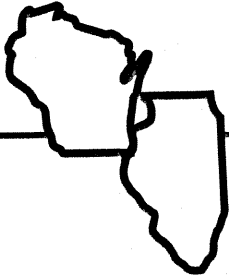


MIDWEST



EQUIPMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION

13 Odana Court • Madison, Wisconsin 53719 • 608-276-6700 • Fax 608-276-6719
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 44364 • Madison, Wisconsin 53744-4364

February 9, 1994

Assembly Transportation Committee
Wisconsin Assembly
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 932 on Mechanics Liens

Dear Representative Turner and Members of the Committee:

The Midwest Equipment Dealers Association ("MEDA") is the trade association representing farm and power equipment dealers throughout Wisconsin. MEDA is one of the associations which has requested updating of Wisconsin's mechanic lien statute and urges your committee to support adoption of AB 932.

1. Background on Mechanics Liens.

Ever since 1849, Wisconsin has had a mechanics lien law. When a person takes equipment or other goods to a repair shop and authorizes repair work, the law provides that the mechanic has a lien on the goods repaired for the reasonable charges for the repairs. A mechanic or repair shop may retain possession of the goods until charges are paid and, if the charges are not paid in two months, may foreclose on the lien and sell the goods as specified by statute.

An essential part of the law is that the mechanic or repair shop has priority of their lien over the lien of any other secured party up to a specified amount. Presently, the priority amount for farm tractors, machines of husbandry and off-highway construction vehicles is \$5,000. This amount was last established in 1979.

As an example, if a farmer authorizes an \$8,000 tractor repair and is unable to pay for the repair, the shop may foreclose on its lien after two months and conduct a sale of the tractor. If a bank or other lending institution also has a lien on the tractor, the proceeds of sale would be distributed as follows: the first \$5,000 to the repair shop; the lending institution would receive the next amount up to the value of its lien; the repair shop would receive the remaining \$3,000 of its lien if proceeds were available; and the farmer would receive any surplus.

*Serving Farm, Industrial, Dairy, Farmstead Mechanization,
and Outdoor Power Equipment Dealers throughout Illinois and Wisconsin*



AFFILIATE OF NORTH AMERICAN EQUIPMENT DEALERS ASSOCIATION



Whether or not proceeds are available, the farmer or debtor is still liable for all of the secured debts and could have a deficiency if the value of the tractor was insufficient to pay the secured parties. The purpose of the priority amount is to prevent lenders from reaping the benefits of increased values due to repairs and leaving repair shops, who enhanced the value, holding the bag if a default occurred.

2. Purpose of Assembly Bill 932.

AB 932 simply doubles the priority amounts presently set forth in the statutes. Thus, the present \$5,000 lien priority for farm tractors and machines of husbandry would become \$10,000.

The mechanics lien priority limits have not been adjusted since 1979. In the past fifteen (15) years, both technology and inflation have caused repair costs to increase and the old amounts are simply insufficient to protect repair shops for the value of their work.

3. Support for Assembly Bill 932.

AB 932 benefits both members of MEDA and the customers with whom they work. AB 932 does not affect the cost of repairs, it only affects which lienholder would be paid first if a default occurs.

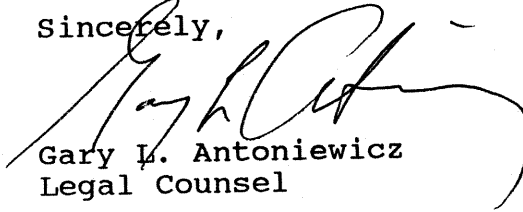
When mechanics lien priorities are too low, customers are harmed by delays in obtaining repairs. If a repair shop is undertaking a \$10,000 repair, the only way a repair shop can protect itself under present law is either to require payment up front or to contact any lending institution holding a lien and work out a subordination before the repair is started. Either scenario causes delay and is impractical. Many farm machinery repairs are urgent and may occur on weekends when lending institutions are closed. Repair shops are also required to do a lien search at the register of deeds to identify all secured parties as the farmer might have a lien for the purchase lender as well as a blanket lien on all equipment owned for an operating loan.

The result of the present low priority limits is to create delays as repair shops must take steps to protect the value of their work before undertaking major repairs.

Assembly Transportation Committee
February 9, 1994
Page 3

Costs of repairs keep rising and, to be effective, the mechanics lien priority limit must also be periodically adjusted. With the great growth of technology surrounding machines of husbandry, \$10,000 repairs are common. AB 932 will benefit both repair shops and their customers by removing a major cause of delay in obtaining equipment repairs. MEDA urges your committee to support adoption of this important bill.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Antoniewicz
Legal Counsel

SALES TAX ON FARM EQUIPMENT

By: Gary L. Antoniewicz, MEDA Legal Counsel

1993 Wisconsin Act 437 passed by our legislature and signed by the governor on April 25, 1994, requires that beginning in fiscal year 1996-97, the state will provide two-thirds of the revenues to finance local schools. In real terms, this means the state will have to increase its expenditures for school aids by nearly \$1 billion. This \$1 billion increase in spending means that the state will have to cut other expenditures or find new revenue sources to obtain the required money. The question of how and where to find the required extra \$1 billion for school aids may be the single most important question facing the next legislature which will begin work in January 1995.

Wisconsin can generate additional income by increasing individual and/or corporate income taxes and by increasing the state sales tax. Because Wisconsin already ranks as having among the highest income taxes in the nation, there is great pressure to look at funding increased school aid through the sales tax. Sales tax revenues can be generated by increasing the tax rate and by imposing the tax on currently exempt purchases.

According to statistics published by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, imposing the present five percent sales tax on currently exempt farm purchases would yield the state an additional \$105 million annually. (This does not take into account that most counties charge an additional 0.5 percent county sales tax).

If the state increased its sales tax by one percent to six percent, the yield to the state would be \$519 million annually. This still would not be enough to meet increased revenue needs. Adding a six percent sales tax to exempt farm purchases would bring the state \$126 million closer to its goals.

A person does not need to be a rocket scientist to figure out that the "farm purchases" exemption in the sales tax will be a tempting target for legislators to zero in on during their hunt for new revenues. You will know legislators are serious about extending the sales tax to farm purchases when you hear them start referring to the exemption as a tax "loophole." When legislators impose new taxes by removing exempt items, they always say how instead of raising taxes, they are simply eliminating current tax "loopholes."

What dealers and their customers must ask themselves is what effect the extension of the sales tax to currently exempt farm purchases would have on their businesses and the general farm economy. Can farmers afford a 5 - 6.5 percent price increase on all of their farm purchases. What will happen to your sales if you are forced to charge an additional 5 - 6.5 percent. For the past decade, the numbers of equipment dealers as well as their farm customers have steadily declined. Will continued decline be hastened by adding new taxes now?

1994 is a critical year as it is the legislators elected this fall who will finally decide how the increased state school aids will be paid for. Each legislator and candidate needs to address this critical issue in their campaign. Voters have a right to expect firm answers from candidates on how such critical issues will be addressed.

Dealers and their customers must get involved in the upcoming election and support and work for candidates who will protect the fragile farm economy. Expanding the sales tax to farm equipment and other currently exempt farm purchases is a real possibility and could happen.

**POTENTIAL MAJOR GENERAL PURPOSE TAX INCREASES
ANNUAL YIELD, 1994-95**

	Amount (Millions)		Amount (Millions)
INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX		SALES TAX SERVICES, continued	
Add new bracket at 7.93% ¹	\$ 183	<u>Personal Services</u> , including beautician & barber (\$17 m)	\$ 32
Impose a 10% surtax	420	<u>Other Services</u> , including real estate commissions (\$27 m)	81
Repeal 60% capital gains exclusion ²	72		
CORPORATE INCOME TAX		5% SALES TAX ON GOODS	
Make top rate 8.9% (now, 7.9%)	\$ 69	<u>Business Purchases</u> , including manufacturing machinery & equipment (\$111 m)	\$ 163
Impose a 10% surtax	54	<u>Farm Purchases</u>	105
SALES TAX RATE		<u>Purchases by Exempt Organizations</u> , including nonprofits (\$33 m), & state & local government (\$116 m)	157
Increase rate from 5% to 6%	\$ 519	<u>Personal Necessities</u> , including food for home consumption (\$424 m), fuel & electricity (\$88 m), motor fuel (\$160 m) & prescriptions (\$48 m)	756
5% SALES TAX ON SERVICES		<u>Real Property Rentals</u> , including residential (\$130 m) & other (\$200 m)	330
<u>Building Services</u> , including construction labor, repairs & sewer (\$184 m)	\$ 206	<u>Other</u> , including newspapers (\$14 m) & vehicle trade-ins (\$50 m)	75
<u>Business Services</u> , including accounting (\$29 m), advertising (\$74 m), computer (\$52 m) & legal (\$56 m)	317		
<u>Medical Services</u> , including hospitals & nursing homes (\$330 m), & medical & dental (\$269 m)	599		

¹Would apply to net income over \$40,000 on a joint return and over \$30,000 on a single return. Current rate is 6.93%.

²Also increases net capital losses to offset ordinary income from \$500 to \$3,000.

Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

surplus. This means that, in the 1995-96 fiscal year, about \$140 million of revenue growth will be needed just to bring revenues in line with expenditures.

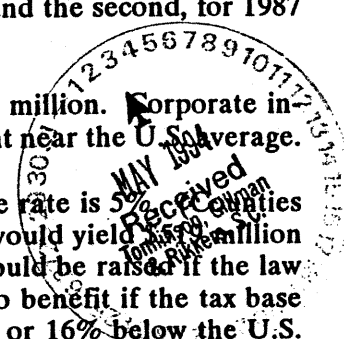
Potential Tax Increases

The table above shows the revenue that could be raised by various tax increases based on the 1994-95 year.

Individual Income Tax. This tax will yield an estimated \$3.920 billion in 1994-95. Comparing Wisconsin's state and local income tax collections to other states shows that, in 1991, Wisconsin's per capita individual income taxes were \$606, 8th highest and 40% above the U.S. average. State policy, based on recommendations of the Wisconsin Strategic Development Commission in 1982, was to reduce reliance on the individual income tax. As a result, there were 2 reductions in the Wisconsin individual income tax rates. The first became effective for 1986 under Governor Anthony S. Earl (D), and the second, for 1987 under Governor Thompson.

Corporate Income Tax. The revenue from this tax in 1994-95 is estimated at \$535 million. Corporate income taxes per capita in 1991 were \$89 and Wisconsin ranked 13th, with the amount near the U.S. average.

Sales Tax. Estimated state sales tax collections in 1994-95 are \$2.595 billion. The rate is 5% (counties have the option of adding 0.5%). An increase in the state rate from 5% to 6% would yield \$150 million annually. The table above indicates the annual revenue by major category that could be raised if the law was changed to tax other goods and services at the 5% rate. Counties would also benefit if the tax base was broadened. Wisconsin's per capita sales tax in 1991 was \$415, ranking 30th, or 16% below the U.S. average.



After 708 issues of "Your Wisconsin Government," the author, James R. Morgan, President of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, has retired. He is replaced by Todd A. Berry.

MIDWEST FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION, INC.



502 E. MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 1297 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701
Telephone: 608/255-9946 FAX: 608/255-9838

June 21, 1994

Representative Al Ott
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Al:

Thank you for inviting the Midwest Food Processors Association to comment on Agricultural issues for the Republican Caucus.

As you can see from the attached list, most of our member concerns are fueled by the State regulatory agencies. I share the members' concerns, and view unwanted, unnecessary (and expensive) regulation as being the biggest impediment to agricultural growth in Wisconsin.

I urge you and members of the Assembly Agriculture Committee to utilize MWFPA as a resource for information on the current status of agriculture in the Midwest (including Wisconsin) and the nation. In agriculture, all too often legislation and rules are created as if Wisconsin were an island unto itself, populated by any number of special interests. We cannot forget that other states (and nations) produce agricultural commodities, and therefore compete with Wisconsin in the marketplace. (If milk production figures are any indication, agriculture is in big trouble in Wisconsin.)

In conclusion, I ask that the Assembly Agriculture Committee work to decrease the operating expenses of all those who work in agriculture. Do we really need all the burdensome (and expensive) licenses, fees and security programs we now have? All of these costs are being borne, ultimately, by the farmer. He is the one who really pays for all of the dozens of agricultural programs currently in existence, and for the growing payroll at the WDATCP.

Thanks, again, for your invitation. I look forward to working with you to build agriculture in Wisconsin!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul J. Julius".

Paul J. Julius
Executive Director

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES
MIDWEST FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

...comments received from MWFPA 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 inappropriate. (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.

Wisconsin Feed, Seed & Farm Supply Association, Inc.

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

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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

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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.

OUR MEMBERS NEVER STAND ALONE

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
Dennis Minks

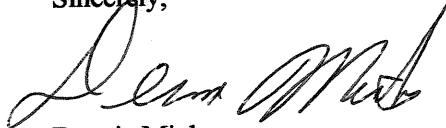
SECRETARY-TREASURER
Robert J. Dinkel

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Eldon H. Roesler

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.

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

Sincerely,



Dennis Minks,
President

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Pres. Sales Club

OUR MEMBERS NEVER STAND ALONE

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)



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. Rikkens · Thomas G. Travers

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

Representative Ott
June 27, 1994
Page 2

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.

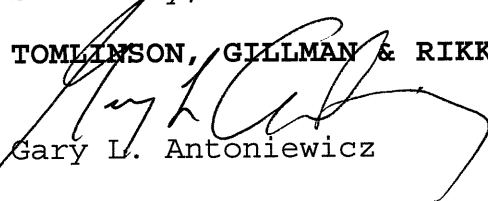
MEDA will be proposing legislation in these areas to strengthen dealership protections.

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:klb
Enclosures
cc: Mr. Gary Manke

Dear Al Ott, Your aide phoned me on 4-19-94 and asked for our position paper. You will find some statements in this newsletter.

Sincerely,
Eunice Guell



Guell-Crest Farm
Henry R. & Eunice M. Guell
N2711 County Road k
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

"To maintain and build demand for Wisconsin beef and veal."

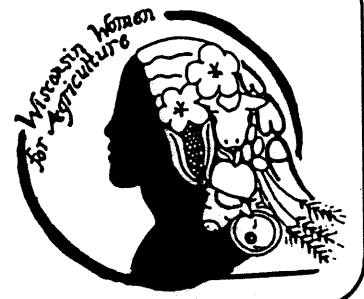
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

SPRING 1994

CHARTER MEMBER & AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN



AUDREY SICKINGER ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF WWA

Audrey Sickinger (Reedsville), was elected to a two-year term as president of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture. A member of the Bay-Lakes Chapter, Audrey succeeds Eunice Guell, (Fond du Lac), a member of Rock River Chapter, who served Wisconsin's farm families well at this post for three terms. Eunice assumed the vice presidency.

This is Audrey's second time around, having served as WWA president from 1978 to 1982, when WWA was in its formative years. Begun in 1973, the new organization was launched by its first president, Nancy Smidle (Kewaunee) who is fondly regarded as its foundress.

In 1974, one year after its inception, WWA leaders joined with Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan (WSAM) in the development of American Agri-Women (AAW), the first national coalition of farm women's associations in several states.

Audrey has been active in AAW having served as National Secretary and chaired the Dairy, Nominations and Leavan Committees.

Audrey and Eunice Guell, together with Millie Schultz of Michigan are the only AAW members who have attended every one of the national conventions in its 20-year history.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY OBSERVANCE TOPS ACTION

WWA Annual Writing Contest again sparked interest in matters agricultural among elementary and junior high school students in WWA chapter areas, according to Grantland Chapter President Dorothy Lepeska (Stitzer), contest director.

Students from third grade through ninth grade were invited to compete in recognition of National Agriculture Day, March 20, 1994.

The primary emphasis was on creativity, originality and content, as well as neat-

ness and grammar. Entries were limited to four to six paragraphs in length including the introductory and concluding paragraphs.

Topics for the contest were: Grades 3-4, "Safety on the Farm"; Grades 5-6, "Why Students Need a Good Breakfast"; Grades 7-8-9, "How Environmental Issues Affect My Family".

Prizes to each age group were: first place, \$25; second place, \$15; and third place, \$10.

All entries the property of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, the winning essays will be published.

WWA's Annual Legislative Brunch was held at the State Capitol, Madison, on Tuesday, March 15, 1994 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in Room 421 South.

Focus of this year's celebration during National Agriculture Week, (March 14-20), was on the accomplishments of alternative uses for agricultural products. New uses are an example of the ag industry responding to consumers' concerns.

National Ag Day provides a unique opportunity to send the message to millions of Americans that agriculture is "Growing Better Every Day" and that "New Uses" are an important part of that growth, the themes of the 1994 observance.

Commodity groups, processors and ag organizations were invited to co-sponsor the event emphasizing "New Uses of Food Products", according to the chairperson of the event, Rosemary Eckardt of Merrill. State officers, legislators and the media were invited to sample the display of foods, acquire commodity information and examine educational materials.

LEGISLATIVE BEAT

WWA Opposes Change in Ag Board

The legislative move to change membership on the Wisconsin Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is opposed by WWA members, according to WWA State President Audrey Sickinger (Reedsville).

"In our Position Paper for 1994, we hold that "the WDATCP advisory board

continue to be comprised of ^{SIX} five persons with agriculture interests and one person with a consumer protection interest. We oppose changing the method of selecting board representation."

According to Russell Weisensel, legislative affairs director of Wis. Agri-Business Council (WA-BC) this bill was proposed last year by then Senate Environmental Resources Committee Chairman Brian Burke of Milwaukee.

Forty-plus ag organizations (including WWA) banded together to oppose Senate Bill 643 and Assembly Bill 1038. Sponsors are Senator Burke, Assemblyman Frank Boyle (Superior), and eight other urban representatives.

Farm groups found these bills offensive since "it implies farmers are not capable of looking out for the best interests of our consumers. Farmers earn their living from the consuming public, and as a result, are extremely sensitive to their concerns". from WA-BC report 2-9-94

COLLECTIBLE QUOTES

All About Snack Food — Did You Know— "That it takes 10,000 pounds of potatoes to make 2,500 pounds of potato chips? (And that the largest potato chip was made on April 19, 1990, measuring 23 x 14 inches?) "That the average American crunches over 20 pounds of snacks each year? "That potato chips are Americans' favorite snack? "That three-fourths of the microwaveable popcorn is eaten in the evening? "That the West Central region (NE, KS, SD, ND, WY and CO) is the biggest snacking region? "That some snack food manufacturers sell their overcooked snack foods to dog food companies to use as dog food filler?

The Badger Common'tater, Jan. '94

Some Things about Pets: According to an article in the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Ass'n, the number of pets in this nation as of December 1991 is awesome!

There are 52.5 million dogs, 57.0 million cats 11.7 million birds, 4.9 million horses, 24.0 million fish; 1.3 million ham-

sters, and 600,000 gerbils.

Add it all up — 156.6 million pets divided by 4.6 million farm population = one farmer feeds 34 million pets.

And that ain't all: According to Howard Deardorf of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) —

**Pet food sales (cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, fish, etc.) total \$8.4 billion per year.
** Dog and cat food sales total \$6 billion a year. ** Pet accessories and supplies bring total sales of \$4 billion per year. from *OWA The Cultivator*

NDB Milk Promotion Available: A video presentation, "Make Mine Milk" is now available from the National Dairy Board. It can be used as a talking point for presentations to service organizations or women's groups as well as to school classes. Teachers would be very happy to have the video as part of their lesson plans. Television stations may also be interested in using it.

The video is available from the National Dairy Board / Attn: "Make Mine Milk Video" / 2111 Wilson Blvd. # 600 / Arlington, VA 22201 Phone: (703) 528-4800/
Cost: \$2.56 plus shipping
Shipping cost: 1-2 videos = \$2.90
3 videos = \$4.10

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PROJECT

Jean Ibendahl, Special Projects Chairman, calls our attention to AAW's request that a stamp commemorating women in agriculture be issued at some future date. She has been advised that the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee at the U.S. Postal Department is studying the proposal. "We need to swamp them with letters of support," Jean said.

Letters of endorsement might mention such things as historical significance, economic contribution, family commitment, community involvement, personal attributes (stability, leadership, "leaven", versatility), political action.

Also important: 130,000 of the 2.1 million U.S. farms have a woman in charge. Last census figures show that women farm operators increased by more than 10,000 in the last five years — when overall number of farms was declining.

Whole sections of a farm business may be operated or managed by women such as livestock systems, marketing, record keeping, machinery care and field work. Many farm machinery manufacturers do extensive research to find out what women want in farm machine performance.

Says Jean, "You may wish to elabo-

rate on one or two of these points, but, please, NO ART WORK. Specially skilled artists are hired to do that. Help convince the Advisory Committee that WE are worthy of this honor."

For more information, write to Jean Ibendahl at Route 1, Box 12, Tamaroa IL 62888.

Address your endorsement letters to:
**James C. Tolbert, Jr. Manager
Stamp Management
Stamp Advisory Committee
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260**

* * * * *

Wisconsin Women for Agriculture Position Paper . . . February, 1994

WWA believes that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) should continue to have the regulatory authority for the prevention of groundwater contamination. They should also regulate the use of pesticides.

WWA believes that the WDATCP advisory board continue to be comprised of six persons with agriculture interests and one person with a consumer protection interest. We oppose changing the method of selecting board representation.

WWA believes that health insurance premiums should be deductible as a business cost for self-employed persons. A 100% deduction should be allowed.

WWA supports the concept of value-added products which will command a higher price in the national and international marketplace. This, in turn, will ensure increased profit for the producer of the commodity.

WWA believes that "Ag in the Classroom" and "Ag Career Days" should be more extensively promoted to improve understanding of agriculture's importance to Wisconsin.

WWA supports the production of ethanol in Wisconsin plants. Corn value would have a 30% increase per bushel. Ethanol can also be made from soybeans, wheat, barley, potatoes, milo, molasses, and in the future, paper mill waste, cheese whey, and wood.

WWA believes that farmers and ranchers provide quality care of their farm animals.

Animal welfare is the belief that animals deserve responsible treatment at all times. Animal rights is the belief that animals have the same rights as people and should not be used for any purpose.

WWA supports biotechnology research and encourages the expedient approval of any product that results from such research.

WWA supports a life-time exemption from capitol gains tax of \$200,000 per individual for property used in a trade or business in which the individual or spouse has actively participated.

WWA believes that farmers are conservationists and stewards of land and water resources. They efficiently produce food, feed, fiber, fuel, forest products and flora.

WWA supports educational programs that instruct farm personnel about the proper use and operation of farm machinery.

WWA supports programs which encourage farm safety. Voluntary educational programs on safe handling of chemicals; knowledge of first aid and CPR procedures; and the proper care, maintenance, and operation of machinery as examples.

WWA supports the concept of right-to-farm. This involves protecting farmers from complaints and legal action by neighbors who are irritated with noise, dust, odor, etc. which are an integral part of agricultural production.

WWA recognizes the contribution of labor made by farm women and children. We support the current \$600,000 estate tax exemption making it possible for retiring farmers to ensure the next generation of family farms.

WWA supports the proposed Farm Equity Act of 1994 which would allow for the transfer of assets from a farm sale into special accounts similar to IRA's to be sheltered from tax liabilities until the funds are actually used.

WWA supports the biodiesel fuel pilot program in the Madison Metro System. Biodiesel will be tested as a renewable fuel in four of the oldest buses for (50,000 miles), with the fuel blend being donated by the Wisconsin Soybean Association.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has officially arrived. All agree we had an old-fashioned winter. I for one have decided "Old-Fashioned" is not for me.

Spring signals the spirit of hope. It is exciting to see sprouts of green again. I hope that the elements of weather will be favorable in 1994. Hope shows in the true character of farm families.

In 1993 WWA celebrated twenty years of service. I would like to say "Thank You" to all past officers and all our members for their dedication to a stronger agriculture. WWA members had the hope that by working together we could make a difference.

Make a difference we did! Education has been a top priority. Nearly 600 education packets were given to teachers during the ten days of State Fair. Our essay writing contest for school children opened their eyes as to how many ways agriculture touched their lives.

Our Legislative Brunch coordinated with other commodity groups and farm organizations at the State Capitol was dedicated to the new uses agriculture products had to offer.

As members we took part in the twentieth anniversary convention hosted by the Mar-Lin Chapter at Wausau. There we had the experience of educating ourselves on concerns affecting agriculture. Our motto, INFORMATION — DELIBERATION — ACTION is as important today as it was when we organized.

Accepting the confidence you have placed in me as your new president, it is my hope that we continue to make a difference.

WWA members are the spirit of Wisconsin.

Audrey

WWA defines a family farm as a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by a family engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, fuel, forest products and/or flora for profit from which is derived the major source of income and capital for re-investment.

Events /Dates for Consideration

AAW Mid-Year Meeting April 30 - May 2, '94, at the Holiday Inn Citi Centre, Kansas City, MO.

AAW Fly-In to Washington, D.C. July 5-7 to meet and discuss issues with legislators.

Agricultural Women's Forum, June 8-10 at the Holiday Inn-Capitol, Washington D.C. Theme: "Agriculture: the Challenge of a Changing Environment." Environments to be explored are Regulatory, Legislative, Political, Social, Fiscal, Physical and Philosophical. Formerly the Farm Women's Forum, the program is now coordinated by the Agricultural Woman's Leadership Network (AWLN). Chairpersons: Nebraskan Alice Stuhr (WIFE) and Californian Carolyn Leavens (AAW).

AAW Tour of Australia and New Zealand, June 29 to July 12 organized through the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People International. Trenna Grabowski is tour leader.

First International Women in Agriculture Conference, July 1-3, '94, University of Melbourne, Australia. Theme: "Farming for Our Future". Included in the 34 countries represented are 12 African nations.

The Australian farm women who organized the conference intend to provide a forum for women to speak with a united voice on agricultural and rural issues; to raise the profile of women in agriculture;

to increase the awareness of the social, economic, legal and cultural factors affecting their status, and to provide a learning opportunity to develop new skills and accessibility to information and networks.

Mary Salce (from Sale, Victoria) Conference Convenor, says five core themes will be explored: Women in Agriculture, economics, environment, production and sustainable development.

For more information on the AAW tour and the International Conference, contact:

Mr. D. Michael Rennaker / Citizen Ambassador Program / Dwight Eisenhower Building / Spokane, WA 99202 / Phone: 509-534-0430 / FAX: 509-534-5245,

CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE DAY

MARCH 20

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THANKS TO ROCK RIVER CHAPTER SPONSOR OF OUR SPRING ISSUE

WISCONSIN WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE Membership Application

Miss _____
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First name of Spouse _____
WWA Chapter _____
Street/P.O. _____
State/zip _____
Phone _____
FAX _____
Membership: _____ New _____ Renewal
Commodity Produced _____
Current Focus of Interest _____

Annual Dues: \$25.00 of which \$10.00 is sent to the national office of American Agri-Women.

Members of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture are automatically members of American Agri-Women. Members receive the WWA Newsletter and the Voice of American Agri-Women.

Mail dues to: Dorothy Lepeska, State Treasurer
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
1683 Hopewell Road
Stitzer, WI 53825
(608) 943-6814

WISCONSIN WOMEN for AGRICULTURE

STATE OFFICERS

President: Audrey Sickinger (Mrs. Jerome)
5014 Highway G, Reedsville, WI 54230
(414) 754-4510
Vice President: Eunice M. Guell (Mrs. Henry)
N2771 Cty Rd K, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
(414) 921-9370
Secretary: Rose Mary Eckhardt
11425 4th Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-5423
Treasurer: Dorothy Lepeska (Mrs. Joseph)
1683 Hopewell Road, Stitzer, WI 53825
(608) 943-6814

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Bay-Lakes: JoAnn Vogel (Mrs. Marcellus)
6121 Rockwood Rd, Manitowoc, WI 54220
(414) 682-6615
Grantland: Dorothy Lepeska
683 Hopewell Road, Stitzer, WI 53825
(608) 943-6814
Heartland: Evelyn Simon (Mrs. Stephen)
W5446 Center Valley Rd
Black Creek, WI 54106
(414) 734-3236
Mar-Lin: Rose Mary Eckhardt (Mrs. Robert)
11425 4th Avenue, Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-5423
Rock River: Joyce Nass (William)
N1566 Hwy 26, Watertown, WI 53094
(414) 261-7212

WWA Newsletter
Vol. XVIII, No.3 Spring 1994

Editor-in-Chief Audrey Sickinger
Copy Editor Sr. Thomas More
Typography Sr. Mary Jerome
Publicity Chair Gloria Hafemeister
Mailing Public Information Office
Printing SLC Print Shop
Send correspondence to Editor Audrey Sickinger
5014 Highway G, Reedsville, WI 54230
(414) 754-4510

**In Memoriam
Dr. Dixy Lee Ray 1915-1994**

The Gospel according to John, 1:1-5

**In the beginning was the WORD:
the word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of humankind,
a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.**

The Apostle Jesus loved went on to speak of John the Baptist (1:6-8),
the precursor of the Word,
Reverently, we insert into that passage the name of a prophetess of our time who
dedicated her God-given gifts to an apostolate of words, spoken and written, that
people everywhere could find and follow the light of truth.

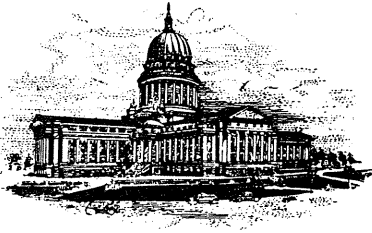
**A woman came, sent by God.
Her name was Dixy Lee Ray.
She came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through her.
She was not the light. only a witness to speak for the light.
Dixy's life is changed, not ended, She has left us well prepared
to extend her leadership with her WORD
in speeches, books, tapes, newspaper accounts,
her sevice record as Governor of Washington and
Director of the Atomic Energy Commission.**

Dixy was the recipient of the 1992 Veritas Award from American Agri-Women
given to those persons who are not associated with agriculture but who spoke the
truth about the industry which provides the basic necessities of life to all the
people God created and then redeemed when the Word who was with God came
to our planet. She is with us in spirit even now —
"a light that darkness could not overpower".

Representative at Ott
P.O. Box 8953
Reedsville, WI 53708

**WISCONSIN WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE
AUDREY SICKINGER, EDITOR
5014 HIGHWAY G
REEDSVILLE WI 54230**

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Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

May 20, 1994

Mr. Mike Dummer, President
National Farmers Organization
825 Water Street
Sauk City, WI 53583-1596

Dear Mr. Dummer:

The agriculture industry in Wisconsin continues to be the number one industry in our state despite the many changes and challenges it has faced. While we are certainly aware of the past challenges and many of the future challenges facing agriculture, we would like to hear the thoughts of your organization on what you and your members feel will be the important issues in agriculture in the next few years.

As Republican members of the Assembly Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Affairs Committee, we are contacting numerous rural and agriculture-related organizations and asking them to provide us with a copy of their most recent position papers and/or resolutions on issues of importance to them. We realize that many organizations send these items to legislators on an annual basis; however, we are hoping to gather everyone's lists at the same time so that we may compare and contrast the issues.

It is the intent of our caucus to develop a broad agenda of issues the majority of organizations feel need to be addressed to ensure that Wisconsin's agriculture industry continues to be the best in the nation. We would appreciate receiving your organization's information within seven to ten days or as soon as possible. Information can be sent to Representative Al Ott, P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact either Representative Al Ott at (608) 266-5831 or Representative John Ainsworth at (608) 266-3097 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Representative Al Ott
3rd Assembly District
Ranking Republican Member

Representative John Ainsworth
6th Assembly District
Committee Member

ARO/JHA:kjr

WISCONSIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission Statement

The Wisconsin Rural Development Council is a partnership involving tribal, federal, state, and local governments and private interests whose mission is to advocate for and enhance our state's rural human, natural and economic resources.

Executive Summary

This strategic plan was developed by the WRDC Executive Committee at a visioning session in September, 1993.

It is intended to be a working document which provides direction for council activities and answers to procedural questions. As a working document, it is subject to continual revision and clarification -- there will be no "final" copy.

This plan is presented in terms of: 1. GOALS, which are general statements of council direction; 2. OBJECTIVES, which are specific statements within each goal; 3. ACTIVITIES, which are specific actions identified to achieve the objectives; and 4. RELATED OUTCOMES, which are byproducts of council activities. Where appropriate, responsibilities to carry out certain activities have been identified. If no responsibility is stated, the activity is either the responsibility of the full council membership, or it has not yet been determined.

Since the WRDC is a new organization and a new type of organization, much of its success will rely on its operational effectiveness. Therefore, GOALS 1 and 2 relate to the operations and development of the council itself. GOAL 3 creates a bridge between internal operations and external effectiveness of the council. GOALS 4 and 5 begin to define the external purpose of the council and the positive direction and assistance it will provide for rural Wisconsin.

- GOAL 1: Develop and maintain a participatory, fully active, diverse membership.**
- GOAL 2: Define structure and roles within the council.**
- GOAL 3: Develop a rural partnership across Wisconsin to enhance the future for its people and places.**
- GOAL 4: Reduce barriers to rural development and enhance existing strengths in rural Wisconsin.**
- GOAL 5: Improve and maintain the quality of life for rural Wisconsin residents.**

GOAL 1: Develop and maintain a participatory, fully active, diverse membership.

Objective 1: Garner full participation from each of the 6 partners.

Activity 1: Create Executive Committee which contains a representative of each of the 6 partners.

- Create staggered terms to continually infuse new ideas and new people into the committee and council.
- Rotate the leadership of the committee among the partners to share responsibility for council effectiveness.

Activity 2: Develop a method of recruitment which attracts broad council participation.

- Recognize and recruit all the players in rural development.
- Recognize the value of contributions to be made by a diversity among geographical, age, professional, agency, gender, racial and ethnic groups.
- Recruit additional members from each member's partner group. (Full membership)
- Recruit additional members from each member's geographical area. (Full membership)
- Recruit additional members from each member's professional contacts. (Full membership)
- Extend membership information and invitations to those identified, either directly or through members. (Executive Director)
- Identify experts in issue areas that need to be addressed but sufficient expertise does not exist, and bring in those experts.

Activity 3: Build equitable participation, commitment and contributions of all partner members.

- Use a consensus-building, rather than hierarchical, decision-making process so all members have a stake in the outcome of the decision.
- Include members who have voices and expertise in several arenas. Take advantage of the wealth of expertise of the members.
- Place priority on working as teams; learn and act in a collaborative environment.

Activity 4: Recognize and reward the commitment of volunteers.

Objective 2: Build the WRDC into a long-term, viable, productive entity.

Activity 1: Demonstrate the value of the WRDC through new collaborative forums.

- Catalog and publicize success stories.
- Build identification and reputation as an organization that gets things done.

Activity 2: Maintain a non-restrictive, flexible and open policy for membership and participation. Create a positive, proactive environment which will enhance member contributions.

- Create a low-cost or no-cost membership.
- Place no limitations on the number of council members.
- Recognize and adapt to individual participants' time constraints; allow for ebb and flow of the extent of participation.
- Recognize external limitations placed on voluntary participation.
- Incorporate evolving and growing into the council structure.

Activity 3: Emphasize non-partisan, cooperative action to maintain the integrity of the mission of the council, as well as to adapt to

changes in rural development public policy through changes of governmental administration.

Objective 3: Garner financial and in-kind contributions to support council staff and activities in equal commitments from partners.

Activity 1: Each member investigate his/her organization's ability to contribute financially or in-kind.

Objective 4: Become a self-supporting entity, not dependent entirely on government funds.

Activity 1: Raise funding from all partner sources to support council operations.

Objective 5: Celebrate accomplishments.

Related Outcomes:

1. Bringing together previously separate or isolated interests to communicate, share information and resources.
2. No partner has more influence, responsibility or stake in the operations or outcomes of the council than the other partners.
3. Individual members gain new networks to further their individual professional and personal interests as well as the council's interests.

GOAL 2: Define structure and roles within the council.

Objective 1: Determine how the full council will operate.

Activity 1: Review information from National Initiative on Rural America (federal support), and other states' procedures.

Activity 2: Develop criteria for issues brought to the council.

Activity 3: Determine the nature of full council activity.

- Facilitate change.
- Catalyst for change.
- Forum for issue discussion, mediation and other methods of working out agreements.
- Frame issues.
- Advocacy by making contact with appropriate players.
- Educate council membership and communities for partnership and collaboration.
- Share credit, control, authority and resources.

Objective 2: Define roles of the Executive Committee.

- Define and focus issues.
- Develop and enact a set of criteria for accepting council issues.
- Direct how and in which forum action should be taken on issues.
- Review and advocate for committee recommendations.
- Facilitate partnerships.
- Provide a periodic assessment of the council's internal and external operations.

Objective 3: Define roles of the Executive Director.

Activity 1: Develop workplan

- Manage issue resolution process: screen, direct and track issues.
- Coordinate council internal and external communications.
- Increase public relations of council: media contact and informational presentations.
- Catalog, report and disseminate results of council in a tangible and measurable format (newsletter, annual or semi-annual reports).
- Maintain council day-to-day operations: council meetings, committee activity, task force activity.
- Develop capacity of council through partnerships and consensus building.
- Direct and provide research and information collection to support committee and task force activity.
- Maintain council's budget.
- Establish and maintain working relationships and communication with council's support systems (NIO, UWEX, MMG, ERS, Governor's Office, NREDI, consultants, etc.).

Activity 2: Determine and establish reporting relationship.

Activity 3: Develop evaluation/feedback process.

Objective 4: Create issue committees to provide a framework for, and to work in depth on, topical rural issues/problems/needs brought to the council.

- Committees set regular meeting schedules, keep meeting minutes and report results to Executive Director.

- Activity 1:* Determine which issues/problems/needs the committee can feasibly address within its resources.
- Activity 2:* Create a task force when the subject involves more than one committee.
- Activity 3:* Create sub-committees when appropriate and necessary.

GOAL 3: Develop a rural partnership across Wisconsin to enhance the future for its people and places.

Objective 1: Provide a forum for rural interests to meet and work together on neutral ground.

Objective 2: Develop a resource inventory which will enhance awareness in rural areas, and more effectively use existing resources.

Objective 3: Be advocates for rural Wisconsin.

Activity 1: Publicize the existence and purpose of the council.

Activity 2: Promote "word of mouth" participation in council activities.

Objective 4: Create a better communication avenue between government programs (federal and state) and local users (tribes, municipalities, businesses and organizations).

Activity 1: Bring all parties to the "table," face to face, to learn about the others.

Activity 2: Collect information from all partners and distribute via newsletter and other informational vehicles.

Objective 5: Establish and maintain informational communications with the legislative and executive branches of state government.

Activity 1: Involve legislators and administration representatives in council membership.

Activity 2: Provide copies of newsletter and other informational materials to legislators and administration officials.

Objective 6: Involve a greater variety of state agencies in the council.

Activity 1: Identify all agencies with an interest in rural Wisconsin and extend council information and invitations to them.

Objective 7: Increase the visibility and interaction of federal agencies in rural Wisconsin.

Activity 1: Encourage greater participation of federal agencies with regional and district offices located outside of Wisconsin.

Related Outcomes:

1. Bringing multi-level work groups together enables each participant to gain a new perspective of the others' jobs and responsibilities.
2. Bringing together multi-level governmental, business and organizational representatives enhances the exchange of information needed to promote sensible and effective public policy. Each stakeholder in the policy has been engaged to provide its point of view, and final policy or action has been decided by consensus on the basis of complete information.
3. Partnerships built will transcend the boundaries of the council and have a permanent, positive effect in many other areas.
4. Providing informational communications to legislative and executive officials will increase awareness and elevate the status of rural issues.

GOAL 4: Reduce barriers to rural development and enhance existing strengths in rural Wisconsin.

Objective 1: Create a vision for rural Wisconsin, based on current data and other information.

Activity 1: Prepare list of basic services needed for development of rural areas.

- Define quality of services, including education.
- Quantify and qualify labor force needs: educated, competent, motivated, good work ethic.
- Identify needs of youth in relation to training and support for future leadership.

Activity 2: Identify local leadership and promote that the leadership be well educated, motivated, informed, competent and effective.

Activity 3: Advocate and create forums which promotes economic diversity, self-sustaining communities and job creation.

Activity 4: Identify economic assets.

- Healthy statewide economy.
- High quality of life: amenities, service, pride.
- High educational standards and performance.
- Fiscally sound state government.

Objective 2: Review rural issues within the following external contexts:

- Federal policies/laws/regulations.
- State policies/laws/regulations.
- Local policies/laws/regulations.
- Economic trends such as changes in the labor force; market

globalization; job training; property values; technology and communications.

- Administrative trends such as "reinventing government" and "privatization".
- Demographic trends such as aging of rural populations, relocation of retirees, and changing lifestyles.
- Partisan expectations and political transitions.
- Local capacities, including structural, organizational and attitudinal.
- Environmental ethics and impacts.

Objective 3: Develop a process for resolution of rural development issues/problems/needs.

Activity 1: Develop criteria for determining which issues/problems/needs the council will address.

Activity 2: Develop a resource inventory and network for rural development individuals, organizations and businesses to access.

Activity 3: Establish issue committees to study and address issues.

- Set guidelines for committee activity.

Objective 4: Capitalize on Wisconsin's progressive attitude.

- Open to change.
- Midwest ethic for self-improvement.
- Hard workers.

Objective 5: Create forums for rural issue resolution.

Activity 1: Facilitate bringing issue stakeholders to a neutral meeting ground.

Activity 2: Create committees around specific issue areas.

Activity 3: Create task forces to study and make recommendations for resolution of issues which cross or blend issue committee areas.

GOAL 5: Improve and maintain the quality of life for rural Wisconsin residents.

Objective 1: Maintain a minimum quality of life in rural Wisconsin.

Activity 1: Collect local input statewide from rural areas to develop a consensus statement on rural quality of life.

Activity 2: Create issue committees to identify and address various rural development issues in-depth.

- Identify a proactive focus on issues/problems/needs and develop action plan.
- Develop a reactive process to address issues/problems/needs sent to issue committees.

Objective 2: Assist individual communities

Activity 1: Build local development capacity through information sharing and networking.

Activity 2: Refer request to issue committees for specific action.

Activity 3: Encourage and facilitate community self-determination; provide information, resources and access to tools.

Activity 4: Promote "futuring" and "visioning" for community planning.

Objective 3: Make it "easier" to live in rural Wisconsin.

Activity 1: Bring as much attention and resources to rural issues as urban issues receive.

Activity 2: Mobilize government resources for rural assistance when necessary.

Related Outcomes:

1. Proactive, self-sufficient communities will have the resources necessary to adapt to new technology and new societal needs.
2. Communities will establish and maintain a communications connection to the rest of society, eliminating the isolation felt by many rural communities.



Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association

WLBA • P.O. BOX 296 • ARGYLE, WI 53504



WLBA BOARD Representing

Cattlemen

Scott Bayer
Schofield
(715) 359-3256
Ardel Quam
Lodi
(608) 592-3649
Dave Thomas
Dodgeville
(608) 935-5426
Ray Walter
Darlington
(608) 776-4179

Pork Producers

Arlen Butts
Evansville
(608) 882-5590
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Chili
(715) 683-2494
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Bob Johnson
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(608) 868-2199
George Mann, V-Pres.
Fairchild
(715) 286-5041
Dave Troxel
Plainfield
(715) 335-6854

Ex-Officio

Jack Rutledge
UW-M, AN. Sci
(608) 262-4300
Dan Vogel/Deb Crave
WDAT&CP-Mktg.
(608) 266-9579

Treas.

Kim Heine
Helenville
(414) 699-8390

Exec. Sec'y

Marv Espenscheid
Argyle
(608) 543-3778

June 6, 1994

Representative Al Ott
3rd Assembly District
Ranking Republican Member

Dear Representative Ott,

The President of the WLBA forwarded your letter to me regarding WLBA concerns and resolutions. Enclosed you will find the resolutions that our group endorsed at our recent Annual Meeting.

I would be available at any point in time for input with regards to the Agriculture Committee. Our group represents the livestock industry in Wisconsin, which I'm sure you're aware, plays a large role in the agriculture economy of Wisconsin.

I would also like to ask your help on another matter. The State Ag Department allocates \$27,200 to the WLBA annually to host junior livestock events across the state. The education that youth receive through WLBA programs includes marketing, production, knowledge, and analysis of livestock, along with the development of personal values such as honesty, cooperation, responsibility, and hard work - all which help to build character in our young people. Our group services over 1,000 youth annually.

We have depended upon an additional \$22,800 to fund our junior activities. This money has, in the past, come from the Paramutual Fund, along with county fair appropriations. The county fair funds have been cut to approximately 50% of past revenues. We have asked that, if we could not receive our full appropriation, could we receive a portion similar to the county fair funds. We have been denied those extra funds. Could you please help us find a way to fund our activities? We are in the business of producing young people with the goals and values to be outstanding contributors to today's society.

Any help you could give us would be much appreciated by the WLBA, the adults who work hard to furnish these programs, and the youth who benefit from them.

Sincerely,

Marv Espenscheid

Marv Espenscheid, WLBA Executive Secretary

Respond after vote on Cty. fair aids

** Respond*

Ben Bob Williams - DATED

WISCONSIN LIVESTOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
January 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993

INCOME:

STATE APPROPRIATION CHECKS		\$50,000.00
General		
Savings Transfers	\$24,900.00	
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,010.00	
State Appropriation Checks	\$50,000.00	
Misc.	<u>\$ 22.00</u>	\$ 75,932.00
Spring Preview Show		\$ 5,981.85
Northwest Show		\$ 4,225.18
Central Show		\$ 3,256.84
Northeast Show		\$ 4,355.02
Southern Show		<u>\$ 10,329.60</u>
Total Income		\$104,080.49
Bank Balance January 1, 1993		<u>\$ 2,944.57</u>
		(\$107,025.06)

EXPENSES:

Salary		
Marvin Espenscheid	\$10,527.84	
Kimberly Heine	<u>\$ 1,385.28</u>	\$11,913.12
Motel		\$ 589.31
Meals		\$ 459.16
Mileage		\$ 3,349.50
Postage		\$ 1,491.47
Phone		\$ 383.46
Supplies and Printing		\$ 316.18
Insurance		\$ 4,405.00
Annual Meeting		
1993	\$ 2,098.36	
1994 Deposit	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	\$ 2,298.36
Taxes and Payroll Taxes		\$ 2,332.76
Dues and Membership		\$ 120.00
Quiz Bowl		\$ 757.50
Master Stockman		\$ 1,862.30
Misc.		<u>\$ 223.49</u> \$30,501.61
Spring Preview Show		\$ 6,249.77
Northwest Show		\$ 7,086.16
Central Show		\$ 4,819.42
Northeast Show		\$ 6,064.30
Southern Show		<u>\$12,993.09</u>

Total Expenses	\$67,714.35
Bank Balance December 31, 1993	<u>\$39,310.71</u>
	(\$107,025.06)

**MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT
JANUARY 1, 1993 - DECEMBER 31, 1993**

INCOME:

Interest	\$ 484.49
Total Income	\$ 484.49
Bank Balance January 1, 1993	<u>\$28,330.57</u>
	(\$28,815.06)

EXPENSES:

Transfers to General Account	<u>\$24,900.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$24,900.00
Bank Balance December 31, 1993	<u>\$ 3,915.06</u>
	(\$28,815.06)

AUDIT STATEMENT

On March 20, 1994, we the undersigned audited the books of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association for the year 1993. We found all the deposits and expenses to be in order and correct.

Michael Lindow
Michael Lindow - Director

George Mann
George Mann - Vice President

Following are the individual financial reports for the separate Junior Shows. They reflect only income and expenses for the 1993 season. These income and expense figures may not be the same as reported in the General Report. Some income and expense were incurred in 1994, therefore they would not be reflected in the 1993 General Report.

SPRING PREVIEW SHOW 1993

INCOME:

Entries	\$2,183.00
Plaques	\$1,140.00
Barrow Sales	<u>\$2,618.85</u>
Total Income	\$5,941.85

EXPENSES:

Printing	\$ 130.00
STAATS MFG CO.	\$ 962.35
Burt Awards, Inc.	\$ 948.00
Al Wollenzien-carcass judge	\$ 45.00
Todd Cherney-swine judge	\$ 87.50
Mike Siemens-beef judge	\$ 100.00
Tim Erickson-beef judge	\$ 123.00
Matt Glewen-sheep judge	\$ 111.00
Tony Weber-sheep judge	\$ 100.50
Barrow Resale	\$2,618.92
Columbia County Fairgrounds	\$ 545.00
Country Plumber, Inc.	\$ 130.00
Jack Hillestad-sound system	\$ 265.00
Diamond Starwood Shavings	\$ 36.00
Ewesful Gifts-lead judges' gifts	\$ 22.50
Nasco-supplies	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$6,249.77

NORTHWEST SHOW 1993

INCOME:

Enteries	\$1,028.00
Plagues	\$ 925.00
Steer Withdrawl	\$ 70.00
Sale Proceeds	<u>\$2,122.18</u>
Total Income	\$4,145.18

EXPENSES:

Printing	\$ 24.50
Nasco	\$ 25.00
STAATS MFG CO-ribbons	\$ 443.22
The Country Today-advertising	\$ 75.60
Lucille Helwig-buyers pop	\$ 106.20
Osseo-Fairchild FFA-clean up	\$ 125.00
Jan Hildebrandt-film/supplies	\$ 66.40
Northwest Exhibitors-premiums, M S, Quiz, & Judg	\$3,670.00
Dean Henderson-carcass judge	\$ 110.50
George Olson-swine judge	\$ 131.00
Jerry Gosda-sheep judge	\$ 129.50
Tim Erickson-beef judge	\$ 120.84
Eau Claire-grounds, phone, printing, labor	\$ 896.02
Goss Sanitation-washtank pump	\$ 150.00
Awards by G & D	\$ 827.60
Donald Brott-manure cleanup	\$ 60.00
Brian Freise-film	\$ 7.34
Farm Supply Coop-shavings	\$ 67.00
Marvin Espenscheid-supplies	<u>\$ 39.10</u>
Total Expenses	\$7,074.82

CENTRAL SHOW 1993

INCOME:

Enteries	\$ 561.00
Plaques	\$ 990.00
Sale Proceeds	\$1,635.84
Sale Withdrawl	<u>\$ 10.00</u>
Total Income	\$3,196.84

EXPENSES:

Printing	\$ 42.40
Nasco	\$ 25.00
STAATS MFG CO.-ribbons	\$ 443.22
The Country Today-advertising	\$ 75.60
Adams County Agriculture Society-fairgrounds	\$ 241.00
The Trophy Place	\$ 800.00
Tim Erickson-swine judge	\$ 77.50
Matt Glewen-sheep judge	\$ 126.00
Mike Siemens-beef judge	\$ 100.00
Dennis Beuge-carcass judge	\$ 82.75
Carcass Awards	\$ 150.00
Awards by G and D	\$ 15.95
Jeff Breuer-shavings	\$ 27.00
Central Exhibitors-premiums, M S, Quiz, & Judg	<u>\$2,613.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$4,819.42

NORTHEAST SHOW 1993

INCOME:

Enteries	\$ 1,619.50
Plagues	\$ 660.00
Sale Proceeds	\$ 1,973.52
Sale Withdraw	\$ <u>82.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 4,335.02

EXPENSES:

Printing	\$ 156.50
Nasco	\$ 89.73
STAATS MFG CO-ribbons	\$ 444.72
Country Today-advertising	\$ 76.76
Burt Awards, Inc.	\$ 547.62
Audio Tek USA-sound system	\$ 550.00
Al Seidl-scale	\$ 15.00
Bob Johnson-sheep judge	\$ 100.00
Duane Wachholz-beef judge	\$ 150.00
Donald Lang-swine judge	\$ 150.00
Susan Quam-carcass judge	\$ 150.00
Rudy Van Fleet-carcass judge	\$ 146.75
Luxemburg-Casco FFA Alumni-scale	\$ 25.00
Clem Rukamf-labor	\$ 294.00
Francis Van Rite-labor	\$ 292.60
Norman Thompson-labor & lime	\$ 326.00
Reimer Maintenance-trucking & bobcat	\$ 575.00
Bayport FFA Alumni-loadout	\$ 350.00
Jim Marcks-postage & minutes	\$ 100.00
Mary Mleziva-scale & mileage	\$ 40.76
Additional Premiums paid out	\$ 445.00
Dennis Millar-security	\$ 200.00
National Pork Board-additional checkoff	\$ 213.86
Brown County Park Department-deposit/rent	\$ 567.00
Wisconsin Beef Council	\$ <u>58.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 6,064.30

SOUTHERN SHOW 1993

INCOME:

Enteries	\$ 1,066.00
Plagues	\$ 790.00
Show Donations	\$ 2,421.05
Meat Auction	\$ 82.35
Champion Auction	\$ 1,032.60
Barrow Resale	<u>\$ 4,877.60</u>
Total Income	\$10,329.60

EXPENSES:

Printing	\$ 74.50
Nasco	\$ 29.09
STAATS MFG CO-ribbons	\$ 443.26
Resale Barrows	\$ 4,877.59
Southern Exhibitors-premiums, M S, Quiz, & Judg	\$ 3,743.00
Lafayette County-scale	\$ 10.00
Tony Weber-sheep judge	\$ 137.50
Tom Schomberg-swine judge	\$ 80.00
Mike Siemens-beef judge	\$ 100.00
Ronald Russell-carcass judge	\$ 100.00
Steve Olson-scale	\$ 25.00
Advertising	\$ 76.75
Walrack's Excavating-cleanup	\$ 325.00
Champion Exhibitors	\$ 926.81
Burt Awards, Inc.	\$ 843.49
National Pork Board-checkoff	\$ 2.48
Iowa County Fair Assoc-bathroom cleanup	\$ 60.00
Point IGA-banquet	<u>\$ 999.85</u>
Total Expenses	\$12,854.32

SHOW COMPARISON

	1990	1991	1992	1993
Spring Preview Show				
Income	\$ 8,093.09	\$ 6,549.08	\$ 6,366.88	\$ 5,941.85
Expenses	\$ 9,683.65	\$ 7,716.61	\$ 6,705.47	\$ 6,249.77
Profit or (Loss)	(\$ 1,590.56)	(\$ 1,167.53)	(\$ 338.59)	(\$ 307.92)
Northwest Show				
Income	\$ 3,797.18	\$ 3,633.25	\$ 3,776.96	\$ 4,145.18
Expense	\$ 6,381.22	\$ 5,794.90	\$ 6,286.58	\$ 7,074.82
Profit or (Loss)	(\$ 2,584.04)	(\$ 2,161.65)	(\$ 2,509.62)	(\$ 2,929.64)
Central Show				
Income	\$ 2,388.79	\$ 1,784.00	\$ 1,649.50	\$ 3,196.84
Expenses	\$ 2,562.50	\$ 2,237.81	\$ 2,953.39	\$ 4,819.42
Profit or (Loss)	(\$ 173.71)	(\$ 453.81)	(\$ 1,303.89)	(\$ 1,622.58)
Northeast Show				
Income	\$11,904.15	\$13,412.83	\$13,774.48	\$ 4,335.02
Expenses	\$12,520.36	\$14,429.40	\$15,468.85	\$ 6,064.30
Profit or (Loss)	(\$ 616.21)	(\$ 1,016.57)	(\$ 1,694.37)	(\$ 1,729.28)
Southern Show				
Income	\$16,747.90	\$10,481.38	\$13,196.46	\$10,329.60
Expenses	\$17,273.38	\$12,433.91	\$15,422.92	\$12,854.32
Profit or (Loss)	(\$ 525.48)	(\$ 1,952.53)	(\$ 2,226.46)	(\$ 2,524.72)

WISCONSIN LIVESTOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
1994 RESOLUTIONS

94-1

ANIMAL CARE

we have
WHEREAS, fewer people in the U.S. have an agricultural background and groups are stating that animals are being mistreated in an attempt to sway public opinion against commercial livestock production; and

WHEREAS, animal research has proven to be vital to the medical field in improving the quality of life, and to livestock producers and consumers in developing more efficient ways to produce food.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association supports 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.

94-2

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, the population of the world has more than doubled in the last fifty years; and

WHEREAS, world population adds the equivalent of the population of the State of Wisconsin to the world every 20 days; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal government, research and educational facilities, and industry are important in the development of new agricultural technologies which will have a positive economic and environmental impact.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that we support research and use of new biotechnological methods to feed, clothe, and house the ever-growing population of this world, and urge additional government funds into research and education for the bio-tech industry.

94-3

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

WHEREAS, 22% of Wisconsin's work force is dependent in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has a \$20 billion annual impact on Wisconsin's economy; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal budget actions necessitate some budget cuts.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that while we recognize the need for economy and efficiency in the UW-Extension system, we resolve that the University of Wisconsin system should emphasize the importance of agriculture in its research, extension, and educational budgets.

94-4

PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, education/promotion efforts have been successful in increasing the enrollment, interest, and support at the high school, vo-tech, and university levels; but

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of educated and trained individuals in ag-related fields.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association supports a joint effort by agricultural organizations, agri-business, and educational institutions to disseminate information regarding the career opportunities which are and will be available to properly trained individuals.

94-5

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, agriculture is an industry based on scientific principles; and

WHEREAS, the future strength of the agricultural industry is dependent on an adequate number of well educated individuals to fill a vast array of employment positions; and

WHEREAS, changes are needed to fortify the quality of, and introduce new efficiencies to Agriculture Education at the high school and graduate levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association strongly urges the school districts of Wisconsin to classify appropriate Agriculture courses as Science equivalent credits, counting towards graduation, and

Be It Further Resolved, that we encourage the DPI, the VTAE, and the University of Wisconsin Systems schools to accept appropriate Agriculture courses as Science equivalent entrance credits, and that we support revision of Public Instruction - Law 4, with regards to courses for teacher certification, to establish dual certification (Agriculture and Science) of all Agricultural Education teachers graduating from Wisconsin with approximately 128 semester credits (or equivalent).

94-6

RIGHT-TO-FARM

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's Right-to-Farm statute is vague and ineffective in protecting farmers from nuisance suits and governmental actions affecting farming operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association supports stronger legislation to both protect our farmers and preserve Wisconsin's resources for the production of food and fiber.

Ag Education

TOP 11

94-7

ENVIRONMENTAL

WHEREAS, the 90's will be considered the decade of the environment; and

WHEREAS, livestock producers of Wisconsin are for the most part good environment stewards.

W.B.
NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association goes on record in favor of sound land and water management practices which do not unnecessarily impinge on the farmers' rights to earn a living; and

Be It Further Resolved, that if legislation impinges on those rights that the state bear the cost of such actions.

94-8

EXPORT/IMPORT REPORTING

WHEREAS, the import and export of livestock and livestock by-products will continue the need for volume and price information.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association request the Livestock and Grain Market News/ USDA/ AMS/ to accelerate import and export market information.

94-9

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

WHEREAS, the present property tax fails to distribute the tax burden on a just and equitable basis; and

W.B.
WHEREAS, it places an unfair burden on farmers as it has little to do with the ability to pay.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that there be a REAL and IMMEDIATE need for greater farm property tax equity and the 1994 Wisconsin State Legislature have this as their top priority for this year's session, taking much of the school tax off farmers.

94-10

APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the youth educational programs of the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association have grown in scope, quantity, and quality; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of these programs is vital to the development of young people in the field of livestock production and agriculture in general.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association expresses its deepest appreciation to the Board of Directors, committee members, program donors and sponsors, and livestock producers for making these youth programs possible.

Be It Further Resolved, the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association will seek full funding from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture for the continuation of youth livestock programs in Wisconsin.

94-11

LAMB AND WOOL CHECK-OFF

WHEREAS, There is a need to promote the lamb and wool industry in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association supports the development and implementation of a national research and promotion program funded by an equitable industry check-off on lamb and wool, domestically and imported.

94-12

MUZZLE BAN

WHEREAS, Animal rights activists are constantly looking for reasons to attack the livestock industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association requests a ban on the use of muzzles on sheep at all county fairs, state fairs, and sheep shows.

MIDWEST FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION, INC.



502 E. MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 1297 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701
Telephone: 608/255-9946 FAX: 608/255-9838

June 21, 1994

Representative Al Ott
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Al:

Thank you for inviting the Midwest Food Processors Association to comment on Agricultural issues for the Republican Caucus.

As you can see from the attached list, most of our member concerns are fueled by the State regulatory agencies. I share the members' concerns, and view unwanted, unnecessary (and expensive) regulation as being the biggest impediment to agricultural growth in Wisconsin.

I urge you and members of the Assembly Agriculture Committee to utilize MWFPA as a resource for information on the current status of agriculture in the Midwest (including Wisconsin) and the nation. In agriculture, all too often legislation and rules are created as if Wisconsin were an island unto itself, populated by any number of special interests. We cannot forget that other states (and nations) produce agricultural commodities, and therefore compete with Wisconsin in the marketplace. (If milk production figures are any indication, agriculture is in big trouble in Wisconsin.)

In conclusion, I ask that the Assembly Agriculture Committee work to decrease the operating expenses of all those who work in agriculture. Do we really need all the burdensome (and expensive) licenses, fees and security programs we now have? All of these costs are being borne, ultimately, by the farmer. He is the one who really pays for all of the dozens of agricultural programs currently in existence, and for the growing payroll at the WDATCP.

Thanks, again, for your invitation. I look forward to working with you to build agriculture in Wisconsin!

Sincerely,

Paul J. Julius
Executive Director

- potential in WI to have all ag industry we want
- licensing fees for dairy plants are unbelievable/killing us + somewhat processing licenses
- good infrastructure
- producers cannot pass licensing fees onto consumer on reg. basis so it goes back down to farmer

- ag 98
- too much \$ being spent on DATCP programs, staff, new building
2 \$ is coming from producers/farmers - fees

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) ** some citizens are still concerned about aerial applications - potential for bill to overturn AB607 - not good!*

3. WDATCP Vegetable Producer Security Program-unreasonable and inappropriate. (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.) *? elimination of m+E exemption increases in other taxes which would make doing business in WI less favorable*

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.

AB607 took care of but...