

MARCH/APRIL 2026



Wisconsin  
Farmers  
Union

# NEWS

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Immigration Resources**

**Community Benefit  
Agreements**

**Youth Camp**

**Cottage Foods**

# Editor's Column: Planting for What Comes Next



There is a particular kind of optimism that shows up in March. It is not loud. It does not make bold promises. It just quietly insists that what we plant now will matter later.

As I look through this issue of WFU News, I keep coming back to that idea. So much of what we are doing right now feels like planting. Some of it is visible. Much of it is happening just below the surface.

Our new Immigration Resource Hub grew directly out of member policy adopted at our state convention and reflects an honest look at how Wisconsin agriculture actually functions. When dairy and other sectors rely so heavily on immigrant labor, staying silent is not an option. At the same time, WFU members do not see immigrants simply as a workforce category. They are neighbors, parents, and community members. Recent ICE raids in Minneapolis and across the country have brought fear to families deeply woven into rural economies. By sharing education and practical tools, we're hoping members can step into these conversations informed, grounded, and guided by both facts and basic human decency.

You see that same spirit in our Farm and Rural Lobby Day. More than 90 members held 50 meetings at the Capitol, raising issues from cottage foods to SNAP disruptions to renewable energy siting. When that many farmers show up and tell their stories face to face, it makes an impact and sends a clear message that rural Wisconsin is paying attention.

This issue also highlights the ongoing fight for fair cottage food rules, the ripple effects of SNAP changes on rural grocery stores, and practical tools like Community Benefit Agreements that help communities negotiate from a position of strength. Each topic points to the same core belief: rural communities deserve agency in shaping their future.

Meanwhile, the long work continues. Kamp Kenwood's Life in the Soil theme invites young people to understand what sustains us, and our Day Camps carry that cooperative energy into communities across Wisconsin. The Small Farm Sustainability Stipend supports farmers putting new ideas into practice on the ground. At Market on River, local businesses are being recognized and community leadership is being celebrated.

There is plenty of uncertainty right now, but members are organizing, farmers are adapting, and families from towns all across Wisconsin are finding their way to Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Spring will come. It always does. The question is what we are preparing for when it arrives.

Let's get to it.

*Tommy Enright*

WFU Communications Director



# From the President's Desk: No More Whiplash from Washington

Lately it feels like farmers are getting whiplash from Washington.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that tariff authority belongs to Congress was welcome news for a lot of folks in farm country. For over a year now, we've been caught in the middle of trade fights we didn't start and couldn't control. Tariffs closed off markets, pushed prices down, and drove input costs up. That squeeze has been real on Wisconsin farms.

The Court's decision brings some needed clarity and accountability back to trade policy. Congress is supposed to have a say in these decisions, especially when the consequences land so heavily on farmers and rural businesses. That said, the Administration has already signaled it plans to push back on the ruling. So we're not out of the woods yet. Markets don't like uncertainty, and neither do farmers.

Trade and market stability are essential for family farmers, and rebuilding trust with our international partners will require time, consistency, and steady leadership.

At the same time, Congress is working through the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. Family farmers are still facing high input costs, volatile commodity prices, and continued consolidation in the food system. This farm bill should reflect that reality.



There are some provisions in the House proposal that we support, including renewed attention to local food purchasing programs, improvements to Farm Service Agency credit tools, and investments in local meat processing. Those are all steps in the right direction. But overall, the bill does not rise to the level of the challenges in front of us. It does not fully address the damage caused by recent trade disruptions, and it leans too heavily on short term disaster payments instead of strengthening long term farm safety nets. Once again, mandatory country of origin labeling for beef has been left on the sidelines.

Farmers don't need band aids. We need fair trade policy, workable safety nets, competitive markets, and transparency for consumers.

Wisconsin Farmers Union will keep pushing for a farm bill that puts family farmers first and brings some stability back to farm country. Rural communities are counting on Congress to get this right.

*Darin Von Ruden*

**WFU President**

# MUCK & MOMENTUM

*By Danielle Endrick*



**T**here comes a point every spring when, no matter how carefully you've maneuvered the cattle from paddock to paddock, you just can't seem to escape the mud and the muck. Once a mucky spot starts in the pasture, it spreads outward and sinks deeper until you're staring at a full-blown quagmire. Welcome to 2026.

Like many of you, I was feeling the freshness of a brand new year and just trying to hit my H2O and step goals when the political scene sideswiped us with international unrest, immigration tensions, and escalating conflicts that set a heavy tone for the year.

Hope sparked when we finally saw movement on the long overdue farm bill, which after much anticipation falls remarkably short of all hopes. There are some bright spots, including improvements to local and regional food systems and the removal of a harmful provision that would have weakened the Conservation Reserve Program. But the bill still leans heavily on ad hoc disaster assistance rather than building stronger, reliable farm policy tools. Key authorizations that Farmers Union supports, including local food procurement and meat processing investments, remain unfunded.

At the same time, economic pressures are mounting. Tariff-driven cost surges have taken a real toll, contributing to a sharp rise in farm bankruptcies and deepening financial strain across rural America.

National farm leaders, including National Farmers Union President Rob Larew, have warned that the farm economy is deteriorating. Emergency bridge payments announced late last year may provide temporary relief, but they do little to address the long-term challenges facing family farmers.

At the end of 2025, I wrote that the year felt like a bit of a goat rodeo. If that was true, 2026 is shaping up to be more of a pigpen tussle: messy, unpredictable, and testing us in new ways as farmers, neighbors, and communities.

Moments like this are exactly when solidarity matters most. Wisconsin Farmers Union has chosen to lean into this moment, standing firmly on our values and bringing people together rather than retreating into division. Now is not a time to quibble. It's a time to stand together, voices strong. Our members demonstrated that strength with one of the largest Lobby Days we've seen in years.

When the compass needle feels like it's spinning, I'm reminded of the steady role Farmers Union has played for nearly a century. This organization exists to give rural people direction, collective power, and a place to turn challenges into solutions. Our policy book is full of them.

So when the world feels wild, I hope you find Farmers Union to be a place of hope. Instead of doomscrolling, consider making this year more meaningful by connecting locally and attending a meeting, engaging with your chapter, or simply reaching out to neighbors.

We've weathered turbulent seasons before. And while the path ahead may be muddy, we are uniquely positioned to walk it together, as a nonpartisan, values-rooted voice for the rural communities we love. May the muck we trod today make lighter walking for the generations ahead.

*When the compass needle feels like it's spinning, I'm reminded of the steady role Farmers Union has played for nearly a century. This organization exists to turn challenges into solutions. Our policy book is full of them.*



# JOIN US FOR DAY CAMPS



Here's the thing about overnight camp: it's magical, but it's not for everyone—at least not right away.

That's where our Day Camps come in. We pack all the cooperative games, food systems exploration, and joyful, nature-based energy of Kamp Kenwood into one wonderful day, then send everyone home with big smiles and even bigger stories to tell.

Our amazing summer staff heads out to communities across Wisconsin to work with local chapters, bringing the camp experience to kids ages 7-11 who might not be ready for a night away from home, or whose families just want to try things out before committing to the full Kenwood adventure.

Day Camps are some of my favorite moments in our youth program. There's something special about watching a shy seven-year-old light up during their first cooperative game, or seeing a group of kids who just met that morning already making plans to stay in touch. It's Farmers Union youth programming in its purest form: connection, cooperation, and a whole lot of genuine fun.

At the end of the day, kids head home still buzzing with excitement and new friendships, ready to tell their families everything they experienced.

If you're curious whether your young person might enjoy our youth program, a Day Camp is a wonderful place to start. No big commitment, just one really good day together.

Day Camp registration is 100% free and officially open.

All day camps are **FREE** and open to WFU members and non-members!



**REGISTER TODAY** →

**June 16: Langlade**

9am-4pm; Veterans Memorial Park, Deerbrook; Ages 7-11

**June 18: Amnicon-Douglas**

10am-2pm; Location TBD; Ages 7-11

**June 18: Chippewa**

10am-2pm; Riverfront Park, Chippewa Falls; Ages 7-11

**June 19: Ashland-Bayfield**

10am-2pm; Suri Fina Alpaca Farm, Washburn; Ages 7-11

**June 19: Milwaukee-Waukesha**

10am-2pm; Gwenyn Hill Farm, Waukesha; Ages 7-11

**June 22: Vernon-Crawford**

10am-2pm; Sittin' Pretty Farm, Viroqua; Ages 7-11

**June 25: Iowa-Grant**

10am-2pm; Clyde Community Center, Spring Green; Ages 7-11

**June 26: Dane & South Central**

10am-2pm; Dane County Parks, Madison; Ages 7-11

**June 26: Polk-Burnett**

10am-2pm; Philadelphia Community Farm, Osceola; Ages 7-11

# REFLECTING ON LOBBY DAY



**Josh Juarez**

*Farm & Rural Lobby Day Intern*

**M**y name is Josh Juarez, and I've had the pleasure of

serving as Wisconsin Farmers Union's Lobby Day Intern for the past few months. Now that Lobby Day has wrapped up, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you all, to introduce myself, to recap the 2026 edition of Farm and Rural Lobby Day, and most importantly to revisit the value of grassroots advocacy.

I'm a senior at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, pursuing a Bachelors in Political Science and Certificates (Minors) in Education Policy and History. Though I didn't grow up on a farm, I have several ties to agriculture. Both of my parents spent significant portions of their childhood being raised on small hobby farms. I come from a smaller community that happens to be the home of the Hoard's Dairyman magazine: Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. As some of you may know, this is my second stint with Farmers Union as a whole. I spent the first five months of 2025 with National Farmers Union in the Washington, D.C. office, where I had the privilege to attend the 2025 National Convention and Farmers Union Week of Action.

The fond memories of my time at NFU made it an easy choice when I came across the application for WFU's Farm and Rural Lobby Day. The chance to work alongside a fantastic staff and in support of our outstanding membership again was far too good to pass up. As the internship progressed, prep for Lobby Day heated up. I spent time learning about WFU priorities, preparing materials, and working with members to schedule meetings with their legislators.

By the time Lobby Day arrived, we had more than 90 members registered and ready to

come to Madison for a whopping 50 legislative meetings. After hearing from Governor Tony Evers, Attorney General Josh Kaul, WFU President Darin Von Ruden, and panelists on Cottage Foods and Immigration, members enjoyed lunch with folks in their lobbying groups before heading to the Capitol. By and large, meetings went off without a hitch, with reviews telling of productive and informative conversations, and members leaving with a smile and a sense of accomplishment.

That sense and those conversations remind us of the importance of events like Lobby Day that encourage, educate, and fuel grassroots advocacy. Building connections - among ourselves, between constituents and legislators, between staff and members, and between friends and neighbors - should always be at the forefront of our intentions as advocates. WFU's Farm and Rural Lobby Day is a fantastic opportunity for each of these things, and reminds us that we always have a voice that needs to be heard and a story that needs to be told.

As a Wisconsin Farmers Union member, and soon to be former intern, I can confidently say that my appreciation and many thanks for these opportunities and for the companionship and community that Farmers Union provides will not soon fade.



## **NFU PRESIDENT LAREW GIVES STATEMENT ON FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT**

On February 19, President Rob Larew gave a statement in response to the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 that was released by the U.S. House Agriculture Committee.

"Family farmers and ranchers are facing a significant economic crisis, and the next farm bill should reflect that reality. Regrettably, the bill that will be considered by the agriculture committee next week fails to match the magnitude of the challenges in front of us...

"...This isn't the farm bill we want, and it's not the farm bill we need. While we appreciate the continued effort to advance a farm bill, lawmakers are failing to seize the opportunity to deliver bold, comprehensive reforms that will truly support America's family farmers and ranchers."

## **SUPREME COURT RULES TARIFF POWERS BELONG TO CONGRESS**

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled 6–3 that President Donald Trump exceeded his constitutional authority when he used the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose sweeping global tariffs. The Court reaffirmed that the power to levy tariffs rests with Congress.

The tariffs disrupted agricultural trade, increased input costs, and created uncertainty for farmers who rely on stable export markets.

"Farmers need stability, not trade wars," said Darin Von Ruden, president of Wisconsin Farmers Union. "Over the past year, we've seen how sudden tariffs can drive up costs and slam

markets shut overnight. This ruling puts trade policy back where it belongs and gives us a chance to rebuild trust with our trading partners. Now it's time for Congress and the administration to focus on policies that actually work for family farmers and rural communities."

Wisconsin Farmers Union supports trade policies that provide fair markets, protect family farms, and strengthen rural economies.

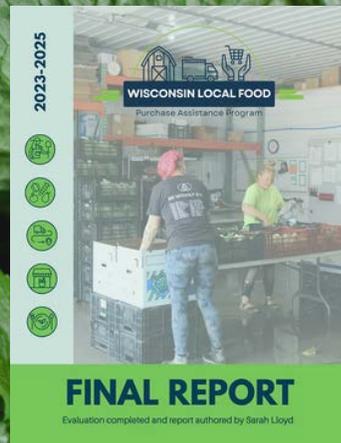
## **WI FAIR MAPS COALITION APPLAUDS EVERS' CALL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN GERRYMANDERING**

The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition welcomes Gov. Tony Evers' plan to call a special session of the Legislature to consider a constitutional amendment banning partisan gerrymandering. For years, our Coalition of organizations, grassroots leaders, and voters has fought to end gerrymandering of Wisconsin's legislative and congressional maps.

The Coalition and the League of Women Voters Redistricting Committee have been advancing our proposal for an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) that will ensure fair maps for Wisconsin's future. Why? Because Gov. Evers is right: "While we have fair [legislative] maps today, we still don't have a nonpartisan redistricting process in place. That means there's no guarantee Wisconsinites will still have fair maps after the next U.S. Census."

While we haven't seen the full text of Gov. Evers' proposed constitutional amendment, we must also emphasize that Wisconsin needs more than just a ban on partisan gerrymandering. We need an IRC, which is a proactive solution that guarantees a process to ensure that fair maps will always be the outcome for 2030 and beyond. We call on the Legislature to pass legislation to establish an IRC.

# WI Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program (WI-LFPA) Final Report Released



The WI LFPA was able to purchase and distribute over \$4.55M of produce, proteins, and value-added product to all counties in the state, engaging with 283 unique farmers and growers. Networks were developed and aggregation and distribution infrastructure were put into action with program resources. Farmers' wholesale readiness was improved. The quick ramp up of the program meant that the project team needed to be adaptive to meet the opportunities and address challenges in the complex system.

The routes that were developed as part of the WI LFPA picked up product in the "last mile" from small- and mid-sized producers and delivered it the "last mile," including to small pantries. The cost per dollar value of food delivered was often very high due to the more remote areas reached in the aggregation and distribution networks developed. As a result of this, a next step of the WI LFPA was a feasibility study for a "Super Transport Cooperative" (STC) that would use a hub and spoke model to engage sub hubs. This effort seeks an optimized logistics and financial model for sub hubs (for-profit distribution companies and non-profit food system and food access partners) to do the first- and last-mile pick-up and delivery in a more localized area of the state. Information on product availability would be shared across the network so that product surplus in an area could be sold to a different region. The WFHC would provide the statewide aggregation and distribution between sub hubs. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation awarded a \$50,000 feasibility study award to WFHC, which is currently being completed, with initial STC work starting in 2026.

The cancellation of the 2025 LFPA brought to a halt much of the momentum that was generated in 2023 and 2024. Farmers shared how important the lost contracts were for their businesses. Food access partners expressed how important the food distributions were for their communities. While the network of farmers, organizations, and agency partners that assembled through WI LFPA have continued to find ways to support key food security aspects of the WI LFPA programming, the middle supply chain, aggregation and distribution routing, and infrastructure developed to reach all 72 counties in the state is at risk due to the loss of these funds.

State procurement dollars were allocated through a new Food Security and Wisconsin Products grant program to support farm to food access in 2026 and 2027. There are also efforts to secure private dollars to support LFPA type programming. It cannot be determined at this date what the results will be, but the work continues.

For more information on the Food Security and Wisconsin Products grant program reach out to:

- Hunger Task Force: Kyle Buehner, Hunger Task Force's Procurement Manager: [kyle.buehner@hungertaskforce.org](mailto:kyle.buehner@hungertaskforce.org)
- Feeding Wisconsin: Jackie Anderson, Feeding Wisconsin's Executive Director: [janderson@feedingwi.org](mailto:janderson@feedingwi.org)

Resources developed to support farmers and build networks are now housed on the WI DATCP website: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/WisconsinLocalFoodPurchasingAssistanceProgram.aspx>

**Download the final report at <https://bit.ly/LFPAfinal>**

# IMMIGRATION RESOURCE HUB



## EDUCATION & ACTION ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

Wisconsin Farmers Union's Immigration Resource Hub is a landing page for immigration information related to agricultural employers, employees, and rural residents. Explore below to learn more about WFU's immigration policy, find action alerts and printable materials, a resource library, and to view educational webinars that shed light on the intersection between immigration policy and Wisconsin agriculture.

## WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION LAUNCHES IMMIGRATION RESOURCE HUB

In response to member-driven immigration policy and increased enforcement activity in the Midwest, Wisconsin Farmers Union has launched a new Immigration Resource Hub to provide education and advocacy tools related to immigration reform.

Wisconsin's agricultural economy depends on immigrant workers. Nationally, an estimated 73 percent of agricultural workers are foreign-born. In Wisconsin, immigrants make up just under 6 percent of the total workforce but account for roughly 11 percent of agricultural workers. In dairy, the reliance is even more pronounced. Farms that employ immigrants produce 79 percent of the nation's milk supply, and a 2023 UW-Madison School for Workers survey found more than 10,000 undocumented workers perform about 70 percent of the labor on Wisconsin dairy farms. Researchers concluded that without these workers, the dairy industry would collapse overnight.

Immigrants are also essential to meatpacking plants, food processors, and restaurants across rural Wisconsin, helping fill workforce gaps in communities with shrinking and aging populations.

At WFU's 95th Annual State Convention in December 2025, delegates adopted a Special Order of Business making immigration a top priority for 2026. WFU opposes state mandates requiring local law enforcement to enter 287(g) agreements that deputize officers as federal immigration agents, arguing such policies erode public trust and strain local resources.

WFU has long supported comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship, protections for nonviolent residents, access to driver's licenses and education, fair wages, and meaningful guestworker visa reform.

The new Immigration Resource Hub features WFU policy, action alerts, printable materials, and educational webinar recordings focused on immigration and agriculture. The Hub is available on the Wisconsin Farmers Union website and is open to members and non-members alike.

**Visit the Immigration Resource Hub**  
[wisconsinfarmersunion.com/immigration](https://wisconsinfarmersunion.com/immigration)



# Negotiating for a Better Future:

## **Our Changing Landscape**

Our rural landscapes have been the site of family farms and the production of food, fuel, and fiber for generations. Communities were resilient in part by being interconnected and in relationship with one another. Decision making often balanced both the individual and the greater community. As our rural landscapes now change and adapt for the future, local decision making and engagement remains critical.

Many communities around the state of Wisconsin are reacting to interest from various project developers and corporations. The production and benefits from these projects can reach beyond the borders of our state, while the costs can be rather centralized geographically. So how do communities with projects sited in our backyards balance out the costs and benefits?

## **What is a Community Benefit Agreement?**

A Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is a negotiated contract between a project developer and the local community in which a project is sited. It lays out the tangible benefits that a community will receive in exchange for support of the project. CBAs are increasingly common in the areas of renewable energy but have been used for years in the banking industry, for urban real estate projects (like a stadium), and large industrial infrastructure (like a refinery).

Wisconsin is just getting started with CBAs within its borders, but it does have existing Joint Development Agreements or JDAs. These are usually brokered between a developer and the local government to include verbiage on things like ordinances, roads, construction timelines, and utility shared revenue payments. Community Benefit Planning (CBP) is the process in which you move through engagement and negotiations between the community and the developer. A CBA is the signed legal document and is often much broader than a JDA. Like any field, there is an alphabet soup of jargon that can feel unfamiliar at first. Remember that the “C” stands for community and that engagement can start with you.

## **Why are CBAs used?**

A large development will have an inevitable impact on the community it moves into. It becomes a neighbor, a large influential neighbor. Often the community will have concerns about impacts -whether they be environmental or economic. The process to negotiate a CBA provides ample space to learn more and find mutual satisfaction. Ultimately, a CBA can build relationships, compromise, and alignment in community and project goals. For the developer, this provides greater trust and better long-term project stability. For the community, this removes the feeling of extraction, provides protections, and increases positive impact.

# Community Benefit Agreements 101

By Erin Lenninger | WFU Conservation Coordinator

## What can be included?

A good CBA is one tailored to its specific community and negotiated transparently between parties. But often it includes economic benefits such as workforce training, local hiring and prevailing wages. It can fund projects such as schools, community programs, emergency services, or other infrastructure. It can secure environmental commitments such as habitat protection, long-term monitoring and pollution mitigation. It can provide bill credits or community solar subscriptions.

## How to get a CBA?

The first step is to learn more about CBAs and make the community aware that it is an option. Interested parties and stakeholders can then convene and create coalition around a community voice and list of desired outcomes through community benefit planning (CBP). The process of course has challenges, including unclear metrics in the CBA and potential lack of enforcement. Best practices include early community engagement and understanding what is desired within each community - before a developer approaches. Transparency is a must throughout the process and after negotiation, a CBA must have measurable commitments and an entity to track and provide oversight.

## WFU Policy & Work

The WFU policy book has long supported CBAs in renewable energy projects. To support this, WFU's Conservation & Stewardship staff have been researching Wisconsin policy and collaborating with diverse partnerships and listening to member experiences and concerns to build programming around CBAs. We can support local and virtual educational nights and facilitated conversations to help your neighborhood identify concerns to protect against, build a vision to invest in, and establish relationships to help succeed.

## Moving Forward

Changes will continue to come to Wisconsin. Rural communities will be approached by developers, the demands of life in 2026 and beyond will alter how we live. This development can advance our society, but should not leave rural residents behind. Communities that strive to learn about these changes, remain transparent, and demand specific mutual benefits can provide a way for all neighbors to be good neighbors and our rural spaces to thrive.

***If you're interested in learning more about renewable energy topics as they intersect with rural communities and farming or CBAs, you can reach out to Conservation Coordinator Erin Lenninger at [elenninger@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:elenninger@wisconsinfarmersunion.com).***





# An ode to the seasonal farming rhythm

*By Hannah Alden, Communications Specialist*

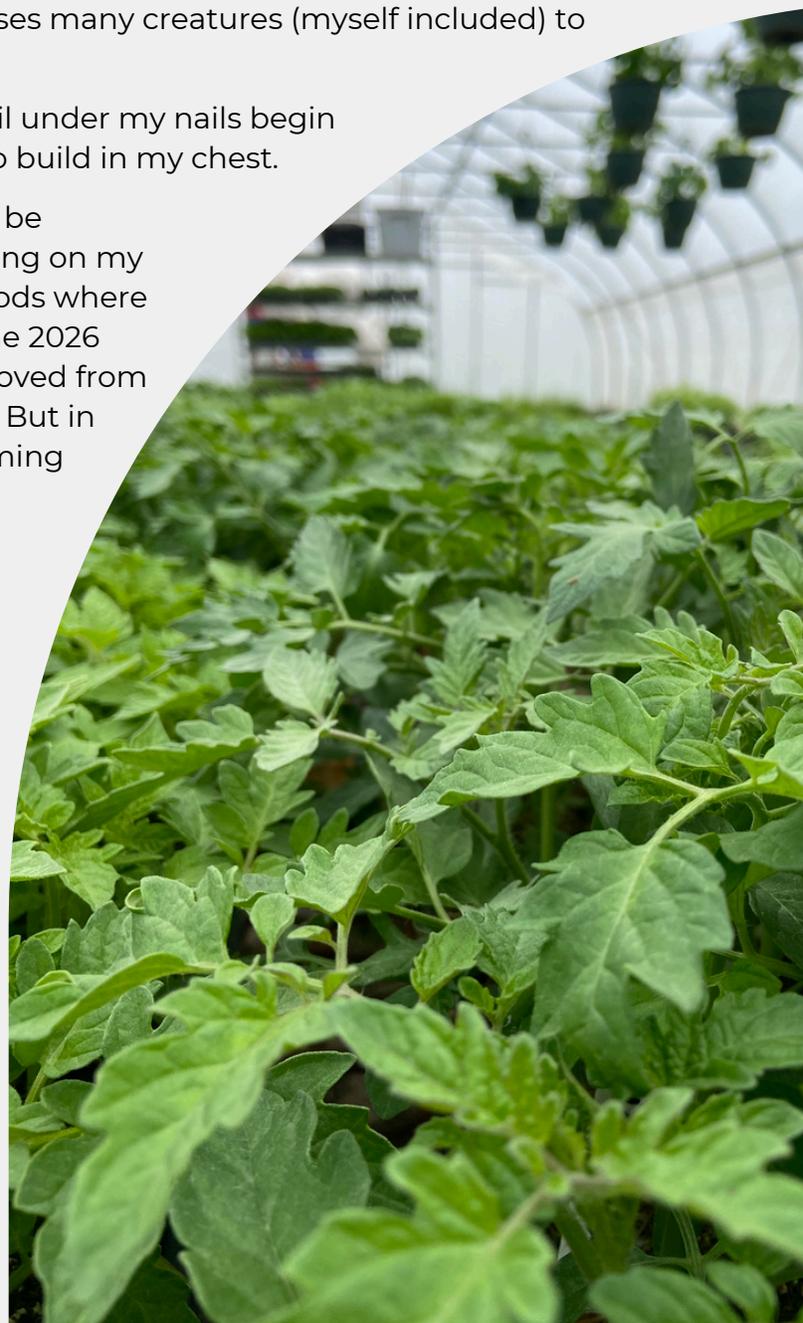
As I write this, there is still a heavy blanket of snow across our farm, and negative degree daytime highs are still in the forecast. The land remains in hibernation, slumbering peacefully as the snow continues to pile up and the wind causes many creatures (myself included) to remain tucked away for a while.

But in late January, dreams of warmer days and soil under my nails begin to trickle in. Twinges of hope for this season start to build in my chest.

By early March – which is when this newsletter will be reaching you – there will be a flurry of activity starting on my farm, a 10-acre parcel tucked away in the Northwoods where I'll grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers this year. The 2026 season will be a restart for me in some ways; we moved from Clark County to Oneida County back in November. But in most ways, it will feel like the continuation of a farming rhythm, which I'm sure many of you can relate to.

On a vegetable farm, the yearly routine starts out as a slow build. During the deepest winter months – let's say December and January – we are resting, planning, and scheming. Hopefully most of us get some time to take a trip, visit family and friends, or get back to hobbies we've neglected. We go to conferences to learn and reconnect. We discuss what crops we'll be adding or subtracting this season, flip through seed catalogs, and take inventory of supplies. We promise ourselves this year there will be a better work-life balance (for those of you keeping that promise, congrats and please fill me in on your secret).

By February and March, the ache for spring starts to creep in. The seeds and potting soil are ready to go. We are getting back into the greenhouses to sow the first seedling trays, likely to be filled with crops like onions, brassicas, and cold-hardy greens. By April, table



space is getting tight and we're anxiously waiting to see how soon the conditions will be right for transplants. Some farmers, myself included, will be taking pre-orders for spring plant sales. Many of us are filled with a renewed sense of excitement. And sometimes there's a pang of anxiety, too, as we shake off the rust and step back into this part of the seasonal dance.

Once May rolls around, it's full steam ahead. Greenhouses are bursting at the seams with trays needing to be constantly moved and reorganized. Outdoor farmers markets are returning to town. The last chances of frost are fluid in the forecast as each day still feels a bit unpredictable. We're fretting over back-stocked supplies and seeds, if everything will actually fit in our planned field map, and if the rain will come at the right time during the season ahead. At the same time, there's a surge of gratitude for the return of the hustle, fresh food, and long days spent outside.

I'd argue it's exhausting just thinking about the peak-season vegetable production stretch from June to September. By early summer, my mindset shifts from a buzzy excitement to a "put your head down and get it done" mantra. This year there's a goal to give myself time to look up more. To remember to listen to the birds, the frogs, the wind. To notice more of the small wins rather than only grumbling about the never-ending to-do list.

Before you know it, we'll be back to October and November – the downward slope into the end of

another season. It'll be another year of vegetable farming flown by.

As I head into my eighth season farming, the weight of the world seems heavier than ever. Some days it feels pointless to plan ahead. My brain says I should be focused on all of the chaos while my heart simply longs for the first tomato of the summer. How can this all be at once?

I try to remind myself that farming, especially in today's world, is a revolutionary act. Feeding your family and your neighbors, in a lot of ways, is bucking the system. The large, dark forces that control much of our food system want us to either be quiet and obedient or scale up and cash out. I want to be none of those things.

We owe it to ourselves and our ancestors to continue this good work. We owe it to future generations to reroute this path we were led down under the guise of ease.

Even if you think you have no place in this fight – perhaps you have retired from farming or never farmed – there's still an important seat at the table for you. We all have to eat and, in order to truly thrive, we need community.

So, as you're tending your first seeds of 2026 remember that you, too, can be a part of this next chapter in our country's agricultural history – no matter if those seeds are literally in your hands or figuratively in your heart.

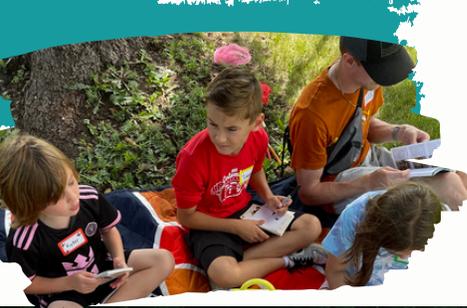




**THIS SUMMER'S THEME:**

# Life in the Soil

**AT KAMP KENWOOD**



*By Elizabeth Yost, WFU Education Director*

There's a whole world beneath our feet, and this summer at Kamp Kenwood, we're inviting campers to dig in, literally.

Our 2026 theme, Life in the Soil, celebrates everything that connects us to the land: the organisms that make food possible, the farmers and communities who tend it, and the diverse hands that have shaped Wisconsin's agricultural story across generations.

Don't worry—we're not turning camp into a science classroom. You'll still find all the classic Kenwood magic: swimming in Lake Wissota, evening campfires, hiking through our 23 acres, our classic camp co-op store, and plenty of cooperative games and activities. But woven throughout the week, campers will explore how soil, food systems, and the land itself bring people together.

What does that look like?

Hands-on activities that connect cooperation to cultivation. Crafts inspired by the natural world. Stories from the immigrant farmers and diverse growers who've enriched Wisconsin agriculture. Dancing to the music of our neighbors and our ancestors. Lessons on how cooperatives help farmers care for the land while feeding their communities. Hands-on exploration into soil stewardship. And yes, probably some actual dirt under fingernails.

Kamp Kenwood has been welcoming families for generations. Plenty of our campers grew up and sent their own kids. It's a place where friendships form, where kids build confidence, and where they figure out what it means to be part of something bigger. Camp is still what it's always been: a space where kids can be kids while learning about the cooperative values and agricultural communities that matter. This summer, we're exploring what literally sustains us all: the soil, the systems, and the people who care for both.

We can't wait to see what grows.

**OPEN TO AGES 8-17  
REGISTER TODAY!**



715-382-0921



camp@wisconsinfarmersunion.com



19161 79th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI



# MOR

## MARKET ON RIVER

### FOOD - SHOPS - EVENTS



### Market on River Businesses Named Best of Chippewa Valley

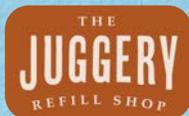
Volume One's Best of the Chippewa Valley Reader Poll is an annual community-driven contest where thousands of local residents vote to recognize their favorite businesses, organizations, and people across dozens of categories throughout the Chippewa Valley.



**#3 in Best Holiday Pop-Up Shopping**



**#1 Best Gluten Free Dining**  
**#1 Best Local Coffee Roaster**



**#1 Best Business for Eco-Friendly Products and Services**



**#1 Best Burger**  
**#1 Best French Fries**



**#3 Best New Business**  
**#3 Best Bookstore**

### Jackie Boos honored with the 2026 Chippewa Valley Vanguard Award.



*Jackie Boos with her husband, Matt, at V1's Best Night 2026.*

Wisconsin Farmers Union's Facilities Director Jackie Boos was recently recognized with Volume One's prestigious 2026 Chippewa Valley Vanguard Award, celebrating her years of community leadership and impact in downtown Chippewa Falls.

By Erin Thompson, WFU Policy Analyst



# FOOD FREEDOM

## Wisconsin's Cottage Food Landscape

**D**uring the 2025-2026 Wisconsin state legislative session, cottage foods reemerged as a timely and top-of-mind issue for bakers, farmers, and rural residents across the state. Senate Bill 739/ Assembly Bill 748 was introduced as a proposed framework to regulate non-hazardous foods that are made in home kitchens and sold directly to consumers, otherwise known as cottage foods. The bill set unfair and arbitrary limitations on cottage bakers, while creating burdensome red tape, and costly requirements for small business owners.

### **SB 739/ AB 748**

Cottage foods refers to certain low-risk foods that are made in home kitchens and sold directly to consumers, usually under

state “cottage food laws.” These foods are typically non-perishable, like baked goods, pickled vegetables, and jams. Cottage foods are generally considered to be “non-potentially hazardous,” which means that the foods don’t easily support rapid growth of harmful microorganisms.

Under the bill, cottage food producers would be subject to a two-tiered system:

- Small producers (\$10,000 sales cap): display a sign stating their products are homemade and not inspected
- Cottage food producers (\$40,000 sales cap): carry liability insurance and pay for a food safety course.

The tier system outlined in the bill divides cottage bakers into arbitrary groups and

imposes unreasonably expensive barriers on small business owners. Cottage bakers would also have to pay a registration fee to DATCP and open up their home kitchens to invasive inspections. Home inspections add cost without improving safety, raise privacy and safety concerns, and create barriers for families, disabled individuals, and caregivers. Given staffing shortages, home inspections are also unrealistic and may result in long rural lead times which risks inequitable enforcement based on ZIP code.

Bills like this patronize cottage bakers, framing them, not as legitimate business owners trying to support their families, but rather as hobbyists. By placing expensive requirements on cottage bakers and subjecting them to an extremely low sales cap, this kind of regulation could spell an end to the cottage baking industry in Wisconsin.

### **THE FIGHT FOR FOOD FREEDOM**

While SB 739/ AB 748 was new legislation during this session, the fight for food freedom in Wisconsin isn't new. Prior to 2017, Wisconsin had an outright ban on selling home-baked goods. In May 2017 a district court judge in Lafayette County struck down the ban which then made it legal for cottage bakers to sell "non-potentially hazardous" baked goods directly to consumers without a license or commercial kitchen. Under the court decision it became unconstitutional to impose unreasonable and burdensome restrictions on selling home baked goods and did not set a sales cap on cottage foods in Wisconsin.

Currently, Wisconsin has an outdated cottage foods law on the books that applies only to pickled or high acid items and not baked goods. Instead of adhering to well-defined regulations, cottage bakers

operate under the court decision from the 2017 lawsuit.

Prior to the 2017 lawsuit, cottage food advocates worked to move different versions of a "Cookie Bill" through the state legislature that would make the sale of home-baked goods legal. Commercial food producers such as the Wisconsin Bakers Association, Wisconsin Restaurant Association, and the Wisconsin Grocers Association lobbied against the "Cookie Bills" and, similarly, have worked to support SB 739/ AB 748 in order to snuff out potential home-based competition.

Despite the sale of non-hazardous home-baked goods now being legal in Wisconsin, a ban still exists barring the sale of other homemade shelf-stable foods that are not made in an oven, like chocolates, candies, and dried goods. A pending lawsuit launched in 2021 seeks to strike down that ban.

Members of the Wisconsin Cottage Food Association (WCFA) were behind both the 2017 and 2021 lawsuits, and the fight against SB 739/ AB 748. Home bakers Jobea Murray, Amanda Mleziva, Dela Ends, Lisa Kivist, and Kriss Marion have led the charge for food freedom in Wisconsin with legal aid coming from the non-profit law firm, Institute for Justice.

"In rural Wisconsin, cottage food isn't a hobby," WCFA Board President Jobea Murray said. "It's a practical way to support farmers, sustain families, and keep small towns economically alive."



Wisconsin Farmers Union has uplifted the efforts of the WCFA through collaboration on legislative negotiation, educational material creation, and lobbying support.

“Our work with the WCFA is deeply connected to the mission of Wisconsin Farmers Union.” WFU Government Relations Director, Michelle Ramirez-White said. “Food freedom in Wisconsin is about supporting rural small businesses in areas where economic activity is so needed, and breaking up food system consolidation by offering consumers more choices.”

### **COTTAGE FOODS IN OTHER STATES**

Clear, commonsense cottage food legislation is needed in Wisconsin to ensure that food freedom is enshrined into law. Home bakers are willing to adhere to reasonable regulations, but an income cap does not make food more safe. Other states are trending toward raising their existing sales cap or doing away with it altogether.

In Iowa, the law states that low-risk foods made in a home kitchen can be sold directly to customers without a state license, inspection, or sales cap.

Minnesota’s cottage food laws include an annual sales cap of \$78,000, for non-hazardous baked goods, canned goods, and candy and required registration with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Wyoming has the least restrictive cottage foods laws in the U.S. Under the Wyoming Food Freedom Act, cottage bakers may sell home kitchen food products up to an annual sales cap of \$250,000 annually without any kind of licensure. Allowable foods include any fresh, cooked, refrigerated, frozen, dried, canned food, or drink.

*This article was written prior to the end of the 2025/2026 legislative session. Check the Wisconsin Legislature’s website for updated information on the outcome of SB 739/ AB 748.*



*Members of the WCFA and WFU’s GR Director, Michelle testified on SB 739 at a Senate Committee public hearing in January 2026.*

### **COTTAGE FOODS MATTER TO FARMERS**

Cottage foods provide an essential way for local farm products to be utilized and highlighted. In rural areas, where Main Streets are struggling, it’s expensive and risky to open a brick and mortar storefront. Access to commercial kitchens is very limited in rural areas, making commercial food licenses out of reach for many aspiring food business owners. Baking from a home kitchen is a solution for rural communities that’s a win for cottage food business owners and the farmers they source from.

“For farmers and an agricultural state like Wisconsin, food freedom is a win, win, win,” WFU Board Member and farmer Kriss Marion said. “Farmers win because they have more opportunities to stay on the farm and still make a living. Small towns win because small food entrepreneurs buy local ingredients and sell to neighbors, keeping dollars in the community. Wisconsin wins because we have more to offer rural residents and tourists - people just love small town Wisconsin, and small businesses are what keep these communities vibrant.”

At its core, the fight for food freedom is a fight against the corporate entities that seek to stamp out competition and further consolidate their power. Wisconsin needs fair cottage food rules that allow food entrepreneurs and farmers, regardless of scale, to thrive.



FARMERS UNION ENTERPRISES

# LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

DEVELOPING AND EMPOWERING FUTURE FARMERS UNION LEADERS



**JOIN A COHORT OF FARMERS FROM MN, MT, ND, SD, WI**



*Is this your next big adventure?*

Wisconsin Farmers Union members are invited to apply for the Farmers Union Enterprise Leaders (FUEL) program. Two members from Wisconsin will be selected to be part of a leadership cohort with members from Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. This year-long program includes three in-person gatherings. The first will take place in Minnesota in July 2026 for the summer session, September 2026 for the NFU Legislative Fly-in in Washington DC, and March 2027 at the NFU National Convention.

Each year Farmers Union Enterprises sponsors a program that is committed to developing and empowering future Farmers Union leaders. Topics covered increased knowledge of cooperatives, Farmers Union, telling your story, running meetings, and hands-on experiences enabling effective leadership. This is also a great opportunity to build connections and friendships with other farmers across the upper midwest, network with Farmers Union leaders and presenters, and take a deeper dive into Farmers Union.

Applications are due March 31st. To find the application and other leadership opportunities in Farmers Union visit [wisconsinfarmersunion.com/leadership](https://wisconsinfarmersunion.com/leadership)

# SFSS Spotlights: Tamarack Spring Farm & Flor y Raiz

Recent recipients utilize funding  
for chestnut plantings, solar irrigation

*Pictured: A small stream flowing through  
Tamarack Spring Farm.*

Read more  
about SFSS  
recipients on  
our WFU blog!

The Small Farm Sustainability Stipend (SFSS) has provided funds to WFU members across the state since 2024 and continues with rolling applications throughout 2026. These projects aim to improve the environmental and economic resilience of each farm. This article provides brief highlights of two diverse farms that became WFU members through this program and who continue to grow thoughtfully and sustainably in their communities with help from the SFSS program.

## *Tamarack Spring Farm*

A dairy farm dating back to the 1800s in rural Trempealeau County, Gretchen Severson's family farm is transitioning from conventional agriculture to regenerative agroforestry. Now mutually operated by Gretchen and her two brothers, Hans and Stefan, the trio are experimenting with no till, cover crops, and new perennial systems in the rolling hills of the Driftless.

An encouraging start to their hazelnut and chestnut plantings prompted Gretchen to apply for the Small Farm Sustainability Stipend in late 2025 to expand their plantings and convert a row-

cropped area to more nut production. Included in her application were funds for the necessary but expensive step to wrap each planting in a protective cage to withstand wildlife pressures.

This project was of high value for the SFSS Review Committee due to the conversion of land use and the subsequent positive effects on water quality and soil health. They were also happy to help facilitate the introduction of more perennial systems that keep roots firmly planted in the soil, add to wildlife habitat, and increase the biodiversity of the farm. Not only do projects like these provide desired environmental impact, but this perennial production can diversify the income of the farm and expand market opportunities.

## *Flor y Raiz*

Across the state in Milwaukee County, another farming family is focused on furthering their agriculture goals. Liz Lezama and Philip Stepanski have been growing food for three years at their micro urban farm, Flor y Raiz. Liz and Philip imagine a world where access to fresh, culturally appropriate food is a right, and where families feel connected to their roots,

communities, and the earth through the food they grow and eat. Currently, the couple grows ingredients for salsas, other fresh produce for staple dishes in Mexican cuisine, edible flowers such as chamomile for te de manzanilla, and blue corn to eat fresh and make into nutritional flour.

In 2024, Liz and Philip installed a rainwater collection system at the farm. Liz applied for SFSS funds to allow for them to integrate solar-powered drip irrigation into the system. They also have plans to host bilingual workshops to teach families how to grow plants like peppers, tomatoes, cilantro, onions, and cempasuchil, and provide education on water conservation and working with pollinators.

The committee awarded funds to Flor y Raiz in early 2025 to complete this irrigation system, reducing their dependence on carbon-based energy, and assisting in actively managing their water resources within their urban footprint. Economically, installing systems like this can reduce labor and costs making it more likely that the beginning farm can persist and thrive. Though small, their sustainability goals are mighty and amplified by offering educational opportunities to their community.

*The next SFSS application deadline is May 1. Please find information and the application form at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/sustainability-stipend](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/sustainability-stipend)*

## Small Farm Sustainability Stipend

Let the good work continue...  
**More funding now available!**

**Apply for up to \$2,000 to help improve your farm's sustainability!**

**Funds are flexible and can help with equipment & seeds, labor costs, project advisors, and more.**

**Application Deadlines:**  
**November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1**

**Any small farm may apply!**

Are you seeking to increase your *positive impact* on the **environment**, your **community**, or your **local food system** through your farm? Reach out today!

For more information or application assistance, contact Erin at 715-382.0341  
[elenninger@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:elenninger@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)



**HELP US  
KEEP IN  
TOUCH!**

### **WE NEED YOUR UPDATED CONTACT INFO!**

Wisconsin Farmers Union staff needs to reach members on a regular basis to provide important updates, event information, and other timely items. Local chapter officers may also be trying to reach you.

If you have not provided an email address with your WFU membership, you are also missing out on our twice monthly email newsletter!

If you have moved or switched phone numbers, we're looking to update that information, too! To add your email address to your account, or provide other updated contact info, please contact our membership assistant, Karen Goulet, at 715-450-5362 or [kgoulet@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:kgoulet@wisconsinfarmersunion.com).

*WFU does not sell your information.*

# SNAP Disruptions, Changes Will Hurt Food Access in Rural Communities

Significant changes to the nation's largest nutrition assistance program may limit food purchasing options for rural residents.

*By Thomas Driscoll, Rural Voices Correspondent*

Like many farms, grocery stores operate on narrow margins, relying on sales volumes to cover costs and turn a profit. Where population density is low, grocers have fewer opportunities to generate sales. These challenges result in limited access to fresh, healthy food in many rural communities, where grocery stores have fewer customers to serve to reach the sales volume they need to remain operating. Rural communities have long been witness to the disappearance and consolidation of their options for grocery purchases. Recent actions the Trump Administration and Congress have taken upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, are likely to exacerbate these food access challenges by pushing existing rural grocers to cut costs or even close their doors. But Wisconsin farmers and food system stakeholders do not need to stand by idly as their ability to purchase food close to home is undermined.

SNAP is the country's largest nutrition assistance program, and has, until recently, operated with a high degree of stability. 42 million people rely on the program to contribute to their household's nutritional needs. Payment of benefits to qualified households, those with incomes under certain thresholds, were reliably executed for 61 years. The resilience of the program has allowed food retailers a degree of confidence in anticipating revenues and planning accordingly.

In 2025, the program's reliability was called into serious question. The fallout from the most recent shutdown of the federal government included delays in payments to SNAP participants, as federal courts determined whether USDA could be forced to distribute the benefits. In December, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the Administration's interest in withholding SNAP payments to states that do not comply with demands for data states



have on SNAP recipients, with the stated purpose of reducing fraud in the program. Though back payments have been made, the delays caused significant harm to those impacted, and ongoing disputes about sharing SNAP recipient data with the federal government cast a shadow of insecurity over households that rely on the program. The harm to SNAP recipients was obvious and dire, but the negative consequences from the recent disruptions were not limited to them. Benjamin Chrisinger with Tufts University Departments of Community Health and Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, noted “it’s quite possible that some food retailers suffered big losses in the first half of November,” while also asserting that it’s too soon to assess the full scale of impact on the program in a December blog post. Grocery retailers are likely to endure lasting impacts as newly introduced uncertainty promotes fear and hesitation at the checkout counter among SNAP recipients.

Even if SNAP recipients were to proceed unphased by the recent chaos and resume purchasing as they had before the payment delays, grocers are concerned over significant changes yet to come. Adjustments to be enacted pursuant to The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law in July 2025, will reduce or eliminate SNAP benefits for many existing program participants. 2.4 million Americans are expected to be cut from the program.

These terminations of eligibility and reductions in benefits for those who remain eligible will be especially detrimental for rural communities. Elimination of eligibility for benefits will be carried out partially through heightened work requirements for some SNAP beneficiaries, requirements that are especially difficult to satisfy in rural communities with limited employment options. The lost revenue will invoke difficulties and closures among small, independent retailers that are often the only food outlet serving rural communities. This directs more sales to highly consolidated national brands, reducing local economic activity and, subsequently, the tax base that states and local governments will need to cover the costs of

administering SNAP that will no longer be covered by the federal government.

Additional changes to SNAP are likely to drive tax increases in rural communities. Currently, the federal government provides a 50% match to communities’ contribution to the administrative costs of the program. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act will reduce that match to 25% in fiscal year 2027, leaving state and county governments to make up the difference. Wisconsin is one of ten states in which counties administer SNAP. Many rural counties will be hard-pressed to cover this cost, likely driving tax increases in communities that are already experiencing persistent erosion to their tax base. They will be tempted to take action to reduce the number of SNAP beneficiaries they serve to reduce costs, contributing to the negative feedback loops instigated by the benefit reductions and eliminations mandated in Washington, D.C.

There are no fast, easy fixes for communities at risk of losing grocery access due to disruptions and changes to SNAP. But moments of disruption can also be moments of choice, and rural communities have a long history of meeting challenges with creativity and cooperation. These changes demand the kind of community organizing Wisconsin Farmers Union is known for, including a continued push for a strong, reliable SNAP program at the federal level. Nutrition assistance remains one of the most effective tools for supporting families and sustaining local food retailers.

Rural communities can’t rely solely on Washington for stability, but abandoning the fight for federal investment is not an option when food access and rural economic survival are at stake. By supporting farmer- and community-owned enterprises, and advocating at the state and local level, rural residents can take greater control of their food systems. Federal advocacy and locally driven solutions can reinforce one another, building resilience while pushing back against policies that threaten rural communities and protecting against collateral damage from flippant ignorance in Washington.

# Manure on Snow? No-No

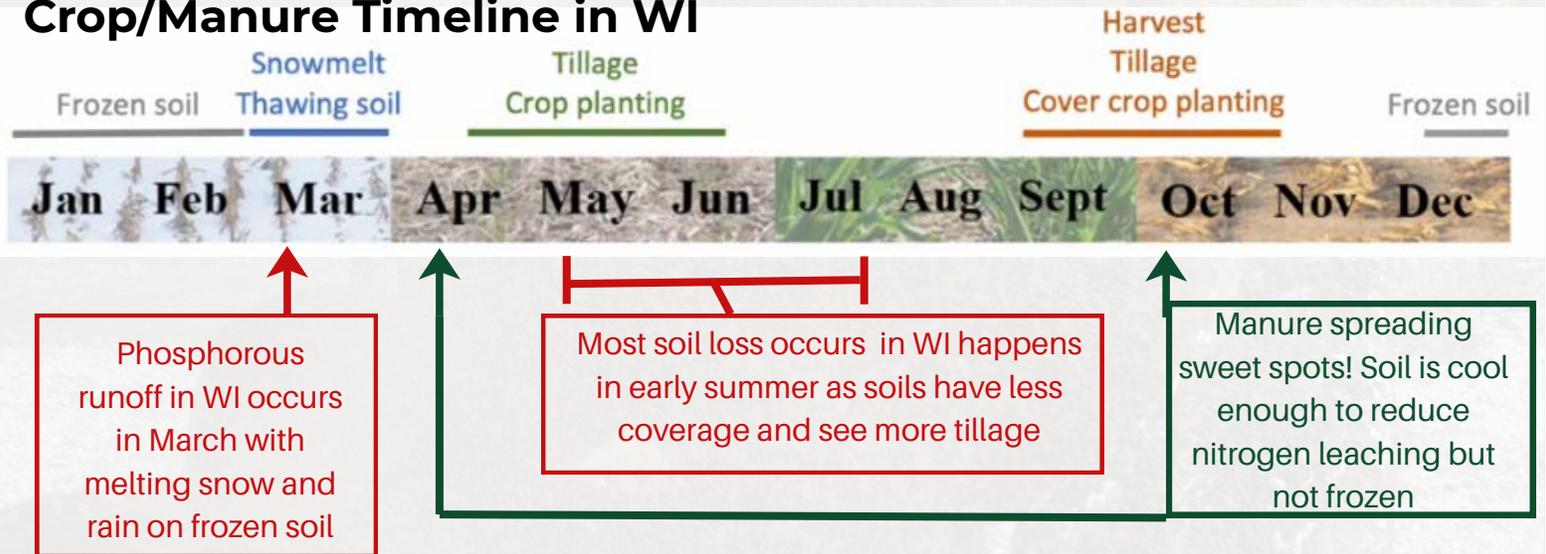
## Keeping Fertilizer on Our Fields and Out of Our Waters

Good stewardship means being intentional with the timing of your manure spreading. As the manure pile grows, or your pit fills, here are few things to keep in mind before spring spreading. Fall and spring are particularly vulnerable times for nitrate leaching because this is typically when most groundwater recharge occurs.

Nitrate-nitrogen can be readily used by plants but is not held by soil particles and freely moves through the soil profile with percolating water. Most nitrogen applied to soils is quickly changed into nitrate-nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) by soil bacteria. However, frozen soils do not have active bacteria performing this role.



### Crop/Manure Timeline in WI



Winter rye used as a cover crop can uptake more than 50 pounds of N per acre in the time between crop harvest and planting.

If you need to spread manure in winter:  
**DON'T** spread on steep slopes  
**DON'T** spread near ditches or streams  
**DO** spread where there is vegetation (e.g., cover crops, perennials, pasture)

This information is provided with great support from UW Extension's Agriculture Water Quality program. For more information on the relationships between ag production practices and water quality outcomes, please visit the Agriculture Water Quality website at <https://agwater.extension.wisc.edu/>



# The 2026 Farm Fresh Atlas of Wisconsin has gone to print!

To support REAP Food Group and Wisconsin Farmers Union with **Atlas distribution**, please email [atlas@reapfoodgroup.org](mailto:atlas@reapfoodgroup.org), or sign up for our mailing list at [farmfreshatlas.org](http://farmfreshatlas.org) to learn more about our distribution events - we can't wait to meet you!

Introducing...

## THE POLICY NOTE

By Wisconsin Farmers Union

The Policy Note is a corral for all things state Capitol where you'll find updates on WFU's policy work, key action alerts, and a digest of need-to-know news.

Subscribe to have The Policy Note delivered straight to your inbox every month!



# Welcome New Members!

## New Member

Isidora & Lance Luther  
 Robert & Kara Mittlestaedt  
 Beth & Steve Albert  
 Katie & Grady Richartz  
 Ken & Monica Hodgson  
 Randall & Sue Seidl  
 Dean & Jessica Jackson Family  
 Betsy & Adam Lasch Family  
 Christine & Kevin Melby  
 Darlings Grocery  
 Mar Horns  
 Mark & Sara Matyka Family  
 Philip & Kimberly Diedrich  
 John Lilja Jr  
 Mallory & James Bohling  
 Jordan & Matthew Ackerman Family  
 Carolyn Mnichowicz Family  
 Ronald Hoff  
 Donald & Carol Vickerman  
 Duane & Colleen Bille  
 Chris & Dan Schoepp  
 Derek Bille  
 Jordan Bornheimer Family  
 Michael & Tammy Cary  
 Dennis & Amy Blasel  
 Jill Armstrong & Jeff Bohn  
 Aidan Coffin Ness  
 Melissa & Dakota Wagner Family  
 Justin & Crystal Fahser Family  
 Heather & Sean Brown Family  
 Missy & Patrick Vircks  
 Amybeth Slawnikowski-Fehring & Ron Fehring  
 Kathleen Roberg

## Location

Cashton  
 Neenah  
 Mount Horeb  
 Menomonie  
 Argyle  
 Marshfield  
 Chippewa Falls  
 Lake Geneva  
 New Richmond  
 La Pointe  
 Frederic  
 Rib Lake  
 Twin Lakes  
 Black Earth  
 Jefferson  
 Elk Mound  
 Menomonie  
 Coon Valley  
 Holcombe  
 Brandon  
 Lodi  
 Brandon  
 Athens  
 Darien  
 Medford  
 Amery  
 Madison  
 Cadott  
 Iola  
 Evansville  
 Eau Claire  
 West Bend  
 Madison

## New Member

Matthew Guell  
 Kersten & Jacob Anderson Family  
 Jacqueline & Scott Ramgren  
 Justin Backstrom  
 Erica Krug & Dan Walkner Family  
 Allison Pfaff Harris  
 John Gaska & Laurie Sanford  
 Bruce Johnson & Tina Walker  
 Rilea Robinson  
 Mark Villers  
 Alex & Ashley Theobald  
 Brian Schulz  
 Laura Seleski  
 Mason Jarecki Nimmo  
 Sienna & Aubrey Scott  
 Loyal Hunter  
 PennElys Droz & Tayamni GoodShield Family  
 Glenn & Anita Jensen  
 Clare Hintz  
 Heather & Randal Clark  
 Nancy Meyer-Emerick  
 Amie & Gregg Pittman  
 Shelby Dallman & Andrew Cobosco Family  
 Amber Miller & Sarah Stigler  
 Kristen Olson  
 Jada & Floyd Harmon  
 Shannon Horan  
 Valley Burger Company  
 Skylar Hanson  
 Derek Pearson Family  
 Liz Malanaphy  
 Brittany Yox  
 Paul Amauta Lema & Lexus Weigand

## Location

Campbellsport  
 Cadott  
 Black River Falls  
 Mt Horeb  
 Madison  
 Madison  
 Waunakee  
 Cushing  
 Menomonie  
 Green Bay  
 River Falls  
 Dalton  
 Oconomowoc  
 East Troy  
 Stoughton  
 Turtle Lake  
 La Pointe  
 Springfield  
 Herbster  
 Osseo  
 Wausau  
 Oregon  
 Altoona  
 Gays Mills  
 Chippewa Falls  
 Crafton  
 Chippewa Falls  
 Chippewa Falls  
 Ontario  
 Maple  
 Hudson  
 Altoona  
 Madison

## SHOP LOCAL AT **MOR** MARKET ON RIVER

*Eat, Shop, And Connect With Local Makers At Chippewa's Hub By The River*



Experience Chippewa Falls at Market on River — where local businesses, producers, and community connect.



Plan your visit at [MarketOnRiver.com](http://MarketOnRiver.com)

128 W RIVER ST., CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729



**Wisconsin  
Farmers  
Union**

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

# Staff Directory

Danielle Endvick  
Executive Director  
715-382-6814

[dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Tommy Enright  
Communications Director  
715-563-2169

[tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Kirsten Slaughter  
Membership Engagement Director  
608-514-2031

[kslaught@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:kslaught@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Mirra Schultz  
Executive Assistant  
715-933-4765

[mschultz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:mschultz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Michelle Ramirez-White  
Government Relations Director  
715-450-9507

[mramirezwhite@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:mramirezwhite@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Allison Crook  
Regional Membership Coordinator  
608-851-0518

[acrook@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:acrook@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Tara Greiman  
Director of Conservation and Stewardship  
715-492-0329

[tgreiman@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tgreiman@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Erin Thompson  
Policy Analyst  
715-450-6431

[ethompson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:ethompson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Rilea Robinson  
Regional Membership Coordinator  
715-933-8959

[rrobinson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:rrobinson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Jackie Boos  
Facilities Director  
715-450-4322

[jboos@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:jboos@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Julia Keegan  
Community Engagement Manager  
Market on River  
715-471-0398

[jkeegan@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:jkeegan@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Hannah Alden  
Communications Specialist  
715-492-8822

[halden@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:halden@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Brad Henderson  
Facilities Manager  
715-214-7244

[bhenderson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:bhenderson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Erin Lenninger  
Conservation Coordinator  
715-382-0341

[elenninger@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:elenninger@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Karen Goulet  
Membership Assistant  
608-716-3816

[kgoulet@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:kgoulet@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Elizabeth Yost  
Education Director  
(715) 382-0921

[eyost@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:eyost@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)  
[camp@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:camp@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Becky Brathal  
Conservation Coordinator  
715-492-8967

[bbrathal@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:bbrathal@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Layne Cozzolino  
Director of Special Projects  
715-450-6430

[lcozzolino@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:lcozzolino@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Sarah Boos Walter  
Accounting Manager  
715-933-8972

[sbooswalter@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:sbooswalter@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Michelle Bachand  
Grants Specialist  
715-933-8798

[mbachand@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:mbachand@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

Michelle Thiede  
Kitchen Steward  
715-495-6657

[mthiede@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:mthiede@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

***Interested in working for Wisconsin Farmers Union?***

To view open positions, visit:

**WisconsinFarmersUnion.com/Employment**



Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 EAU CLAIRE, WI  
 Permit No. 1557

**GET THE WFU NEWS DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOU!**  
 If you're not already a Farmers Union member, join today! Membership is only \$30/year and includes six issues per year of the WFU News, among other benefits! [wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**SUBMIT YOUR BEST RURAL LIFE PHOTOS!**

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEWS

# PHOTO CONTEST

The winning photo earns a Farmers Union hat! High-resolution vertical photos preferred. Send your photo entries and a brief description to Tommy at [tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**ON THE COVER:**

Our cover photo this month was submitted by Heather Wanish of Colfax, WI.

