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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2009-10

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on ... Education (SC-Ed)

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Gigi Godwin (LRB) (July/2011)

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### Committee on Education

##### **Assembly Bill 236**

Relating to: requiring that certain high school agriculture courses be counted as science credits.

By Representatives Radcliffe, Danou, Berceau, Pope-Roberts, Davis, Hilgenberg, Ripp, A. Ott, Nerison, Lothian, Tauchen, Spanbauer, Molepske Jr., Jorgensen, Gunderson, Hixson, Vruwink and Mursau; cosponsored by Senators Vinehout, Taylor, Olsen, Hansen and Kedzie.

September 23, 2009 Referred to Committee on Education.

December 3, 2009 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Lehman, Erpenbach, Hansen,  
Grothman and Hopper.

Absent: (2) Senators Jauch and Olsen.

##### Appearances For

- Steve Boe, Middleton — on behalf of Re. Mark Radcliffe
- Joel Nilsestuen, Madison — on behalf of Sen. Kathleen Vinehout
- Mike Stranz, Madison — Wisconsin Farmers Union

##### Appearances Against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- Jennifer Kammerud, Madison — Department of Public Instruction

##### Registrations For

- Lena Taylor, Milwaukee — Sen., 4th Senate District
- Joe Quick, Madison — Madison Metropolitan School District
- George Klaetsch, Madison — Wisconsin Agribusiness Council
- Shawn Pfaff, Madison — Dairy Business Assn & Wisconsin Cheesemakers Assn
- Jim Rabbitt, Madison — Cooperative Network

##### Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

December 15, 2009 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Lehman, Jauch, Erpenbach, Hansen,  
Olsen, Grothman and Hopper.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Hansen, seconded by Senator Olsen that  
**Assembly Bill 236** be recommended for concurrence.

Ayes: (7) Senators Lehman, Jauch, Erpenbach, Hansen,  
Olsen, Grothman and Hopper.

Noes: (0) None.

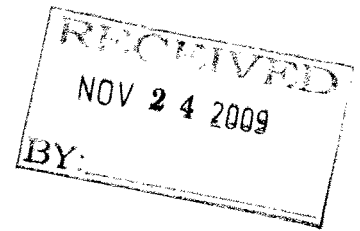
CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0



Sara Dauscher  
Committee Clerk



# Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Inc.



P.O. Box 46100 • Madison, WI 53744-6100 • Phone (877) WIS-AGRI • Fax (877) 947-2475

## Executive Council

Mike Miller, Chairman  
Badgerland Farm Credit Svcs-Retired

Patrick Fitzgibbons,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Cargill

## Board Members

Jeanine Chilewski  
T H Agri-Chemicals, Inc.

Victor Eggleston, DVM  
WI Veterinary Medical Assoc.

Robert Fick  
Alliant Energy

Tod Fleming  
Equity Coop Livestock Sales Assoc.

Tim Guzek  
Sanimax

Julie Larson  
Merial Ltd.

Kerry Larson  
McCain Foods

JoAnn Maedke  
Maedex Tax & Farm Accounting

Bryan Meyer  
Meyer's Farm Market

Ralph Meyer  
Syngenta Crop Protection

Merle Richter  
Agriculture Education - Retired

Dan Schaefer, PhD  
UW-Madison Animal Science Dept.

Henry Schienebeck  
WI Professional Logger's Assoc.

Jan Shepel  
Wisconsin State Farmer

John Shutske  
UW-Madison, CALS

Dan Sutherland  
Johnsonville Sausage Company

Nick Schneider  
FDL Agribusiness Council

Carl Tremi  
Greenstone Farm Credit Services

**November 20, 2009**

**To: Senator John Lehman  
Chair, Committee on Education**

**CC: Senator Vinehout  
Representative Radcliffe  
Representative Vruwink**

**From: Wisconsin Agribusiness Council**

**Re: Assembly Bill 236, Request for Public Hearing**

The Wisconsin Agribusiness Council is a statewide business league dedicated to improving the business environment for agriculture in Wisconsin. Our primary mission is to educate consumers, legislators, and the entire Wisconsin constituency of the economic, social and quality of life importance of Wisconsin's agricultural industry. Our membership and interests ranges from the farms and fields to classrooms and engine manufacturers.

Growing Wisconsin agricultural businesses and education has been the driving force of the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council. Engaging Wisconsin's youth and encouraging agricultural careers is crucial for the sustainability of the agriculture industry in Wisconsin. By mandating that agricultural courses be counted as high school science credits, Assembly Bill 236 ensures that the future agricultural leaders of tomorrow have access to the education and information they require.

Assembly Bill 236 is an important piece of legislation that deserves a hearing and Senate action. We encourage you to move swiftly on this bill with a public hearing and committee action. We appreciate your support of the agribusiness industry of Wisconsin and the educational efforts of the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council.

SSD called to let  
them know a hearing  
was planned for  
December 3.





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# KATHLEEN VINEHOUT

## STATE SENATOR

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**Testimony in Support of AB 236**  
**Senate Committee on Education**  
**Thursday, December 3, 2009**

Good morning Chairman Lehman and members of the committee. Thank you for hearing AB 236 which allows certain agriculture courses to be counted as science credit. Thank you also to Rep. Radcliffe and his staff for work on this important bill.

The agriculture education community has been hard at work to ensure we properly educate interested young people to enter the diverse and evolving field of agriculture. Last session I authored a bill with Rep. Al Ott to create the Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council to attract, develop and retain the workforce required to grow Wisconsin's \$59 billion agriculture and food industry.

AB 236 continues this work by allowing a science intensive agriculture class to count as a third science credit. Currently, the state requires two high school science credits for graduation. AB 236 does not change this requirement. It simply allows an agriculture class that meets DPI equivalence requirements to be counted as a third science credit.

The broad field of agriculture now requires a highly trained and educated workforce which necessitates a specialized, science intensive education. Agriculture classes now reflect this reality. For example food science, horticulture, and animal science classes contain rigorous chemistry, botany and biology science components.

Agriculture career clusters and pathways have been developed to help guide students in their education. None would argue students should not take at least two general science credit. However, AB 236 will allow students greater flexibility in following a career pathway to obtain a specialized agriculture education.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. It is my hope that we can pass AB 236 so that we can provide greater flexibility and options for those interested in pursuing a career in Wisconsin agriculture.







## **Testimony of Wisconsin Farmers Union regarding AB-236**



Presented by Mike Stranz, WFU Government Relations Specialist

### **Senate Committee on Education**

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Chairman Lehman and members of the Senate Committee on Education, thank you for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 236. I'm Mike Stranz, Government Relations Specialist for Wisconsin Farmers Union, and I work out of our Madison office. Wisconsin Farmers Union urges you to support this bill.

Wisconsin Farmers Union is a statewide organization made up of farm families, rural residents and consumers who have an interest in agriculture. The organization was founded in 1930 on three core principles, as seen on the triangle at the upper right-hand corner of the written testimony before you: cooperation, legislation, and, at the base, education. Our members know that it is essential for people involved in agriculture – and if you eat, you are involved in agriculture – to understand where their food comes from, how it is produced, and the impact of their food choices.

Wisconsin Farmers Union policy, which is written and approved by our grassroots membership, calls for the Department of Public Instruction, along with other stakeholders, should collaborate to allow approved agriculture education courses to be used as part of the science requirement for high school graduation. We are very pleased to see this bill continue to move through the state legislature and urge you to consider the positives it offers for Wisconsin high schools and students. Schools will have the ability to maintain and expand agriculture education programs because of the science requirements they fulfill, and more students will be able to learn science in an applied setting – agriculture classes – where tomorrow's workforce can learn by doing.

Agriculture is poised to be a part of a solution to some of the biggest challenges we face today. The threats of global hunger, Wisconsin's dependence on imported energy and even climate change will be addressed by agriculture in the coming years. During 2007, agriculture generated more than \$59 billion of economic activity in Wisconsin and provided jobs for nearly 360,000 people. The state ought to do all that it can to encourage high schools to offer agriculture education courses because of the importance of agriculture in our heritage and for our future.

Members of the Senate Committee on Education, thank you again for your attention to this matter. Agriculture and education are among the greatest strengths of our state – now it's time to help them work together by approving Assembly Bill 236.



Date?

Good Morning and thank you Senators for allowing me to be heard today to talk on behalf of my boss Rep. Mark Radcliffe.

AB 236 is a bill that addresses the diversity that agriculture is experiencing and tries to get more students interested and involved in the agriculture industry.

The field of agri-science has continued to grow and expand, and today many agricultural educators are meeting the needs of the industry by adopting rigorous science curriculum into their agriculture courses; broadening their fields of study to: Food Science, Horticulture, Floriculture, Animal Science and Ag Engineering to name a few.

Today all across Wisconsin students in agriculture classes are learning things such as the chemical reactions in the process of making bread; why does the bread dough rise, where do the holes come from and what happens to carbohydrates and sugars during this process. In another school students are doing a research project on lettuce; doing research to find out if using water, fertilizer water or fish water, which does the lettuce grow better in and more importantly asking the question WHY? In a different school district students are learning about genetics, being able to predict the genetic make up species of mice whether they will have hair or be hairless.

These are just a few of the things that are going on in our schools today and this is why AB 236 is important.

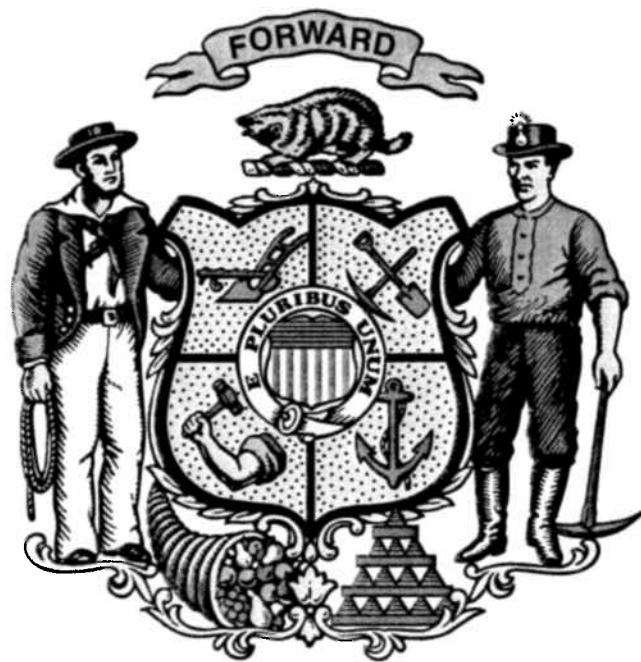
Currently there is no standard set for school districts in applying credits earned in an agriculture class that has been certified as a science equivalent towards graduation. This bill seeks to do that by very simply stating that if a student takes a class that DPI has certified as a science equivalent, then the student must be given a science credit towards their graduation requirement of 2 science credits.

We have worked with both DPI and the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to address all of their concerns, and we did that through our sub amendment to our original bill.

On a personal note...

I thank you for allowing me to be here today to testify on behalf of my boss and I am now prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks.



AB 236?  
Date?

## Agriculture/Science Courses

November 2008

Agriculture/Science (Ag/Sci) high school courses, approved by DPI as high school science equivalent units, will be considered by UW System institutions as high school science units for admission purposes. They will count for admission purposes as follow:

Institution	How will the DPI approved Ag/Sci courses count for admission purposes?
UW-Colleges	B
UW-Eau Claire	A
UW-Green Bay	B
UW-La Crosse	B
UW-Madison	B
UW-Milwaukee	B
UW-Oshkosh	B
UW-Parkside	B
UW-Platteville	B
UW-River Falls	B
UW-Stevens Point	A
UW-Stout	B
UW-Superior	B
UW-Whitewater	A

### KEY

- A. Completion of one or more Ag/Sci courses will count for no more than 1 science unit.
- B. Completion of one or more approved Ag/Sci courses will count only as the 3<sup>rd</sup> unit of science as long as the student has taken some combination of biology/chemistry/physics for the other two units.
- C. Completion of two or more approved Ag/Sci courses may count for up to 3 high school science units.





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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

<b>2009 Assembly Bill 236</b>	<b>Assembly Substitute Amendment 1</b>
<i>Memo published: May 29, 2009</i>	<i>Contact: Larry Konopacki, Staff Attorney (267-0683)</i>

Under **current law**, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless the pupil has earned, in the high school grades, at least two credits of science, among other requirements.

**2009 Assembly Bill 236** would provide that if a pupil earns at least two credits of science in the high school grades, the school board shall award the pupil an additional science credit for completing in the high school grades each course in agriculture that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has determined qualifies as science according to criteria established by DPI.

**Assembly Substitute Amendment 1** would remove the requirement under the bill that a student earn at least two other credits in science for the school board to be required to award the pupil a science credit for successfully completing an agriculture course that DPI determines qualifies as science.

**Legislative History**

Assembly Bill 236 was introduced by Representative Radcliffe and others; cosponsored by Senator Vinehout and others. The bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture and a public hearing was held before that committee on May 14, 2009. Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Radcliffe on May 26, 2009. In an executive session held on May 28, 2009, the committee recommended adoption of the substitute amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, by votes of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0.

LAK:ksm