



# Capitol LINK

CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS

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## Pending Agriculture Legislation

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

The end of 2011-12 legislative session is drawing nearer and there is still work to be done. Below is a summary of key pieces of agricultural legislation that are currently pending in the Wisconsin State Legislature:

**Seasonal Weight Limit Relief for Vehicles Transporting Manure ([AB 501](#))** – Representatives Petrowski, Suder, and Williams and Senator Galloway have introduced legislation that would allow certain vehicles or vehicle combinations transporting manure to or from a farm to exceed weight limits by not more than 15 percent from September 1 to November 30 of each year without a permit from DOT. *This legislation is scheduled for a public hearing before the Assembly Transportation Committee on January 31, 2012.*

**Exemption from Regulation of Air Emissions from Livestock Farms ([AB 195](#) / [SB 138](#))** – Legislation is pending that will permanently suspend the requirement that the DNR issue permits for air emissions from agricultural waste. Without this statutory change, air permits for farms will be required on August 1, 2012. An exemption for agriculture from this air permitting requirement has been in place since 2004. It is anticipated that EPA will develop guidance for the regulation of air emissions from farms in the next 18-24 months. *The Senate version of this legislation is scheduled for a public hearing before the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 2, 2012.*

**Financial Assistance for Livestock Premises Registration Program ([AB 489](#) / [SB 396](#))** – Senator Sheila Harsdorf (R), Senator Kathleen Vinehout (D), Representative Gary Tauchen (R) and Representative John Steinbrink (D) have introduced legislation that would require DATCP to annually provide a grant to the agent for administering the livestock premises registration program in this state. The amount of the grant is required to be equal to the amount raised by the registration agent from private sources for administering the livestock premises registration program. The bill also creates an income and franchise tax credit for 25 percent of the amount that a taxpayer paid in the taxable year for radio frequency identification tags for the taxpayer's livestock located in this state and 25 percent of the amount that a taxpayer paid in the taxable year for equipment used in this state to read radio frequency identification tags on livestock. If the amount of the credit exceeds a taxpayer's tax liability, the taxpayer does not receive a refund, but, instead, may carry forward the amount of any unused credit to subsequent taxable years. This legislation has had a public hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**Technical and Conservation Standards for Wisconsin's Nonpoint Source Pollution Law (Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 50)** – DATCP is currently developing administrative rule revisions to Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 50, which will implement the new nonpoint source pollution performance standards and prohibitions enacted by the DNR in NR 151 last session. (Note: This rule revision will continue beyond the end of the legislative session.)

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