public about up-to-date livestock production

WI FARMERS UNION

\*Believe animal rights activists are misinforming the public on the place and care of animals in agriculture - support educational programs to inform the public

\*Support efforts to solve the problem of the scarcity of veterinarians in northern counties

WI WOMEN FOR  
AGRICULTURE

\*Oppose animal rights belief that animals should have the same rights as people and should not be used for any purpose  
Support animal welfare belief that animals deserve responsible treatment

WI FEDERATION OF  
COOPERATIVES

\*Support efforts to educate the public that farmers have a vested interest in keeping their animals healthy, content and well-fed and that farmers deplore cruelty to animals as much as the rest of society  
Oppose any legislation that would restrict commonly accepted production practices under the guise of animal welfare

EQUITY COOPERATIVE

\*Oppose legislation that would suppress sound livestock management practices under the guise of animal welfare

WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL

**\*Support** appropriate programs and accurate information aimed at schools and the general public to show how people, agriculture and animals benefit from today's farming methods and animal care

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

(Exact same words as Agri-Business Council)

**AGRICULTURE EDUCATION**

(Only listed groups which stated a position)

WI FARM BUREAU

**\*Encourage** school districts to revise their agriculture curriculum to a level where credits in agriculture courses can be utilized as a science credit

WI PORK PRODUCERS

**\*Encourage** school districts to classify appropriate agriculture courses as science equivalent credits counting toward graduation and **encourage** DPI and the VTAE and UW Systems to accept appropriate agriculture courses as science equivalent credits

EQUITY COOPERATIVE  
LIVESTOCK SALES ASSOC.

**\*Urge** school districts to classify appropriate agriculture courses as science-equivalent graduation requirement credits. Also, **encourage** the UW System and VIAE schools to accept appropriate agriculture courses as science equivalent entrance credits

WI AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL

**\*Since** 22% of Wisconsin's work force is dependent on agriculture and agriculture has a \$20 billion annual impact on Wisconsin's economy, the UW system should emphasize the importance of agriculture in its research, extension and educational budgets to allow more applied research and applied research personnel

WI LIVESTOCK BREEDERS

**\*Strongly urge** the school districts of WI to classify appropriate Ag courses as science equivalent credits counting toward graduation  
**Encourage** DPI, VTAE and the UW System to accept appropriate Ag courses as science equivalent credits  
**Support** a revision of Public Instruction - Law 4 with regards to courses for teacher certification to establish dual certification (Agriculture & Science) of all Agricultural Education teachers graduating from Wisconsin

**BGH/DAIRY/MILK PRICING**

WI FARM BUREAU  
FEDERATION

**\*Oppose** mandatory or voluntary labeling of BST milk at the state level - any regulations should be done nationally

**\*Urge** that the frequency and extent of farm inspections be in direct relation to quality of milk being produced on the farm

**Don't believe** that an existing well producing safe water should, because of its location, force a producer off the Grade A market

**Support** changes in the dairy plant security program to enhance a producer's ability to recover losses

**Support** movement toward one standard of milk that equals at least Grade A standards

**Support** Dairy 2020

(Farm Bureau cont.)

**\*Support research and development of a milk pricing structure which would include the components of milk in relation to their market value**

**FARMERS UNION  
Milk Marketing Cooperative**

**\*Oppose rBGH (a most unwelcome hormone)**

**\*Oppose present rules for drug storage on dairy farms (unfair, unworkable and do little to help prevent contamination of milk with antibiotics)**

**Encourage inspectors to announce their arrival prior to entering dairy premises for inspection whenever possible**

**\*Encourage state legislators to work for higher farm milk prices**

**WI FARMERS UNION**

**\*Support national boycott of Monsanto until they cease efforts to block labeling of rBGH-Free dairy products**

**Support national standards for labeling milk and dairy products**

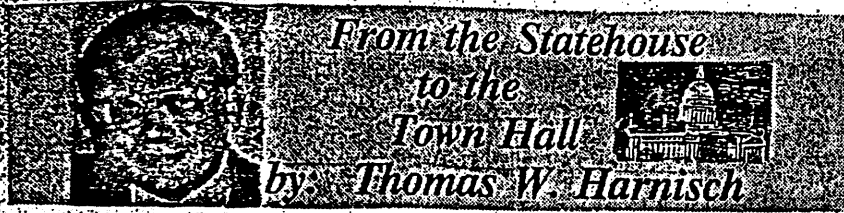
**WI FEDERATION OF  
COOPERATIVES**

**\*Urge DATCP to actively continue to study multiple component pricing and to establish state regulations to assure uniform base values**

**Urge that the certification of the safety and wholesomeness of Grade A milk by the Division of Health be financed by public tax dollars and that the Div. of Health coordinate its program with DATCP to minimize costly duplication of activities - if the Governor and Legislature determine that milk certification will be financed with farm and/or plant user fees, program responsibility should be shifted to DATCP**

**Provide for an orderly transition to milk produced under a single quality standard**





Well, the Town Parity Bill passed and has been signed into law. Also, we apparently got the SCIP payment increased another \$4 million which should aid poor rural towns.

This SCIP payments means the Town of Cedar Rapids in Rusk County, the smallest and poorest Town per capita in the state, will get some "real" financial help. Also, so will approximately 1,000 other small rural poor towns and small poor villages and cities.

On a personal note, I wish that some of the town officials in these poor small towns would review their actions on town road spending. Apparently between fifty (50) to one hundred (100) small towns do not maximize their state road aids. This means these towns do not get the per-mile minimum established by the legislature. Thousands and thousands of dollars are lost to rural areas because town officials in these towns do not levy a sufficient local tax and spent sufficient amounts to qualify for the per mile minimum. Enough said. Please study this program!

Also, the Room Tax mandate passed. Towns and small villages that currently have motels or hotels should act before the effective date or before May 1, whichever is earlier, to enact or amend their ordinances to meet the changes in AB 690. Frankly, towns and villages that do not act by May 1 will be forced to accept a 70% - 30% split payment of the revenues received with the 70% going to a Commission for tourism promotion or these municipalities must spend that 70 per cent of the revenues received directly on tourism promotion. Please see your Town lawyers immediately on this matter now to discuss the ramifications of this bill (soon to be law).

I mentioned in a previous newsletter that the two biggest direct issues affecting towns in this state are urban sprawl and rural small town development (or lack of development). Certainly other issues like property taxes, crime and school spending equality will and do have real impact on certain of our towns and small villages. Well, I will not in this letter provide a "cook book" of ideas for urban sprawl prevention. I am preparing a "cookbook" on limiting urban sprawl however. I will note a "cookbook" of ideas for state government to aid rural small town development. This list is not exhaustive in scope. It does not address what the federal government can and should do to aid Wisconsin's rural areas.

Without being partisan, the rural development actions in both Madison and Washington are at best minimal and at worst a cruel joke. This is my frontal attack on federal

and state leaders of both parties. Yes, we get a few bucks for SCIP. Yes, the federal government has limited dollars for rural bloc grant programs. Yes, we have also the state Clean Water Fund for small villages and a few towns. Beyond these three limited actions, I am at a loss to mention significant state and federal assistance for rural areas. Certainly, for the real small rural towns nothing exists in grant dollars for community development. The new federal programs appear to focus on, and are geared to aid, unique "poverty" areas primarily in the South. The State's focus for rural development appears focused primarily on business development for cities and villages.

Well, below is my vision and my "cookbook" for rural development at the state level. Hopefully, Senator Feingold (US Senate Agriculture Committee), Representative Gunderson (US House Agriculture Committee) and Representative Obey (Appropriations Committee) can get more rural development efforts going for Wisconsin in Washington D.C. To date, the national effort for rural development financing for Wisconsin is simply meaningless if you exclude dairy programs. ~~What should be done by the Governor and the legislature in Wisconsin?~~

- 1.) Provide a statutory definition of distressed rural communities.
- 2.) Create specific statutory responsibilities for the major state agencies and departments to aid these distressed rural communities (DNR, DOT, DOD, and UW Extension).
- 3.) Create special rural tax incremental financing districts (TIF's) to allow for increased local infrastructure funding in these rural communities.
- 4.) Create new specific state allocated loan and grant dollars in DOD, DNR, DOT, and DHSS "targeted" to aid only these distressed rural communities for their community development. How about ten (10) million dollars for starters?
- 5.) Require priority placement by the State Building Commission of certain state public facilities in or near these distressed communities (assuming these communities desire these facilities).
- 6.) Provide new major state income tax incentives for new private commercial and industrial enterprises to be located in these communities. How about five (5) million dollars for starters?

(OVER)

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- 7.) Subsidize low interest development loans to new commercial and industrial enterprises that locate in these communities. How about five (\$5) million dollars for starters?
- 8.) Provide a new major K - 12 school aid funding system to the school districts wherein these distressed communities are located to insure at least average per teacher and per student expenditures. Here, a sum sufficient will be necessary.
- 9.) Create specific new state subsidies and new grants for skilled trades and professional persons to reside and work in these communities. Here, one (1) million dollars might be sufficient.
- 10.) Create a special legislative committee to focus on the needs of the distressed rural communities.
- 11.) Create a distressed community "ombudsman" in DOD whose role it is to only aid these communities.
- 12.) Create a state public council assigned to DOD whose role it is to suggest action by the Governor, State agencies and the Legislature to aid these communities.
- 13.) Create a special University of Wisconsin Extension task force to create and distribute community development materials and manuals along with educational and leadership programs geared for the leaders of these communities.
- 14.) Establish an annual Governor's conference on distressed rural communities to focus attention on the plight and condition of distressed rural communities and to offer new ideas to federal, state and local leaders to aid these communities.
- 15.) Provide financial aid for the Governors Council on Rural Development to "target" education and leadership training for rural community development in distressed rural communities.
- 16.) Create a revolving low interest cooperative development loan fund in DOD for community economic development projects in distressed rural communities.
- 17.) Create a new special community development grant and loan fund in DOD for distressed rural communities to address specific community needs (environmental, social, recreational and political). Specifically, the following needs:

- a.) Pollution reduction
- b.) Public nuisance reduction
- c.) Fewer school dropouts and increased test scores
- d.) Crime reduction
- e.) Better trained public employees/public officers
- f.) Historic and cultural preservation
- g.) Health care services
- h.) Library service

- i.) Recreational service
- j.) Youth employment grants
- k.) Better transit/communication services
- l.) Community development plans
- m.) Community land use/zoning plans and ordinances
- n.) Job training grants
- o.) Infrastructure improvements

- 18.) Require the Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) in its selecting conservation projects to consider first the rural distressed communities.
- 19.) Amend the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program (234.45) to create a housing loan priority for rural distressed areas.
- 20.) Amend the Economic Development Loan program (234.65) for economic development loan priority for distressed rural areas.
- 21.) Amend the Development Fund Grant "targeted" criteria (560.605) to include distressed rural communities.
- 22.) Amend Development Zone criteria (560.71) to (560.75) to include distressed rural communities.
- 23.) Amend Community Development Finance Company (234.94) to include as a "target group" or "target area" the distressed rural communities.
- 24.) Amend the Community Based Economic Development Program under (560.14) to include distressed rural communities.
- 25.) Amend the Rural Economic Development Program (560.17) to include distressed rural communities. Increase amounts of loans or grants in these areas.
- 26.) Amend the Physician Loan Assets Program (560.183) to include distressed rural communities. Increase amounts of loans and grants in these areas.
- 27.) Amend the Hazardous Pollution Prevention Audit Grants Program (560.19) to include distressed rural communities as priority and increase grant amounts.
- 28.) Amend the Economic and Community Development Planning Program (560.08) to include distressed rural communities.
- 29.) Amend State Main Street Program (560.081) to include rural distressed communities as a priority area.
- 30.) Amend Industrial Building Construction Loan Program (560.10) to include rural distressed communities as priority areas for loans.
- 31.) Amend Export Development Loan Program (560.165) to establish loan priority for small businesses located in a rural distressed area. Increase the amount of these loans.

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- 32.) Amend Blighted Area Law (66.43) to include rural distressed areas.
- 33.) Create Rural Renewal Law similar to Urban Renewal Law (66.435).
- 34.) Allow towns the same powers as villages under (66.436) for rural renewal.
- 35.) Amend the Reinvestment Neighborhoods Act (66.465) to establish criteria to qualify rural distressed communities.
- 36.) Amend Regional Planning Commission Law (66.945) to establish for them a priority planning role to aid distressed rural communities.
- 37.) Amend University of Wisconsin Special programs (36.25) to include recruiting students from distressed rural areas and to establish priority scholarships for students from these areas.
- 38.) Amend University of Wisconsin Special programs (36.25) to create a Center for Rural Communities to attempt to create for distressed rural communities education and leadership.
- 39.) Amend the powers and duties of the Board of Regents (36.11) to require the Board to promote public awareness, access to and training of educators and other professionals for service in rural distressed areas.
- 40.) Amend Incentive Grants Program (38.27) to provide training grants for persons residing in rural distressed areas.
- 41.) Amend Independent Student Grant Program (39.45) to include financially needy resident students from rural distressed communities.
- 42.) Amend Child Care Start Up and Expense Program (46.986) to specifically establish distressed rural communities as the first priority for grants in depressed rural areas in the state.
- 43.) Create Distressed Rural Community Forestry Grant Program similar to the Urban Forestry Grant (23.097).
- 44.) Establish priority project funding for distressed rural communities under the Stewardship program (23.0915) funds.
- 45.) Establish priority project funding for distressed rural communities in Stream Bank Protection Program (23.094).
- 46.) Establish priority project funding for nonprofit conservation organizations property purchases (23.096) in distressed rural communities.

These are my ideas for change to aid distressed rural towns and other rural areas. Hopefully, you have ideas to help these distressed rural towns and rural areas. If you do call or write to share them with me. I always give credit to good and bad ideas. Possibly, a legislator interested in rural areas will decide to lead in this area. With elections coming up in November, should not rural development action be an issue for the Legislative and Gubernatorial elections?

# Rural Economic Development Organizations

## Top 13 ways to enhance economic development of rural Wisconsin

1. Provide additional financial resources and technical assistance to small communities. Either expand current programs or create new ones targeted specifically to very small communities. (8 of 45 responses)
2. Require communities to create land use plans and ensure that they harmonize with county-wide plans. (8 of 45 responses)
3. Expand the current Physician Loan Assistance Program or initiate another mechanism to attract primary care physicians, physician assistants, certified midwives and nurse practitioners to rural areas. (8 of 45 responses)
4. Give rural health care facilities the ability to network with other rural and/or larger metropolitan facilities to provide a wider array of services. Allow health care facilities to combine resources with nursing homes, elderly housing facilities, child day care centers, etc. to expand and stabilize their operating base. (8 of 45 responses)
5. Establish ways to assist communities in developing the leadership skills of local residents. (5 of 45 responses)
6. Encourage small communities to network economic development ideas and local leadership skills. (5 of 45 responses)
7. Make sure that economic development programs for rural communities have the flexibility needed to be tailored to local needs. (4 of 45 responses)
8. Ease state and federal regulations for health care facilities. They add to operating costs. (4 of 45 responses)
9. Develop ways that rural areas can attract and retain jobs paying wages comparable to those offered in urban areas. (3 of 45 responses)
10. Ensure that transportation access and computer information access to rural areas is adequate. (3 of 45 responses)
11. Establish a funding mechanism for small start-up businesses so that "Mom & Pop" type businesses can obtain low-interest or interest-free loans. (3 of 45 responses)
12. Develop ways that rural communities can attract and retain quality health care facilities because the availability of medical care is directly related to the ability to attract and retain jobs. (3 of 45 responses)
13. Better publicize existing economic development programs available to rural areas. (3 of 45 responses)

RESPONSES TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY  
JUNE 1994

Community Development Resource (CRD) Agents

**UWEX Area Business Agent, Oshkosh**

The state should provide extensive assistance to owners of small and mid-sized manufacturing firms in smaller communities. North Carolina and Georgia have done this successfully.

**Burnette County Extension Office, Siren**

CRD Agents illustrate extension efforts at their best in community economic development. CRD Agent efforts are tailored to local needs, focus on improving human capacity through specific skill building and leadership training and rely on cooperation with other institutions.

**Door County Extension Office, Sturgeon Bay**

Rural communities need vibrant and visionary leaders to address their unique challenges. The CRD agents can help develop leaders.

**Florence County Extension Office, Florence**

Rural Wisconsin is often at a competitive disadvantage to urbanized counties when it comes to providing adequate paying jobs with decent benefits. As a result, many young people leave the rural areas.

In 1995, extension agents in all 72 counties will undertake a four-year strategic planning process to more clearly identify the issues and concerns of rural areas.

**Grant County Extension Office, Lancaster**

The Grant County CRD Agent helped initiate a "First Impressions" program that encourages local officials to view their community through the eyes of an outsider. As a result, Fennimore erected new entrance signs, a new business directory was created, a hospitality program was sponsored and attended by 90 people, a community "eye sore" was razed and community enthusiasm is maintained via an annual town meeting.

The Grant County CRD Agent also helped establish a Farm Trails project which created an auto tour connecting 27 farms in Grant and Crawford Counties. The farms are open to visitors and sell farm related products. A newspaper article in the Milwaukee Journal generated over 600 written requests for an auto tours brochure.

**Iron County Extension Office, Hurley**

A grassroots approach to economic development, supported by

input and resources from the state, seem to be the best approach. The solutions lie within the community itself.

Rural communities face not only high unemployment levels, but low wage scales for existing jobs.

Resort owners need assistance to upgrade their facilities. The WHEDA Tourism Fund Program is cumbersome to work with, banks are reluctant to provide financing services to business, and the program does not seem to fit resort owners' needs.

#### **Monroe County Extension Office, Sparta**

CRD Agents act as a catalyst in helping communities solve their own problems. There are eight small villages in Monroe County (population 150-850). Each of them face similar issues and problems. At the suggestion of the Monroe County CRD Agent, elected officials meet quarterly for education of topics they select (TIF, well abandonment, 911, budgeting, housing, economic development, law enforcement, etc.) and then for discussion on local issues.

#### **Oconto County Extension Office, Oconto**

Some communities do not take advantage of programs that would benefit them because community leaders are preoccupied with tasks that have immediate deadlines. It would be appropriate for the state to link state grant programs to successful community economic programs like Community Economic Analysis (CEA), since these programs are readily available at virtually no cost to the community.

Good, current economic data exists in the files of DILHR, DOR and other state agencies but it is kept confidential instead of being used to spot threats and opportunities for rural communities. If directed to do so by the state, agency personnel and University economists could develop community economic analysis indexes which would assist economic development activities while preserving confidentiality.

#### **Oneida County Extension Office, Rhineland**

A more comprehensive small community land use planning grant program should be established to conduct land use planning and update or improve zoning ordinances.

#### **Ozaukee County Extension Office, Port Washington**

Many local officials lack the necessary skills to make effective development decisions. Communities also often lack the necessary financial resources to undertake a project.

Too few communities have either adopted or updated land use plans to guide future development. Both incorporated and unincorporated areas are unhappy with current annexation laws

so boundary problems continue to flourish.

Towns had hoped to be given the ability to form TIF districts, but that appears in jeopardy because of the efforts to remove school funding from the property tax.

There is a perception by some that the few economic rural development programs/tools available to communities through DOD appear to duplicate programs/tools available through the UW Extension offices (ie: Community Preparedness Program and the Small Business and Management Assistance Program).

#### Rock County Extension Office, Janesville

CRD Agents help local people develop a clear purpose to organize their actions. There is a tendency for local leaders to jump into an initiative without considering alternatives and without knowing what community residents would be willing to support. Importing another community's "great idea" often fails to work well because each community is unique and needs to be treated as such.

#### Shawano County Extension Office, Shawano

Economic development must be built upon a foundation of comprehensive community development which seeks to improve infrastructure/facilities, housing, recreation, human services, and other quality of life indicators. Many small industrial parks remain unfilled because those communities have failed to address why people would want to live there.

The availability of housing, youth recreation, developing rural tourism potential and revitalizing downtowns are high priorities of most local citizen advisory groups.

Rural communities in Shawano County are concerned about stabilizing their population base, including youth and elderly. They want to diversify their economics so they are less dependent upon logging and farming, even as those industries are preserved.

Industrial development seems to be concentrated in areas which have the infrastructure and transportation needed to support manufacturing. Communities of less than 2,000 population seem to be recognizing that the service economy provides relatively more opportunities.

Communities have problems with policy concerns the Legislature may wish to address. DOR refuses to release municipal-level retail sales data which hampers local trade area analysis. Communities needing help with capital improvement planning and budgeting seem to fall through the cracks, having no recognized source of technical assistance. Very small communities which do not have sewage treatment facilities are

hurt by recent amendments to WI Statutes requiring the burden of proof be put on petitioners for sanitary district formation or expansion; sewage treatment capacity will be the achilles heel of several small Shawano County villages and settlements.

The development of Hwy 29 into a 4-lane highway and the Rural Datafication Grant through WiscNet is crucial to Shawano County's industrial growth and residential development.

#### **Sheboygan County Extension Office, Sheboygan Falls**

Community wide needs assessments should be conducted before industrial development programs begin in an area. This helps make the community establish future direction and helps decision makers make better informed choices.

The East Central Wisconsin Community Alliance for Progress (ECWCAP) is a coalition of towns, villages, and cities and the counties of Sheboygan, Ozaukee and Manitowoc. The ECWCAP has targeted its economic development niche as the micro-business employing 25 persons, especially the "Mom & Pop" type business that often fill the vacant stores on Main Street.

#### **Taylor County Extension Office, Medford**

Rural communities should have a regional/inter-related/complimentary outlook to document and improve the inter-dependency of the local economies, reliance on employment opportunities and common concerns.

Individual community Economic Profile plans should compliment any existing county-wide profile.

Rural communities should concentrate on helping existing businesses to expand rather than spending time trying to attract outside businesses to relocate.

When the "Bend Mind Project" (copper/gold) was being discussed, the Taylor County CRD Agent prepared neutral fact sheets about the proposed mine site development and process, what type of jobs would be created, what types of spin-off industries would be needed to support the mine, and the effects on housing, schools and environmental issues. These fact sheets helped the community better understand the issue.

CRD Agents devote lots of time to individual inquiries on the availability of government grants and loans or what to prepare before applying for a loan with a private lending institution.

Many state programs are difficult to access and require sophisticated forms. Small scale programs are needed for mom/pop entrepreneurs who may only need \$20,000 to get started. WHEDA does offer a variety of small scale projects



but local banks find the procedures too cumbersome and not cost effective for them to process.

Business incubators are good ideas for rural areas but the feasibility studies, potential building site and needed services are too expensive for many rural communities. Perhaps funds could be provided through a state-wide network.

Unemployment rates in rural areas are often seasonal with more jobs being available in the summer months. Rural areas need to attract more employable people with appropriate skills and attitudes to carry out job responsibilities. The state should encourage people to move to rural areas and provide funding for on-the-job-training programs.

Lesser used state highways that serve rural communities are not as functional as need be. State promotional maps only show the "main arteries - interstate roads" leaving the impression that industry must locate along those routes to have global access.

#### **Trempealeau County Extension Office, Whitehall**

The UWEX program is successful because each CRD agent is a member of the community and that ensures continuity. An outside developer is not familiar with the local community and leaves when the project is complete.

Each county is different and therefore each agent tailors the community develop programming to local needs. With help from the Trempealeau County CRD agent, the City of Arcadia has built several low income rental housing units, continued its downtown revitalization efforts, and developed a Business Improvement District.

The best way for rural areas to develop programs is to develop leaders. Successful communities don't have to have lots of money, an ideal location or great infrastructure. What they must have is strong, on-going leadership.

The CRD program area in UWEX is reviewing the community development programs they currently offer. For more information, contact Ron Shaffer at (608) 262-9485.

#### **Walworth County Extension Office, Elkhorn**

Successful tourism initiatives for small communities are sometimes ones based on a particular historic theme unique to the area.

Organizational and leadership skills are lacking in smaller communities.

The subject of rural growth should be studied in each

community with plans developed for a 10 to 20 year period.

**Wood County Extension Office, Wisconsin Rapids**  
CRD Agents benefit rural areas in several ways.

They offer business counseling to people interested in starting a business and help them develop a business plan.

They often help communities through complex governmental programs such as TIF districts and incubators. Agents can uniquely offer unbiased information on development alternatives to communities.

They assist city, village and town governments with information on how to properly carry out their legislated responsibilities and operate more efficiently. Good local government keeps taxes down and decreases community conflict.

CRD Agents are residents of the communities and therefore have a good understanding of local issues. They also have a broad variety of University specialists available to assist them.

## Main Street Program

### **Antigo Main Street**

Each local Main Street Program is a fully independent, community-based non-profit corporation. They receive free assistance and services worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from the state through workshops, on-site visits, and technical support.

In 1994 alone, the Antigo Main Street Program will provide about \$1.2 million in value-added services to the community on an operating budget of less than \$75,000.

The need for long range planning and development do not allow for the Main Street Program to be used as a "quick-fix" solution.

### **Columbus Downtown Development Corp.**

The Main Street Program offers services in a package not available anywhere else. Criticisms are that the program takes a cookie cutter approach to communities and that technical assistance is only offered for three years.

### **Mainstreet Park Falls**

The Park Falls area lost three businesses due to a major fire. The Main Street Program maintained a positive attitude for those involved and two of the businesses will be reopening in new locations downtown.

### **Tigerton Main Street Inc.**

The success of the Main Street Program is based on the complete commitment of the community when applying for the program. Communities must fully fund their own programs. Main Street Managers and communities are exposed to other services and assistance available via other State programs and facilities.

Rural Economic Development will be the harbinger of the future of Wisconsin's greatest growth in the beginning of the next century because of the advent of fiber optics and the difficulty of industry to obtain capitalization for future projects. The greatest growth will be in country cottage businesses.

## **Rural Economic Development Grant Recipients**

### **Green Gifts Network, Grantsburg**

The Green Gifts Network received a RED grant on the third try. The first two attempts were frustrating, but DOD personnel were very helpful and assisted the Green Gifts Network with the application so that the third application was more focused and relevant. All in all, the company views the RED Program favorably.

Suggestions to make the process easier for future applicants are:

1) Create a more detailed application manual with real examples of past applications. This would help those seeking a grant/loan to understand what information was relevant to the application process.

2) Establish a pre-application deadline so applications could be reviewed by DOD staff and applicants could make any necessary corrections before the Board meeting when grants/loans are awarded. This would also allow DOD staff to focus efforts on companies seriously committed to applying.

3) Establish direct deposit capabilities so checks are not lost in the mail. This would also help when loans become due and repayments begin.

4) Better educate local chambers of commerce and rotary clubs about business grants, loans and assistance available through DOD. They in turn could educate their members.

### **McLaughlin Heights Retirement Home, Scandinavia**

McLaughlin Heights Retirement Home provides quality, affordable housing for elderly persons. It is a for-profit CBRF.

The owner contacted HUD, FMhA, and WHEDA for funding but was turned down because the facility was a for-profit organization. The RED application process helped the owner to get a better understanding of what to expect once the business was established. She credits the RED Program as instrumental in making her dream a reality.

#### **Wildflower Bakery, Richland Center**

On the whole, the RED Program was very helpful. DOD personnel were excellent.

The process could be improved by offering pre-grant approval counseling to help applying businesses refine the focus of what they need to do most urgently.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Program should be expanded and better publicized. Many businesses don't know that the program and its services exist. Medium sized cities such as Richland Center or Viroqua could use a SBDC. Currently, businesses in these areas must travel to either Madison or La Crosse for SBDC help.

### **WI Economic Development Association**

#### **Ashland Area Development Corporation, Ashland**

The Main Street Program, while very successful in some places, is not usually a viable option in smaller communities because they lack the ability to secure adequate funding to do a worthwhile job.

The RED Program gives rural entrepreneurs the opportunity to access business assistance it could normally not afford.

The CRD Agents provide overall business development education, but provide little one-on-one, step-by-step, business assistance.

The state should create a statutory definition of distressed rural communities and create a loan fund within DOD to fund economic development projects in these areas. The fund should be revolving and low-interest. The application process should be simple. Most rural, distressed northern communities do not have the expertise or the resources to compete with larger communities for currently funded programs.

#### **Clark County Economic Development Corporation, Greenwood**

It is difficult for communities of less than 5,000 in population to finance and administer a Main Street Program. Perhaps four or more small, near-by communities should be allowed to combine resources and share a full-time Main Street Director.

Clark County, by request, does not employ a CRD Agent in the local UW-Extension office. The county does not require the need for full time staff and the related cost. If the county does ask for specific help from the UW Extension offices, the assistance is usually provided but comments are made that the request should come from a CRD Agent.

A change in DOD's Public Facility Program hurts small communities. Before the change, a community could apply for a grant equal to \$20,000 for each new job created. The amount has been reduced to \$10,000 and the community must pay 25% of the cost. That 25% share is extremely prohibitive to a small community. The state must realize that 10 new jobs in a village of 500 people is like having General Motors jobs in Janesville.

**Iron County Development Zone Council, Hurley**

Iron County has been selected as a Development Zone under the WI Development Zone Program. However, the program won't succeed to the fullest extent possible unless the definition of a targeted group worker is changed so the maximum tax credit of \$2,400 per person for two years can be taken. The current categories should be expanded to include all rural high school graduates because they lack the skills of employment.

Another area of importance to rural economic development is the willingness of local banks to finance business. Small rural banks are being purchased by "super banks" and decisions are no longer made at the local level. Relationships between local bankers and business owners are becoming less common.

The third area of concern is that Forestry Management in rural areas is being dictated by urban residents who do not understand the local issues. As timber harvesting on public lands is slowed down, the pressure for private landowners to harvest timber increases. Unfortunately, the private landowner usually doesn't have the knowledge to manage the timber.

The DNR has cut back on assistance to private landowners and encourages contracts with consulting foresters instead. But in reality, the private landowner will make decisions on his/her own without professional knowledge instead of incurring the expense associated with hiring a private consultant.

**Richland County Econ. Dev. Corp., Richland Center**

The Main Street Program is wonderful and state funding should be increased so that Program Managers can be retained after the third year in the program.

The Rural Economic Development Program is seldom appropriate in very rural areas -- a less sophisticated program would better serve this niche.

Resource Development Agents seem to concentrate on forest management and probably won't ever make a big economic development impact.

#### **City of River Falls**

The Main Street Program remains vital and was instrumental in stabilizing the business district.

Programs such as the Rural Economic Development Program and CRD Agents are a tool that often leads to the development of a solution. Sometimes the solution is outside these programs, but their existence provided a logical starting point.

#### **West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**

Experience with the Rural Economic Development Program is favorable.

The Main Street Program is very successful, but some smaller communities think the requirements of the program make it too expensive for them to participate.

The Community Based Economic Development Program (CBED) is extremely vital for rural development. The RPC recommends funding the program with \$2 million and no set-asides. It also recommends that Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities/Economic Development Grant Funds, administered by DOD, be allowed in the construction of buildings for multi-use industrial centers. Rural communities need a facility where several small business can locate.

There should be funding for comprehensive rural development strategies. The RPCs could receive the funding and develop the strategies for local governments.

### **WI Hospital Association**

#### **Barron Memorial Medical Center**

Rural hospitals must affiliate with larger urban systems.

#### **Brown County Social Services Dept., Green Bay**

They are a county operated mental health facility which is also licensed to provide nursing home care and care for the mentally retarded. Their needs are not rural based, but rather special needs of the mentally ill. They continue to have difficulty meeting these needs due to limited or frozen community aids and property tax rates.

**Catholic Health Association of Wisconsin**

Health care competition should be based on quality and service, not on price. The use of advanced practice nurses and physician assistants should be encouraged in rural areas.

Health insurance for farmers should not be taxed. If employer mandates are enacted and there is a 1% or 2% payroll assessment, farmers should be treated as small business but without the tax on benefits.

**Flambeau Medical Center, Park Falls**

Rural health care facilities need systemic reform of the health care system. The WI Hospital Assn. has devised a plan called Wisconsin HealthNet which assures health care services for everyone through the establishment of integrated community-based provider networks.

**Memorial Hospital of Burlington**

Services provided to Medicare and Medicaid patients are not adequately reimbursed and other patients must pay higher costs as a result. If hospitals lose their tax exempt status, the burden to self-paying patients will dramatically increase.

A growing number of managed care contracts result in discounts for certain patients.

There is growing difficulty in recruiting primary care physicians in rural areas.

High quality services must be maintained with a declining operating budget. Growing government regulations add to operating costs.

The Certificate of Need/Capital Expenditure Review is a failure. There are too many loopholes in the law (ie: new clinic being constructed in Waukesha). Either repeal the CON laws or close the loopholes.

**Memorial Medical Center, Ashland**

Rural areas must attract primary physicians. This effort will be hampered until the discrepancy in payment inequities between rural and urban areas are eliminated.

A disturbing pattern seems to be emerging in rural areas. Tertiary care providers (ie: cardiac surgeons, neurosurgeons, pediatric oncologists, etc.) seem to be developing networks in rural areas at the expense of primary care physicians. Tertiary care providers are expensive and will increase the costs of health care in rural areas.

**Memorial Medical Center, Neillsville**

Immediate availability of emergency care helps attract

industry to the community.

Senior citizens tend to retire to a community that has readily available primary health care.

A 24-hour emergency room in any rural area does not attract enough patients to pay for itself (capital equipment and payroll costs are expensive to maintain). Any health insurance reform plan the Legislature passes should recognize this and the relatively high volume of government program patients in rural areas.

Primary care clinics in rural communities cannot afford to finance anything but the most basic x-ray and lab services with small volumes.

The decision to live, work and/or retire in a rural area should not mean substandard health care options.

Rural providers must be allowed to work together to form consortiums and bargain as a unit without fear of antitrust charges. At least two competitive insurance plans must be offered in each geographic area.

Plans that reimburse medical students for education expenses should have strong financial incentives for the physician to specialize in family practice and practice in a medically underserved area.

#### **Mile Bluff Medical Center, Mauston**

Most rural hospitals would be able to survive if they had an adequate number of well-trained, board certified, family physicians and general surgeons. Programs such as the Physician Loan Guarantee Program have been helpful but rural health care facilities need numerical commitments from the state's medical schools as to how many of their graduates will practice in rural areas.

The availability of high quality local health services is one of the top three or four criteria industry executives consider when expanding or relocating the business.

The health industry can be looked at as economic development in that 60-70% of all their income flows from the state and federal governments. That money would go to urban areas if the rural facilities did not exist. Their market analysis shows that patients who leave Juneau County for health care are predominantly getting health care in metropolitan areas as opposed to other rural communities.

#### **The Monroe Clinic**

The availability of quality health care facilities is a big



retention and recruitment factor when business plans to expand or relocate.

Rural health care facilities face unique economic challenges. It is difficult to recruit specialty care physicians because most prefer metropolitan areas. The payor mix of these facilities is often heavily skewed towards the Medicare, Medicaid and Self-Pay segments causing a cost shift to an ever diminishing commercial payor base. Managed care further erodes the commercial payor base because discounting practices steer patients to PPOs, HMOs, etc.

Rural health care facilities must have the ability to network with other rural and/or larger metropolitan facilities to provide a wider array of services.

The state must create a mechanism to establish financial incentives for physicians to practice in rural areas. Perhaps local communities could offer support to local students entering the health care field.

Businesses in rural areas need to identify what kind of health care is needed in the community to assist in business development and work cooperatively with health care providers to determine how to provide the needed services.

#### **Northwoods Hospital Assn., Phelps**

The Northwoods Living Care Center is successful because it combines a hospital, nursing home, elderly housing, child day care, clinic, ambulance, senior citizens' center and many related services. This grouping of similar services allows multi-job function training and keeps the facility in existence. It is the largest non-government employer in a 3 county area with 156 employees.

The rapidly evolving focus of regulation, health care reform and attempts to control the financing of health care threatens the facility's existence.

#### **Oconto Memorial Hospital**

Service patients with quality, timely health care. Develop sound, aggressive procedures to receive accounts collectable. Market your services.

#### **Osseo Area Hospital & Nursing Home**

The Rural Medical Center (RMC) concept recognizes that hospitals cannot be the only ingredient in supporting a rural health care facility. A diversity of health care services must be structured to the community's wants and needs.

Over the past decade, the volume of hospital inpatient care has dramatically decreased as has the amount of time those

patients actually stay. This change occurred because hospitals are now only reimbursed a set amount based on the diagnosis rather than on the length of a patient's stay. Medicare payments establish differences between urban and rural areas with rural areas receiving as great as 30 to 40 percent less even though the same care is provided (1991 statistics used here).

The Osseo Area Hospital and Nursing Home responded to the changing health care environment through diversification. They have added additional physicians and physician assistants, assumed operation of a local community child care center and purchased assisted living apartments for the frail elderly.

In the early 1990's, a special committee formed at the request of the Legislature recommended that the state formally recognize the RMC concept. In order to ease the regulatory burden on RMCs, the committee proposed that one set of administrative regulations be formed rather than a set for each particular diversification.

Governor Thompson and many state legislators support the RMC concept but a special waiver of federal Medicare regulation is required in order to implement the concept.

If rural health care facilities are to succeed, they need legislative assistance with equitable reimbursement, a practical and efficient regulatory process and a spirit of advocacy by the State.

#### **Rural Wisconsin Hospital Cooperative, Sauk City**

The recently passed state legislation allowing Rural Medical Centers (RMCs) will allow redefinition of what rural hospitals are and what they can become.

The issue facing health care is how high-quality, cost effective services are integrated, not whether one corporation controls the delivery of the care.

#### **St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay**

The strengths of rural health care are the potential for the reduced cost of providing service and the element of care close to home. The current health care system contains a strong incentive for providers to retain as many patients in their system as possible even if the patient could receive better care in another facility. The solution requires a change in incentives. Networks of providers who share financial risk will assist consumers in making health care decisions that make the most sense.

#### **Valley View Medical Center, Plymouth**

Rural areas must have access to primary care physicians.

The state's Cost Containment Commission is unnecessary. Most rural facilities take an extremely conservative approach to expansion. The capital expenditure review process simply adds to operating costs.

Future health care costs could be avoided if communities initiated programs aimed at improving parenting skills, dealing with the stress of family situations, raising adolescents and other related topics.

Loopholes which allow the divestiture of assets prior to admission to a nursing home should be closed. However, the surviving spouse should not be depleted of assets.

# Wisconsin Dairies

---

June 29, 1994

Dear Representative:

Enclosed is your copy of the Wisconsin Dairies resolutions which were recently adopted by our 464 delegates and 36 board members. Also enclosed, is a copy of our annual report.

Our delegates represent the members of our cooperative: 4,400 dairy farm families in parts of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. Together, they market about 2.7 billion pounds of milk a year through Wisconsin Dairies.

Wisconsin Dairies supplies fluid milk for packagers in Chicago, Rochester, St. Louis, Des Moines and Florida. As a major manufacturer of condensed milk products, milk powder products, butter, American cheese, Italian cheese and whey-based ingredients, Wisconsin Dairies serves domestic and overseas customers in the food, feed and pharmaceutical industries.

You can find out more about Wisconsin Dairies by reading our annual report. It explains how we're planning for our future and highlights our cooperative's activities during our past fiscal year that ended March 31, 1994.

We hope you will take these resolutions into account as you consider legislation that affects the dairy industry.

Sincerely,

WISCONSIN DAIRIES COOPERATIVE

*Donald C. Storhoff*

Donald C. Storhoff  
President

DCS:mpb

Enclosures

\*\*\*\* Notice: Dated information \*\*\*\*

To: All Assembly Republican Legislators  
From: Representatives John Ainsworth & Al Ott  
Date: July 6th, 1994  
Re: July 13th Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Meeting

You should have received a packet of information relating to agriculture and rural economic development issues at the Republican caucus prior to session on June 23rd. In that packet, we asked you to identify the top five issues which you feel are of greatest concern to rural Wisconsin. It is our intention, along with your help, to develop an agenda which can be used during the upcoming campaign season and also when we take the majority in November.

Your input in developing this agenda is very important. Please have your top five issues to either Delora in Rep. Ainsworth's office or Kim in Rep. Ott's office no later than Friday, July 8th. The original deadline for this information was July 1st. **Staff: if your legislator will not be in before Friday, please call them to get this information.** If you have already submitted this information, thank you.

As was announced earlier, in our continuing effort to develop this agenda, we have organized a meeting to be held on:

**Wednesday, July 13th from 8:30am to 3:00pm at Wisconsin  
Manufacturers & Commerce, 501 East Washington Avenue**

The day will involve a nominal group process in which legislators will be key players in developing an agriculture and rural economic development agenda. This agenda is very important to our cause. We hope you will make every effort to attend this very important meeting. **Please R.S.V.P to either Kim or Delora by Thursday, July 7th (tomorrow) at 12:00pm (Noon).** We must have an exact count for WMC. If you have already confirmed your attendance or regrets, please disregard this notice. Lunch will be served at the cost of \$6.50 per person.

12:00pm Thursday, July 7th - Must have R.S.V.P. for July 13th meeting (yes or no)  
5:00pm Friday, July 8th - Must have list of Legislator's top five issues. Please turn in even if you are not attending the meeting.

To: All Assembly Republican Legislators  
From: Representatives Al Ott & John Ainsworth  
Date: July 8th, 1994  
Re: July 13th Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Meeting

The July 13th meeting is a go! Twenty-one legislators have confirmed their attendance. Others who did not confirm but find they will be able to attend are welcome, however, you will not have a lunch provided as we had to order ahead of time.

Once again, the meeting is:

Wednesday, July 13th from 8:30am to 3:00pm (approx.)  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce,  
501 East Washington Avenue

Please try to be there promptly as we are on a tight schedule. We promise the meeting will be worth your time. As you already know, if we are to take the majority in November, we must be ready.

To: Assembly Republicans

From: Representative Al Ott

Date: July 13th, 1994

Re: Additional resolutions from agriculture organizations

Please find attached additional resolutions from agriculture organizations that Representative Ainsworth and I contacted. We received these resolutions after we handed out our agriculture and rural economic development packet.

You may have noticed that the National Farmers Organization is not mentioned either in our original packet or these additional resolutions. We did contact NFO, however, the resolutions we received from them deal with federal policy. We contacted them a second time and specifically asked for state related resolutions, however, we did not receive anything. If you would like a copy of the federally related resolutions, please contact my office.



LAW OFFICES

University Research Park, Parkwest II

440 Science Drive  
(608) 232-2240 Fax (608) 232-2249

P.O. Box 44158 Madison, WI 53744-4158

June 27, 1994

Representative Al Ott  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
Third Assembly District  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Midwest Equipment Dealers Association, Inc.

Dear Representative Ott:

You recently sent a letter to Gary Manke, the executive vice president of the Midwest Equipment Dealers Association (MEDA) seeking input of MEDA on issues most important to it. Gary has asked that I reply on behalf of MEDA to your request. First, let me say that MEDA greatly appreciates the interest in our positions shown by the Republican members of the Assembly Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Affairs Committee.

MEDA's primary concern is for a strong and healthy agricultural economy. If the agricultural economy is strong, our members' sales are strong and the equipment dealers and manufacturers benefit. This strong agricultural economy requires that the state, as well as private sector continue to invest in agriculture. Taxes on farmers must remain at reasonable levels because taxes translate into operating expenses for farmers.

Banks and other financial institutions must be encouraged to invest in agriculture and not see it as a risky business sector to be avoided. In recent years, as smaller rural banks have been acquired by the larger bank chains, we have seen a loss of local input and more of a challenge to obtain financing as lending requirements are established in board rooms which do not have representatives of the rural agricultural sector.

Beyond this broad philosophical position, MEDA does have some more specific policy concerns it wants to share with you and other members of your committee.

Gary L. Antoniewicz · Christopher J. Dodge · Peter M. Garson · Bruce Gillman · Howard S. Goldman  
Robert E. Gregg · Irwin L. Kass · Kathleen J. Quinlan · Frederick T. Ridders · Thomas G. Travers

OF COUNSEL · Ray A. Tomlinson  
Edward H. Ridders (1905 - 1991)



1. Sales Tax Expansion

The most important and immediate issues of concern to our members today is how the legislature intends to fund 1993 Wisconsin Act 437 on property tax relief and whether the current "farm purchases" exemptions from the sales tax will be eliminated. Expansion of the sales tax to farm purchases could add another \$100 million dollar burden to our continuously struggling farm economy.

Expansion of the sales tax to farm purchases would more than likely wipe out any property tax relief to farmers resulting from 1993 Wisconsin Act 437. In fact, we believe that an expansion of the sales tax would cause the agricultural sector to be unfairly subsidizing tax relief to others. The burden and price of property tax relief should not be unduly imposed on one sector of the economy.

We sincerely hope the legislature carefully analyzes any proposal to expand the sales tax to cover currently exempt purchases. The exemptions were enacted for a purpose and should not be removed simply because they appear to be a convenient way to add to state revenues. A more complete statement of MEDA's position on this issue entitled "Sales Tax on Farm Equipment" is enclosed for your review.

2. Mechanics Lien Legislation

For the past couple sessions, MEDA has worked with several other trade associations to review Wisconsin's mechanic's lien law and to bring it up-to-date. Last session, this was Assembly Bill 932. To date our efforts have been unsuccessful and have been thwarted by the banking lobby.

The issue is really an issue between mechanics and banks. When a mechanic repairs personal property, how much priority should the dealer's mechanic's lien receive over other liens on the goods repaired. MEDA is hopeful that this legislation will receive favorable action in the next legislature. A copy of MEDA's position statement on 1993 Assembly Bill 932 is enclosed for your review.

3. Dealership Protection

Farm Equipment dealerships are generally small family run businesses. For many years each small town had its dealerships and the dealerships were passed from one generation to the next. For the past decade, this is no longer reality. Economic and product changes have caused manufacturers to want to consolidate dealership territories and have fewer larger dealerships covering greater geographical areas. These changes have caused the number of

Representative Ott  
June 27, 1994  
Page 3

dealerships in Wisconsin to be cut nearly in half as compared to 1980. Moreover, this trend continues.

Just recently, several manufacturers informed their dealers that their long range plans (ten years) do not include about a third of the dealers and the targeted dealers must consolidate with other dealers or go out of business. The manufacturers are frequently refusing to approve dealership sales or the transfer of dealerships to the dealer's children. The result is dealers not being permitted to carry on their business and the loss of investment and good will.

While Wisconsin has a strong fair dealership law (ch. 135, Stats.), the law does not cover transfer situations or even transfer to family members. Similarly, the fair dealership law does not offer protection to dealers who quit because of manufacturer pressure.

To address these situations, MEDA would like to see legislation strengthening dealer protections in our industry. First, we would like legislation protecting the right of a dealer to transfer its business to family members unless there is "good cause" of the manufacturer to not permit the transfer. If a transfer is not approved, the manufacturer should be required to repurchase its inventory at a fair value.

Second, dealers voluntarily discontinuing their dealerships should be entitled to inventory repurchase by their manufacturers at a fair value. Often, manufacturers will pressure dealers to resign, but will not repurchase all inventory if the dealer does so, or will assess a twenty percent "restocking" charge on the inventory.

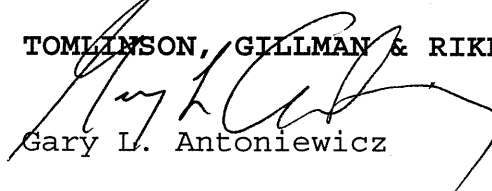
MEDA will be proposing legislation in these areas to strengthen dealership protections.

MEDA greatly appreciates this opportunity to respond to your "issues" request and looks forward to continuing its good relationship with you and other committee members. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or would like to further discuss these or any other issues.

Sincerely,

TOMLINSON, GILLMAN & RIKKERS, S.C.

By:

  
Gary L. Antoniewicz

GLA:kls  
Enclosures  
cc: Mr. Gary Manke

# Wisconsin Feed, Seed & Farm Supply Association, Inc.

BOX 90 • NASHOTAH, WI 53058 • 414/367-8404 • FAX (414) 367-8986

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Roy Kanis

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Dennis Minks

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
Robert J. Dinkel

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
Eldon H. Roesler

**SEED DIVISION CHAIRMAN**  
Robert O'Donnell  
L. L. Olds Seed Co.  
Madison, WI 53707

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expires 1996

Roy Kanis  
Nelson Mill & Agri Center  
Viroqua, WI 54665

Alanna J. Kirt  
Oriental Milling Co.  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Fred Kohnle  
Tisch Mills Farm Center, Inc.  
Tisch Mills, 54240

Term Expires 1995

Robert J. Dinkel  
Edgar Co-operative  
Edgar, WI 54426

Dennis Minks  
Mix-Rite Feed Mills, Inc.  
Kennan, WI 54537

Gerald Albrecht  
The Farmers Mill  
Merrill, WI 54452

Term Expires 1994

Don Pernsteiner  
Stratford Farmers Co-op  
Produce Co.  
Stratford, WI 54448

John Pfeifer  
Arno Pfeifer, Inc.  
Greenbush, WI 53026

Robert O'Donnell  
L.L. Olds Seed Co.  
Madison, WI 53707

## EX-OFFICIO

Jack D. Wilson  
Wayne Feeds  
Stratford, WI 54484  
Pres. Sales Club

June 23, 1994

Wisconsin State Assembly  
Representative Al Ott  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Ott,

Thanks for asking our opinion on issues that may impact Agriculture in the future. Due to the fact that the Wisconsin Feed, Seed, and Farm Supply Association and The Wisconsin Grain Dealers Association have merged, this letter will serve as their combined answer to your questions. Our members are concerned about legislation that is passed that impacts agriculture in any way. A resolution that was passed at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Grain Dealers Assn. states: Whereas today there are efforts by the Wisconsin Legislature and certain other governmental agencies to take away some of the duties of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and Whereas, it is the belief of the Wisconsin Grain Dealers Association that these efforts are with out merit Now therefore, be it resolved that The Wisconsin Grain Dealers Assn. be on record opposing such efforts,

I believe that all of Agriculture is concerned about the Property Tax issue. WFSFSA believes that everyone should pay their fair share but, using property tax to pay for education is inequitable to production agriculture. The end result will be of great interest to our members because we can only assume that sales tax will absorb a great deal of the tax deficit. We believe that your committee should be ever cognizant of efforts to undo some of the sales tax exemptions that are afforded agriculture.

The Clean Air Act and Ground Water legislation will really impact our industry. Most of our members are concerned about the environment and want to do their part in helping to protect it. But we need some one or some committee to help temper the over reaction by some environmentalists.

The Grain Dealer Law and Feed Dealer Law even though much more personal in nature are still a concern to our members. Over regulation of our businesses makes it much more difficult for us to do business. If legislation continues along these lines our membership will be forced to pass on these additional costs to our customers.

# Wisconsin Feed, Seed & Farm Supply Association, Inc.

BOX 90 • NASHOTAH, WI 53058 • 414/367-8404 • FAX (414) 367-8986

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**  
Roy Kanis

Rep. Ott, Pg 2

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
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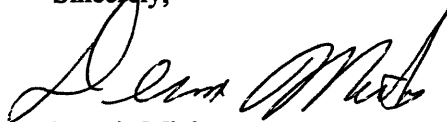
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**EX-OFFICIO**  
Jack D. Wilson  
Wayne Feeds  
Stratford, WI 54484  
Pres. Sales Club

Production agriculture does not need unnecessary or costly regulation. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on these important issues facing Agriculture. If you would like more specific information on any of these subjects please feel free to contact us. We will also be monitoring legislation in these areas and make more in depth comments at that time.

Sincerely,



Dennis Minks,  
President

**WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES**  
**MIDWEST FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION**

...comments received from MWFP Board & Wisconsin Legislative Committee members.

1. The DNR needs to be made to act with common sense with regard to what they do and what areas they pursue. They end up not pursuing the worst areas vigorously enough and waste greater efforts on lesser areas.
2. Pesticide application regulations- Federal & State vs. local; Aerial restrictions. (mentioned twice)
3. WDATCP Vegetable Producer Security Program-unreasonable and innappropriate. (mentioned three times) (Also, unnecessary fee increases to fund this program at WDATCP.)
4. Unrealistically strict waste water parameters.
5. Lack of food processor support with WDATCP and the WDATCP Board. (mentioned twice)
6. Groundwater/wellhead protection.
7. Land use laws.
8. Tax issues (Sales, property, general, etc.)
9. Legislature must continue to support UW Agriculture so as not to erode quality of expertise.
10. Work toward uniformity of Worker Protection Standards; States and Federal ultimately the same.
11. State mandated assistance shielding business from detrimental and poorly conceived legislation; Example: Current chlorine issue.
12. Legislative assistance to insure WDATCP rules and regulations take into consideration the business side of issues in place of the current one-sided approach.
13. Review and standardize raw product trucking and transportation, intra- and inter-state.

## NOMINAL GROUP PROCESS

- FOCUS:** Today's focus is on "action". In thinking about the three questions before you, give attention to ideas about what actions, steps or positions I would take to tackle this issue.
- Step 1: Silent reflection and notation of your thoughts about the question. *(Please no conversations that might disturb another group members thoughts)*
- Step 2: Round robin *(Without discussion, each group member is given opportunity to report one most important idea at a time from their card. If your idea appears to have already been expressed, feel free to go to the next one. Please report important ideas, succinctly, to help recorder capture the essence of your point. The group recorder will list ideas on newsprint as reported by the member.)*
- Step 3: Clarification *(Questions are raised at this point to clarify and important ideas that have been listed that are not clear to other members. The person who report the idea is asked to give a brief clarification.)*
- Step 4: Prioritization *(Group members are asked to review all listed ideas and record their opinion about the first, second and third ideas the individual believe most important after having heard and seen all the possible ideas for action. Use colored dots as directed.)*
- Step 5: Review product *(Can the group "live with their thinking?)*
- Step 6: Post top three ideas agreed upon by the group

July 13, 1994



30  
5  
150

specific actions  
+ concise

10 minutes 1. Repeat question  
2. Silently think about ques. + jot down key ideas that come to mind on index card

3. Each person select 1 most important idea in response to question (go around circle) until everyone has completed card  
Please feel free to move on to next idea if already heard yours  
Can pass if you've completed ideas

\* \* No one question or talk while someone else is talking  
No speeches - statement, nub of idea

(Record as clearly as possible, use #'s)

Can combine statements but not a lot, no debate

4. Any ideas on board they want clarified + person should clarify who gave idea (not a speech or debate)

5. Using other side of card, select # of the idea they feel is most important ~~more than 3~~ select 3 (in order of importance)

~~more than 3~~

~~more than 3~~

6. Go to board + place stickers (ex: gold is #1 priority)

count, here's how we come out, small discussion, can you live w/ this

Clean piece of paper Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Question # \_\_\_\_\_ Economics Taxation Land Use

most #1 stickers - 1.

most #2 " " - 2.

most #3 " " - 3

} transfer language to clean sheet

~~Merge groups puts stickers on small group sheets  
top 3 out of 9 points~~

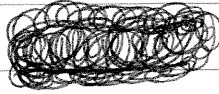
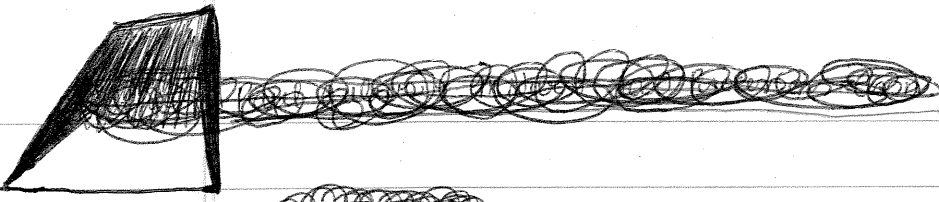
9:00

10:30 am

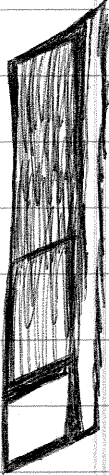
10:45

10:45 am

July 13<sup>th</sup> - WMC



Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> - press releases



1. Properly phrased question

"what should the Assembly GOP Caucus @ agriculture platform be when we take the majority?" / rural w/

2. 1 1/2 hrs. per question

- least controversial question 1<sup>st</sup>, hardest one 2<sup>nd</sup>, less hard later

3. ideal group between 7-15

4. 1 leader - sets task keeps time

explain activity

w/in group - 1 recorder who records ideas verbatim on easel pad - tear off full pages & tape up so can see at all times

ask ahead of time

1/2 sheet instruction paper

? actual bill ideas from this

Top 5 not needed

8:30 start

4:30 pm

Call WMC: - coffee, rolls - lunch

258-3400

do they have facilities

caterer (Che Voz)

have orders ahead of time

6/22 - left message for Yvonne to call

? soda in afternoon

coffee - per ~~cup~~ cup they make

juice/soda - per consumption

muffins - 1.10 each associated parties 1-15 each

box lunch 6.75 ea chef salads, hot lunch - up to 8.00 each

soup / sandwich - 6.50 each per person of day assortment

6/23 - left message for assistant to call

July 12<sup>th</sup> a.m.

at up meeting w/ Curtis Spear ? phone #

263-7980

262-9940



July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1994

- no lunch  
d paid

- Group 1 (Delora)
- pd. Jensen staff (Scott)
  - pd. Skindrud
  - pd. Owens
  - pd. Ward (late)
  - pd. Kaufert (late)
  - Lehman
  - pd. Ott
  - pd. Silbaugh (didn't eat)
  - pd. Albers
  - Seratti (part)

- Group 2 (John Diethan) pd.
- pd. Feese
  - pd. Brandemuehl
  - Hoetsch
  - Grothman
  - pd. Zukowski
  - pd. Prosser (part)
  - Ainsworth
  - pd. Hahn
  - Nass
  - Coleman (part)

- pd. Kim Riese, pd. Curtis Year
- Godi Tierney (Gensen)
  - Brett Healey (Gensen)

~~13  
6.50  
82.50  
125.00~~

~~13  
6.50  
82.50  
125.00~~

6.50	6.50
13	22
1950	1300
650	1300
34.50	143.00

lunch not paid: ~~13  
6.50  
82.50  
125.00~~

called these 3 7-14

John  
Delora

17 people ate @ 6.50 = \$ 110.50 (104.50 Kim)

1950  
650  
2600

(will owe)

110.50 + cost of coffee/milk  
26.00

~~32.00  
82.50  
85.00~~

~~3  
6.50  
19.50  
87.50  
125.00~~

~~13  
6.50  
82.50  
125.00~~

Wednesday, July 13th, 1994  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce  
501 East Washington Avenue  
8:30am to 3:00pm

Confirmed

Albers  
Ainsworth  
Zukowski  
Ott  
Brandemuehl  
Lazich  
Owens  
Ward  
Hahn  
Kaufert  
Lehman  
Nass  
Freese  
Goetsch  
Silbaugh  
Prosser  
Grothman  
Ourada

Musser (No lunch)  
Foti "  
Gard "

Kim, Delora, John, Curtis Gear

July 13th  
top

July <sup>13th</sup> week → meeting

June 22nd out w/  
letter

August 10<sup>th</sup> → platform

response - July 1<sup>st</sup> due

Curtis Gear  
Identify problems

news release > all + John  
- people can localize

\* farm papers

or  
Identify program

1. Identify concerns in rural Wisconsin

- 1. lack of opportunities - economic - to keep young people there or to bring them back; stuck in old rural profile
- 2. Walmart on edge of town ~ hardware store downtown closes - bank moves to edge of town = Main Street program

## **NOMINAL GROUP PROCESS**

### **GOALS:**

1. Increase creativity and participation in group meetings involving problem-solving and /or fact-finding task
2. Develop or expand perceptions of critical issues within problem areas
3. Identify priorities of selected issues within problems, considering the viewpoints of differently oriented groups
4. Obtain the input of many individuals without the dysfunction of unbalanced participation, which often occurs in large groups

### **PROCESS:**

1. Facilitator encourages everyone present to contribute their perceptions, expertise, and experience to define the critical issues within the problem at hand
2. Participants divide into groups of five to eighth persons each
3. Participants are given questions to be focused upon along with paper and are asked to silently and independently list their response, using key phrases only, to the question
4. A volunteer in each group acts as recorder for that group and asks each participant, one at a time, to present an item that person has on their list. (Items are recorded on newsprint until each participant's list has been included.)
5. Groups now discuss items listed on their master sheet for purposes of clarification, elaboration, or addition of new items
6. Without discussion, each group members apply (weighted color stickers) next to the items they feel are of greater importance
7. Tally results
8. Engage in discussion and clarification of the ranking of priorities to ensure that each member understands what is meant by each priority
9. Small group results are presented to the larger group for a final assignment of values and reflection of the total group priority

**TASK TODAY -- DEFINE FOCUS QUESTIONS...**



Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension

610 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 262-9960 FAX (608) 262-6250

Community Dynamics Institute

July 18, 1994

Representative Alvin R. Ott  
3rd Assembly District  
P.O. Box 8953 State Capital  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Al:

Thank you for the note about our session with the caucus on July 13. It was a pleasure to work with the group as well as an opportunity to develop insights about the complexity of the political process. I am happy that it was possible to be of assistance. If I can be of service in the future, please do not hesitate to call.

In response to your question, I sensed that the nominal group process worked quite effectively to help the group address the three critical issues identified. In fact, I do not believe the group could have sorted through the many different expressed points of view had a traditional discussion process been used. Discussion is important, but it does not provide opportunity for all people to be heard and makes it difficult to capture the different points of view in a way that a group can zero in on priorities. In this regard, the nominal group process served well.

Tension is not unusual in any group where so many divergent ideas about how to tackle a given issue exists. Sure I observed some tension but in the final analysis, I feel tensions were dealt with without lasting damage. Perhaps the only way in which the process contributed to increase tension was when one member was in a position to say to the rest of the group that he knew more about what the final priorities should be. While I support the notion that caucus leadership needs to take the group product and work it into a politically viable plan statement, in the future use of this process, all effort should be made to avoid permitting any one person to evaluate the outcome of group thought.

Again, thanks for asking. I stand ready to help whenever you think I can assist.

Cordially,

Curtis E. Gear Jr.  
Community Development Specialist



**ALVIN R. OTT**

State Representative  
3rd Assembly District

July 14, 1994

Mr. Curtis Gear  
Community Development Specialist  
University of Wisconsin-Extension  
610 Langdon Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Curtis,

I want to extend my sincerest thank you for your part in the Agriculture and Rural Economic Development meeting held by Representative Ainsworth and myself. Your efforts and willingness to participate deserve primary credit for much of the success of the meeting. You were extremely helpful in pulling together this effort, especially in helping to define focus questions in areas you may not be that familiar with.

Your leadership and the nominal group process were well received by those legislators who attended the meeting. I'm sure all of us, including yourself, now realize the challenge before us all to help rural Wisconsin.

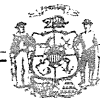
I'm curious as to your observations from the meeting. How did you think the nominal group process worked with legislators and politics? Did you feel the "tense" moments hampered the process? Do you feel there was a conflict of personalities and/or issues and if so, did this hamper the process? If you have a few spare moments, I'd like to hear your thoughts.

Once again, please accept my sincerest thank you. I really appreciate all of the time and effort you gave us. One of the legislators told me he thought our meeting was one of the most productive issue sessions yet and I have to say I agree with him.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Ott  
State Representative  
3rd Assembly District

ARO:kjr



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