

# Capitol LINK

CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS

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June 2008

## Legislature Out of Session – Focus Shifts to Fall Elections

*By Jordan Lamb*

Now that the State Legislature is officially out of session for this year, the focus has shifted to the fall elections. To date, eleven members of the State Assembly and two members of the State Senate have announced that they will not seek reelection in November.

Senator Roger Breske (D-Eland) announced his retirement from the Legislature concurrently with the Governor's announcement that Breske has been appointed Railroad Commissioner, leaving the 12<sup>th</sup> Senate District open. In addition, Senator Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh) has announced her retirement from the legislature, leaving an open seat in the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Oshkosh/Fond du Lac area).

The current members of the Assembly who are *not* running this fall are as follows:

- Rep. Sheryl Albers (R-Reedsburg)
  - Rep. Frank Boyle (D-Superior)
  - Rep. Barbara Gronemus (D-Whitehall)
  - Rep. Eugene Hahn (R-Cambria)
  - Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz (R-Menomonee Falls)
  - Rep. Jim Kreuser (D-Kenosha)
  - Rep. Terry Musser (R-Black River Falls)
  - Rep. Carol Owens (R-Oshkosh)
  - Rep. David Travis (D-Madison)
  - Rep. Sheldon Wasserman (D-Milwaukee) (He is running for the State Senate against Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills).)
  - Rep. Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton)
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## Farmers Should Report Flood Damage Promptly

*By Jordan Lamb*

Farmers who have crop losses as a result of the recent flooding should report their losses and acreage that cannot be planted due to wet fields to their county Farm Service Agency promptly to ensure eligibility for current farm programs and possible eligibility for future disaster programs. Crop failures should be reported and reviewed by FSA *before* any part of the crop is destroyed. Photographs are recommended as a way to document losses and damage. Acreage reports should be filed by July 15, 2008.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has published a flood resource page (<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/flood2008/index.jsp>) with information for farmers, including how to handle flood damaged feed and available disaster assistance.

Other flood relief programs are being coordinated by other State and Federal agencies. Below are links that may provide useful information:

DATCP Flood Resource Website:

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/flood2008/index.jsp>

DNR Waterway Permits – Approvals in Declared Disaster Areas:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterway/FEMAfactsheet8-07.pdf>

DNR Storm Water Runoff Staff:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/stormwater/contact.htm>

USDA Announcement re: Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs:

[http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_Notice/dap\\_283.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_Notice/dap_283.pdf)

UWEX Disaster Assistance for Uninsured Farmers Affected by Recent Flooding:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/documents/Disaster2008.pdf>

UWEX Practical Recommendations for Farmers Filing Late and Prevented Planting or Replant Claims:

<http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/CropInsurance/Recommendations%20for%20Farmers%202008.pdf>

UWEX Late and Prevented Planting Coverage and Replant Provisions for Wisconsin Farmers:

[http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/CropInsurance/Late\\_Prevented\\_Planting.pdf](http://www.aae.wisc.edu/mitchell/CropInsurance/Late_Prevented_Planting.pdf)

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## Farm Bill Information on UW Site

*By Jordan Lamb*

The University of Wisconsin Dairy Marketing and Risk Management Program web site has posted information and summaries of the provisions contained in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), which was enacted in part on May 22, 2008. The site will be under construction over the next few months as new information becomes available and related new materials are added. To access the Farm Bill information, go to [http://future.aae.wisc.edu/farm\\_bill.html](http://future.aae.wisc.edu/farm_bill.html).

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## \*Wisconsin Political Trivia:

By Jordan Lamb

### **Question: How was Governor Doyle's veto power changed by the April Constitutional Amendment?**

**Answer:** The Governor's veto power was reduced in April, when Wisconsin voters approved a state Constitutional amendment to eliminate his so-called "Frankenstein veto authority," which had allowed him to strike individual words from two or more sentences to make new sentences. However, the Governor can still strike individual sentences and parts of sentences; can still eliminate individual numbers; and can string numbers together in one sentence as a part of his current veto power.

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### **Capitol Link Details**

The PDPW *Capitol Link* monthly e-newsletter is sponsored by DeWitt Ross & Stevens law firm. DeWitt Ross & Stevens is a Wisconsin law firm whose members are leaders in their areas of practice and in their communities. Founded in 1903, today there are more than 80 attorneys in our offices in Madison and Milwaukee. Nominated by peers as top lawyers nationally and locally, DeWitt's attorneys offer numerous services including strategic counseling, advocacy, collaboration, alternative dispute resolution, negotiation, mediation, lobbying, and litigation.

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