



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5214/1
EHS&FFK:ajk

2025 BILL

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 93.49 (3) (a); *to create* 20.115 (4) (at), 20.255
2 (1) (ac), 93.49 (3) (a) 1. and 93.63 of the statutes; **relating to:** farm to fork
3 grants, farm to school grants, matching funds for the federal farm to school
4 program, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a farm to fork program, similar to the existing farm to school program, to connect entities that are not school districts and that have cafeterias to nearby farms to provide locally produced foods in meals and snacks, to help the public develop healthy eating habits, to provide nutritional and agricultural education, and to improve farmers' incomes and direct access to markets. Under the bill, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection must provide grants to entities for these purposes.

The bill also provides GPR funding for DATCP to award grants for creating and expanding farm to school programs and requires that in awarding grants under the farm to school programs, DATCP must give preference to school districts that have a high percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under federal law. Current law requires DATCP to promote farm to school programs, which connect schools with nearby farms to provide children with locally produced foods in school meals, and DATCP must give preference in awarding farm

BILL**SECTION 1**

to school grants to innovative proposals or to proposals that provide models for other school districts.

Additionally, the bill provides GPR funding to the Department of Public Instruction for the purpose of providing matching funds for grants under the federal farm to school program.

For further information see the state and local 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:

				2025-26	2026-27
20.115	Agriculture, trade and consumer protection, department of				
(4)	AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE				
(at)	Farm to fork program	GPR	B	200,000	200,000
20.255	Public instruction, department of				
(1)	EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP				
(ac)	Farm to school program	GPR	A	250,000	250,000

SECTION 2. 20.115 (4) (at) of the statutes is created to read:

20.115 (4) (at) *Farm to fork program.* Biennially, the amounts in the schedule for the farm to fork program under s. 93.63.

SECTION 3. 20.255 (1) (ac) of the statutes is created to read:

20.255 (1) (ac) *Farm to school program.* The amounts in the schedule to provide matching funds for grants under 42 USC 1769 (g) (3), the federal farm to school program.

BILL**SECTION 4**

1 **SECTION 4.** 93.49 (3) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 93.49 (3) (a) (intro.) and
2 amended to read:

3 93.49 (3) (a) (intro.) From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (4) (as), the
4 department shall provide grants to school districts, in coordination with the
5 department of public instruction, and to nonprofit organizations, farmers, and any
6 other entities for the creation and expansion of farm to school programs. The
7 department shall give preference to the following types of proposals:

8 2. Proposals that are innovative or that provide models that other school
9 districts can adopt.

10 **SECTION 5.** 93.49 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is created to read:

11 93.49 (3) (a) 1. Proposals from school districts in which a high percentage of
12 pupils satisfy the income eligibility criteria under 42 USC 1758 (b) (1) for a free or
13 reduced-price meal.

14 **SECTION 6.** 93.63 of the statutes is created to read:

15 **93.63 Farm to fork program.** (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

16 (a) “Farm to fork program” means a program to connect entities that are not
17 school districts and that have cafeterias to nearby farms to provide locally produced
18 fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and other nutritious, locally produced
19 foods in meals and snacks; to help the public develop healthy eating habits; to
20 provide nutritional and agricultural education; and to improve farmers’ incomes
21 and direct access to markets.

22 (b) “Value-added agricultural product” means a farm product that satisfies
23 any of the following:

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- 1 1. The product has undergone a change in physical state.
- 2 2. The product is produced in a manner that enhances its value.
- 3 3. The product is physically segregated in a manner that enhances its value.
- 4 4. The product is a source of farm-based or ranch-based renewable energy.
- 5 5. The product is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced farm
- 6 product.

7 **(2) GRANTS.** (a) The department may award grants from the appropriation
8 under s. 20.115 (4) (at) to businesses, universities, hospitals, and other entities that
9 are not school districts and that have cafeterias for the creation and expansion of
10 farm to fork programs. The department shall give preference to proposals that are
11 innovative or that provide models that other entities can adopt.

12 (b) In awarding grants under this section, the department shall promote
13 agricultural development and farm profitability by supporting the development and
14 adoption of practices and agribusiness opportunities that involve the production of
15 value-added agricultural products.

16 (c) The department may award grants under this subsection for projects that
17 do any of the following:

18 1. Create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing,
19 and distribution of food produced in this state for sale to entities in this state other
20 than school districts.

21 2. Create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for
22 the facilities, that would ensure the use of food produced in this state in locations in
23 this state other than schools.

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3. Provide, expand, or promote training for food service personnel, farmers, and distributors.

4. Provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education.

(d) The department shall consult with interested persons to establish grant priorities for each fiscal year.

(3) REPORTS. At least annually, the department shall report to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) and to the secretary on the needs and opportunities for farm to fork programs.

(4) **RULES.** The department may promulgate rules to administer this section.

SECTION 7. Nonstatutory provisions.

(1) FARM TO FORK PROGRAM. The authorized FTE positions for the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection are increased by 1.0 GPR positions, to be funded from the appropriation under s. 20.115 (4) (at), for the purpose of administering the farm to fork program.

SECTION 8. Fiscal changes.

(1) FARM TO SCHOOL GRANTS. In the schedule under s. 20.005 (3) for the appropriation to the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection under s. 20.115 (4) (as), the dollar amount for fiscal year 2025-26 is increased by \$16,800 and the dollar amount for fiscal year 2026-27 is increased by \$16,800 for the purpose for which the appropriation is made.

(END)