AN ACT to create 45.12 (2m) and 93.43 of the statutes; relating to: establishing a veteran farmer assistance and outreach program and creating a veteran farmer logotype.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to create, in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Military Affairs, and the federal Department of Agriculture, a program that will integrate veterans into the field of agriculture and support veterans currently working in agriculture. The bill provides that immediate family members of a veteran who died in service, who is missing in action, or who died as a result of a service-connected disability are eligible to participate in the program. The bill also requires DVA, in consultation with DATCP, to create a logotype to identify agricultural products produced by farmers who are certified by DVA as being veterans or who are certified as being immediate family members of veterans who died during service, are missing in action, or died as a result of a service-connected disability.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
SECTION 1. 45.12 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

45.12 (2m) (a) The department shall certify each farmer who applies to the department to use the logotype under par. (b) if the farmer is one of the following:

1. A veteran.

2. An immediate family member of veteran under s. 45.01 (12) (g) to (i).

(b) The department, in consultation with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall design an official logotype appropriate for use on agricultural products produced by persons certified under par. (a).

SECTION 2. 93.43 of the statutes is created to read:

93.43 Veteran farmer assistance and outreach program; veteran farmer logotype. (1) VETERAN FARMER ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish and implement a program to integrate veterans into the field of agriculture and support veterans currently working in agriculture. The department shall consult with the department of veterans affairs, the department of military affairs, and the federal department of agriculture in creating the program. The department shall consult with the department of corrections to identify and assist formerly incarcerated veterans under the program.

(b) The program created under this section shall include assisting veterans in rural and urban communities; providing employment, mentorship, and outreach opportunities; facilitating education opportunities, including through the University of Wisconsin System and the technical college system; providing advice, technical assistance, and training; connecting veterans with local, state, and federal resources; and creating an Internet site relating to the program.

(c) An immediate family member of a veteran under s. 45.01 (12) (g) to (i) shall be eligible to participate in the program created under this section.
(2) **Veteran Farmer Logotype.** The department shall assist the department of veterans affairs in designing a logotype under s. 45.12(2m). The department shall prohibit the use of the logotype by persons other than persons certified under s. 45.12 (2m) (a).

**Section 3. Effective date.**

(1) This act takes effect on the 90th after the day of publication.

(END)