



STATE AGENCY

FAST FACTS

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) was created by Chapter 479, Laws of 1929. The department is overseen by a nine-member board, including two consumer representatives, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered six-year terms.

- The department's programs are administered through six divisions: Food and Recreational Safety, Trade and Consumer Protection, Animal Health, Agricultural Development, Agricultural Resource Management, and Management Services.
- The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's budget is **\$221,221,800** for the 2021-2023 biennium, a **15% increase** since 2017. DATCP employs **633 employees**.

TAXPAYER ALERT!

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection has asked for an additional **\$15.7 million** dollars for the 2023-25 biennial budget, a **7.2% increase** in spending. With rising interest rates and buying power of the dollar decreasing, taxpayers are having to cut back elsewhere in their family budgets. State government needs to take stock internally and reexamine where efficiencies in spending can be obtained while delivering value of government services to the community.



**\$221+ MILLION
BUDGET**

**600+
EMPLOYEES**

DID YOU KNOW?

Wisconsin is #1 in cheese. Our state's nearly 1,200 licensed cheesemakers produce over 600 types, styles and varieties of cheese – nearly double the number of any other state. Wisconsin cheesemakers make 25% of the nation's cheese, producing 3.47 billion pounds in 2021.

#DYK WISCONSIN'S TITLE AS AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND IS NO LAUGHING MATTER? OUR STATE PRODUCES MORE THAN 600 TYPES OF CHEESE - MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT OF ANY OTHER STATE!

WISCONSIN STATE AGENCY 101

DEPARTMENT OF AG, TRADE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

REFORM HISTORY

In the 2017-2019 budget, Governor Walker proposed a feasibility study on moving some farming regulatory authority from DNR to DATCP. This study was pulled out of the budget by the legislature.

UW Madison established the nation's first dairy school. Wisconsin continues to be a national leader today in agricultural research and practices. Ongoing innovation and education is supported through the UW System, UW Extension, and DATCP.

CLOSE CALL

In the 2021-23 budget, Governor Evers proposed **\$1.8 million** in annual grant funding for county conservation staff to focus on climate change and climate change resiliency. Current grant funding is used for implementation of county land and water resource management plans, farmland preservation program administration, and livestock regulation. The legislature pulled this provision out of the budget.

IRG WANTS TO KNOW...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO??

If you were in charge for a day, what reforms would you make to the Department? Email Alex Ignatowski, IRG's Director of State Budget and Government Reform, at ai@reforminggovernment.org.

DATCP LEADERSHIP

Randy Romanski DATCP Secretary



Randy Romanski was appointed secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection by Governor Tony Evers in June 2020.

Aileen Switzer DATCP Deputy Secretary



Aileen Switzer was appointed deputy secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection by Governor Evers in 2022.

KEEP AN EYE ON...

Beyond the economic challenges facing Wisconsin's farmers, the state government has done little to alleviate unnecessary burdens. The regulatory environment in Wisconsin makes it harder for them to thrive and focus on farming.

Currently, farmers have to comply with regulations from two state agencies, DATCP and DNR. Like many areas of the Wisconsin economy, this industry would benefit from a more streamlined approach and a regulatory state that works alongside, rather than against the regulated community.

ABOUT IRG



INSTITUTE FOR
REFORMING GOVERNMENT

The Institute for Reforming Government (IRG) is a 501 (c) 3 and Wisconsin-based think tank established to help remove the onerous barriers and red tape separating the individual from an efficient and functioning government.

Find out more about IRG and view additional state agency briefing materials by visiting ReformingGovernment.org