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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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### 2025 Assembly Bill 118

### Assembly Amendments 1 and 2

## 2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 118

2025 Assembly Bill 118 creates a pilot program to support managed grazing systems. For purposes of the bill, “managed grazing” means “a grazing system alternative to continuous grazing, in which pastured fields are subdivided into smaller paddocks, livestock density is controlled, and animals are rotated through paddocks at a frequency that maintains perennial forage-based vegetative cover, ensures regular access to fresh higher quality forage, and reduces soil compaction and erosion.”

Under the bill, the program must award grants of up to \$40,000 each to farmers who are implementing either forage-based managed grazing systems or new managed grazing practices. The grants may be used for purposes set forth in the bill, such as assistance with establishing perennial forages for rotational grazing or harvestable continuous cover, certain managed grazing infrastructure needs, technical assistance, and incentive payments.

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to distribute each grant awarded under the program over a three-year period, with 75 percent of funds distributed in the first year. The bill authorizes DATCP to distribute up to 12.5 percent of grant funds in each of the second and third years of the three-year grant period.

The bill also directs DATCP to provide certain assistance and best practice advice to farmers.

The bill appropriates \$500,000 in each year of the upcoming fiscal biennium and authorizes one .5 full-time equivalent staff position to implement the program.

## ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 makes the distribution of 12.5 percent of grant funds in each of the second and third years of the three-year period following a grant award mandatory, rather than providing that DATCP “may” distribute “up to” 12.5 percent of the grant funds in the second and third years of that period.

## ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2

Assembly Amendment 2 removes the \$500,000 per fiscal year appropriation and the .5 full-time equivalent position authorization from the bill.

## BILL HISTORY

Representative Novak and others introduced 2025 Assembly Bill 118 on March 11, 2025. Representative Novak introduced Assembly Amendments 1 and 2 on March 17, 2025, and May 5, 2025, respectively. On June 6, 2025, the Assembly Committee on Local Government voted to recommend adoption of

Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0. The committee voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 8; Noes, 5. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 1.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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