

Capitol LINK

CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS

March 28, 2011

Proposed DATCP Budget

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Governor Walker's proposed budget for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), also contains some changes. The proposed DATCP budget includes:

- 10% across-the-board agency budget cut;
- Vacancies in the agency that have not been filled for more than 1 year, will not be filled;
- The PACE (Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements) program and the conversion fee are eliminated from the Working Lands Program;
- The Buy Local grants are eliminated, but one staff position associated with the program remains;
- Dairy 2020 program is transferred from Commerce to DATCP;
- 10 new full-time meat inspector positions are added in anticipation of interstate meat shipments; and
- Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) is extended but not funded. (It was previously funded with federal dollars.)

Governor's Budget Proposes Separating UW-Madison from the UW-System

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Governor Walker's proposed 2011-2012 biennial budget bill contains a provision that would "spin off" the UW-Madison from the UW System into its own entity. However, the Chancellors of the other UW-System Schools are not in favor of this proposal.

Earlier this week, the 13 Chancellors of the UW-System Schools (not including Chancellor Biddy Martin of UW-Madison) sent a letter to the legislature suggesting their own plan for providing more autonomy across the UW System. Their plan, called "The Wisconsin Idea Partnership," keeps UW-Madison in the System, but also "provides UW-Madison with all the operational flexibilities proposed by Governor Walker."

To review the alternative proposed plan, go to:

http://www.wisconsin.edu/assets/sites/growth_agenda/docs/2011-13/2011-03-10_wip-summary.pdf.

Links to several recent press releases and news stories about the Governor's proposal and the response from the UW System:

- <http://www.wisconsin.edu/news/2011/r110310.htm>
- http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/education/university/article_3699beea-55c7-11e0-8538-001cc4c002e0.html
- <http://www.superiortelegram.com/event/article/id/51932/group/News/>

Recall Elections on the Horizon

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Eight Republican State Senators and eight Democratic State Senators have recall petitions pending against them following the introduction and passage of the budget repair bill, which limited state worker's collective bargaining rights. Recalls can only be launched against legislators who have been in office for at least 1 year. If the recall petitions are filed within the expected timeframes, we could see primary recall elections held during the first week in July and general elections during the first week in August. If there is no primary election in a particular race, then the general recall election could be held in early July.

Supreme Court Membership at Stake in April 5th Election

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

On Tuesday, April 5, there is an election to determine the make-up of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

The candidates are current Supreme Court Justice, David Prosser, who is being challenged by Department of Justice Attorney, JoAnne Kloppenburg. Giving the differing viewpoints and diverse backgrounds of these two candidates, this election could significantly affect the Court.

Justice Prosser's Campaign website: <http://www.justiceprosser.com/>

JoAnne Kloppenburg's Campaign website: <http://www.kloppenburgforjustice.com/>

Capitol Link Details

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