February 5, 2021 – Introduced by Senators BALLWEG, BERNIER, PETROWSKI, PFAFF and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives OLDENBURG, VANDERMEER, DOYLE, EDMING, JAMES, KRUG, B. MEYERS, MOSES, MURSAU, NOVAK, PETRYK, PLUMER, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPREITZER, TRANEL and TUSLER. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Tourism.

AN ACT to create 20.292 (1) (fm) and 38.274 of the statutes; relating to: technical college farmer tuition assistance grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a tuition assistance grant program under which the Technical College System Board awards grants to current or prospective farmers in the state for the purpose of paying no more than 50 percent of tuition costs for enrolling in Wisconsin technical college courses on farm management or farm finance. A current or prospective farmer may receive no more than $1,000 in these grants per year for no more than three years.

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. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:
20.292  Technical college system board

(1)  TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

(fm) Farmer tuition assistance grants  GPR  B  50,000  50,000

SECTION 2. 20.292 (1) (fm) of the statutes is created to read:

20.292 (1) (fm) Farmer tuition assistance grants. Biennially, the amounts in
the schedule for farmer tuition assistance grants under s. 38.274.

SECTION 3. 38.274 of the statutes is created to read:

38.274  Farmer tuition assistance grants. (1) From the appropriation under s. 20.292 (1) (fm), and subject to sub. (2), the board shall make grants to current
or prospective farmers in this state for the purpose of paying no more than 50 percent
of tuition costs for enrolling in district courses on farm management or farm finance.

(2) A current or prospective farmer may receive grants under sub. (1) that total
no more than $1,000 per year for no more than 3 years.

SECTION 4. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to current or prospective farmers enrolled in courses
that begin the semester after the effective date of this subsection.