



2019-21 Biennial Report

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP)



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About

State agencies are required under Wis. Stat. § [15.004 \(1\)\(d\)](#), to submit a biennial report to the Governor and Legislature in every odd-numbered year. This biennial report includes a department overview, update on internal operations, major program goals and objectives, and performance measures. Additional information about the department is online at datcp.wisconsin.gov.



Introduction

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, known as DATCP. DATCP's vision is to deliver efficient and effective programs and services to Wisconsin agriculture, consumers, and businesses to provide market confidence and to enhance competitiveness and profitability. I am proud of the department's work to carry out our broad mission and make a positive impact on everyone who lives in and visits Wisconsin.

During this past biennium, the COVID-19 pandemic presented numerous challenges across the food supply chain and in the marketplace, which were summarized in the 2020 report, [Wisconsin agriculture and COVID-19](#). In these difficult times, DATCP found ways to adapt our services and provide additional support to those we serve while ensuring food and goods reached consumers in need. The department established regular updates with stakeholders to share information and gain insights.

DATCP greatly values public input to inform our decisions and improve our services. As an example, in 2019, DATCP created the [DATCP Data Privacy and Security Advisory Committee](#) to facilitate communication across stakeholders and to gain an important understanding of the current legislative landscape, consumer needs, and regulatory challenges. This report was designed to serve not as a mandate or directive, but as a tool to assist and support lawmakers, regulators, businesses, and all those interested in improving Wisconsin's data privacy and security.

Our department is committed to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace for our employees and our customers. In the biennium, DATCP revitalized our efforts through our Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and implemented an [Equity and Inclusion Plan](#) to guide our work.

DATCP seeks to be a resource, connecting the dots for all we serve. In 2020, DATCP sought to strengthen our connection with young people by creating the [Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council](#). Through virtual meetings, department staff shared information about DATCP programs and encouraged youth to pursue careers in agriculture and state government.

DATCP also partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to reinvigorate the Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council. The members will work to support agricultural education and promote agricultural careers.

I hope this biennial report is a valuable resource for you to better understand our department's work, note accomplishments from the previous biennium, and look ahead to the future. I encourage you to visit [DATCP's website](#) and contact our team to learn more about our programs.

Thanks again for your engagement with our department.

Sincerely,



Randy Romanski
DATCP Secretary

Overview

The mission of the department is to partner with all the citizens of Wisconsin to grow the economy by promoting quality food, healthy plants and animals, sound use of land and water resources, and a fair marketplace. 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.

Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

The department is headed by a nine-member citizen board, including two consumer representatives, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for staggered six-year terms. The board establishes department policy at scheduled meetings and approves all department administrative rules. Board member profiles, schedules, and meeting materials are available on the [DATCP board website](#).

Office of the Secretary

The Governor appoints a [secretary](#), who is confirmed by the Senate, to administer the department. The Office of the Secretary includes the secretary, deputy secretary and assistant deputy secretary. Attached directly to the secretary's office are the general legal counsel, legislative liaison and communications director.

Boards and Councils

There are numerous boards that are attached to the department, including the [Veterinary Examining Board](#), the [Land and Water Conservation Board](#), and the [Livestock Facility Siting Review Board](#). There are also a number of statutory councils, which are created by statute and attached to the department for administrative purposes. There are also standing advisory councils and ad hoc advisory councils to advise the department. Information about councils are available on [DATCP's website](#).

National Agricultural Statistics Service

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Wisconsin Field Office is located in DATCP's Madison office. NASS develops statistics on agricultural production and provides statistical analyses on a broad range of agricultural issues. DATCP funds 1.8 full-time employees' positions and provides general support to this work. Wisconsin agricultural data, including the [annual statistical bulletin](#) and other publications, is available on the [NASS website](#).

Internal operations

DATCP has 633 employees. Of these employees, about half are based in the field, providing essential functions across the state including inspections. A table of position authority by program includes:

(Table 3. Position authority by program)

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection position authority by program.

(Source: *human resources authorized position report.*)

	FTE	%
Food & Recreational Safety	227.99	37%
Trade and Consumer Protection	139.90	22%
Agricultural Resource Management	100.80	16%
Management Services & Secretary's Office	65.00	10%
Animal Health	46.00	7%
Agricultural Development	23.50	4%
Management Services-Laboratory	28.10	4%
Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service	2.00	0%
	633.29	

When state office buildings were required to close in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DATCP quickly implemented a short-term telecommuting policy. While limited staff continued to come in to the office to perform essential functions on site, many staff were able to continue to perform their duties while temporarily telecommuting. When necessary and appropriate, the department lent staff to other agencies to assist with their work in response to COVID, such as the vaccine rollout or recruitment of staff processing unemployment claims.

In spring 2021, state agencies gradually increased the number of staff working on site. On July 6, 2021, the Department of Administration directed all state agencies to transition to normal operations. During the pandemic, it was clear that a flexible work pattern can be an effective, helpful tool for some positions at DATCP. Because of this, DATCP implemented a permanent telecommuting policy, allowing division management to approve telework at up to 60% over a pay period, provided that supervisors and division administrators were confident that program needs can be met.

The department also maintains an alternative work schedule, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § [230.215\(4\)](#), allowing approval of alternative work schedules when scheduling supports efficient and effective business operations and quality customer service. DATCP continues to work through the [State of Wisconsin's continuous improvement initiative](#) to streamline processes and develop efficiencies. In addition, nearly half of our positions continue to be based in the field, working to serve consumers and businesses in communities across the state.

Major program goals and objectives

In Wis. Stat. § [20.115](#), the department's program areas are identified as: food safety and consumer protection, animal health services, agricultural development services, agricultural assistance, agricultural resource management, and central administrative services.

Food safety and consumer protection

Division of Food and Recreational Safety

The [Division of Food and Recreational Safety](#) oversees food production, processing, distribution and retail sale. The division also ensures the safe operation of lodging establishments (hotels, bed-and-breakfast operations, and tourist

rooming houses), pools and water attractions, campgrounds, and recreational/educational camps. Division of Food and Recreational Safety programs require close integration, clear communication, and clear collaboration with the federal government and local partners.

The division provides fair, effective, and efficient licensing and inspection services so that businesses can pursue their goals while adequately protecting public health. While the bulk of the division's work is on-site inspections, the division also submits food samples to department's Bureau of Laboratory Services to perform analyses to ensure food safety and protect consumers. Further, the division evaluates and certifies private laboratories and laboratory analysts who perform microbiological and chemical (including drug residue) analyses on food, milk, and water.

The Division of Food and Recreational Safety works to ensure the public is properly informed, from food labels to information postings at hotels. Similarly, the division operates a program for grading cheese, butter, and eggs. Quality grades provide accepted standards for commerce. Finally, the division takes a serious role in aiding growth of existing businesses and creation of new businesses by providing assistance to prospective businesses or existing businesses looking to expand. The division includes two bureaus: the Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, and the Bureau of Meat and Poultry Businesses.

Food and Recreational Businesses Bureau

The Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses licenses and inspects thousands of dairy farms, dairy-related businesses, food processing plants, grocery stores, convenience stores, restaurants, retail food establishments, and food warehouses. The bureau also licenses hotels, tourist rooming houses, bed and breakfast businesses, public pools, water attractions, campgrounds, and recreational/educational camps. The year 2020 presented many challenges to the bureau in regards to completing inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bureau continued to perform inspections and reach businesses utilizing phone calls and video conferencing for several months at the outset of the pandemic before resuming normal operations.

Laboratory analyses serve an important function in ensuring the safety of food, dairy products, and water supplies throughout Wisconsin. The bureau certifies food, dairy, and water laboratories and the analysts working in these laboratories.

The bureau also works with local governments to protect food safety. Serving as agents for the bureau, staff from local health departments in 59 cities, counties, and multi-jurisdiction consortia license and inspect restaurants and other retail food establishments, lodging facilities, public pools, and water attractions, campgrounds, and recreational/educational camps. These "local agents" must comply with state statutes and Wisconsin administrative code. During this reporting period, the bureau continued its efforts to efficiently and effectively collaborate with local agents in providing oversight of mobile retail food establishments, and collaboratively implemented a risk-assessment factor in calculating retail food establishment license fees.

Meat and Poultry Businesses Bureau

The Bureau of Meat and Poultry Businesses administers Wisconsin's meat inspection program, which is the second-largest state-run meat inspection program in the nation and meets all USDA requirements for state programs. State-licensed meat establishments can only sell meat products within the state borders and must have state inspectors on site for slaughter and processing. The state also licenses state-licensed custom exempt establishments that can only slaughter and process livestock for the exclusive use of the animal or carcass owner. Custom exempt are only subject to a periodic, risk-based inspection.

Wisconsin also participates in the USDA Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program, which allows selected and approved state-inspected establishments to ship certain products wholesale across state lines. Twenty two state-inspected establishments have entered this program and are expanding their market areas. Wisconsin has the second highest number of participating establishments in the CIS program, out of only nine states receiving this authorization from USDA.

The COVID-19 pandemic created additional demand for meat inspection. Consumers pursued local food sources when grocery stores were experiencing supply challenges and livestock farmers sought alternative markets when large processing plants were forced to temporarily suspend operation due to workforce shortages. All necessary meat inspections were provided during this critical time. Over the past year, the division also has worked with

auxiliary meat industry businesses, such as renderers and animal food processors, through an industry stakeholder group to discuss revisions to pertinent administrative code provisions.

Division of Trade and Consumer Protection

The Division of Trade and Consumer Protection works to ensure fair Wisconsin markets by fighting fraudulent and deceptive practices that harm consumers and businesses. The Division enforces consumer protection laws, maintains the state's official weights and measures system, conducts petroleum tank and fuel quality inspections, administers the producer security law, and inspects, certifies, and grades agricultural commodities.

This biennium, the Division has also served on statewide and enterprise task forces convened to address significant economic issues impacting our state, such as the [Student Debt Task Force](#) and the [Prescription Drug Task Force](#). The Division works with its allies in the Department of Financial Institutions to promote financial literacy and root out financial fraud. In response to COVID-19, the division regularly engaged with stakeholders to provide regulatory updates and share insights about new trends and issues to monitor in the marketplace. The Division also conducted numerous training activities, listening sessions, and hearings on administrative rules using virtual online platforms.

The Division of Trade and Consumer Protection consists of three bureaus: the Bureau of Business Trade Practices, the Bureau of Consumer Protection, and the Bureau of Weights and Measures. Each Bureau has conducted listening sessions with its numerous stakeholders over the past two years. By improving these working relationships through continued engagement, the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection has developed a better understanding of the picture of protecting consumers and the markets of Wisconsin.

Business Trade Practices Bureau

[The Bureau of Business Trade Practices](#) promotes fair and open competition in the marketplace through regulating discriminatory sale practices. Specifically, the Bureau administers the [Unfair Sales Act](#) (a prohibition against selling below cost), dairy trade regulations, soda water regulations, and a public warehouse keeper security program. The Bureau is made up of two sections: the Agricultural Producer Security Section and the Trade Practices Section.

The Bureau of Business Trade Practices is charged with the enforcing Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 106 and Wis. Stat. § 100.305, which both regulate selling goods or services at unreasonably excessive prices during an emergency. The Governor's Executive Order #72, dated March 12, 2020, "Relating to a Proclamation Declaring a Health Emergency in Response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus," triggered the enforcement of these regulations for the first time in Wisconsin since Wis. Stat. § 100.305 went into effect in 2005. As a result, the Bureau of Business Trade Practices received and investigated hundreds of price gouging complaints.

Consumer Protection Bureau

DATCP is Wisconsin's lead agency for consumer protection. The [Bureau of Consumer Protection](#) has statutory and rulemaking authority over transactions between businesses and consumers. These statutes and rules serve as a framework that allows legitimate businesses to flourish and provides consumer confidence in the marketplace. The Bureau fights fraudulent and deceptive practices that harm consumers and honest businesses through the administration of more than 60 statutes. The Bureau receives more than 100,000 contacts each year -- over 10,000 of which become formal consumer complaints. Each year, the Bureau publishes a ["Top Ten" list of consumer protection complaints](#). Telemarketing and ["Do Not Call"](#) top the list with landlord-tenant issues the second-most common. Telecommunications rounded out the top three complaint types of 2020.

In an effort to improve access to consumer protection services in southeast Wisconsin, the Division opened a Milwaukee Consumer Protection office in September 2020 by reallocating existing staff positions to serve consumers better in Milwaukee and the surrounding areas. The proximity allows for increased participation and responsiveness to requests for presentations, participation in community events, and resolving consumer disputes at a more localized level. The Bureau has further enhanced its outreach to the Latinx community by hiring additional Spanish speakers in our hotline, as well as ensuring more consumer protection educational materials have been translated into Spanish.

Weights and Measures Bureau

The [Bureau of Weights and Measures](#) maintains the state's official weights and measures and petroleum inspection services. Through inspections and other regulatory services, the Bureau ensures businesses operate in a fair marketplace and consumers receive the correct amount of product at purchase. The Weights and Measures Inspection Program is a key consumer protection program that impacts all of Wisconsin's taxpayers. The Bureau performs inspections of a wide range of devices statewide, including gasoline pumps, scales, and store checkout scanners, to ensure accuracy for consumers and businesses. The Bureau also administers fuel quality standards, inspects and permits tank systems that contain petroleum and other hazardous and flammable liquids, and provides certification examinations and credentials for tank installers, inspectors, removers, testers, and site assessors.

The Bureau maintains and staffs the state's metrology lab, which maintains the State of Wisconsin standards of mass and volume, and has a Certificate of Measurement Traceability from the National Institute of Standards and Technology Division of Weights and Measures. The Lab annually calibrates and certifies over 13,000 standards used by weights and measures officials and private weights and measures companies to inspect commercial scales and other measuring devices and to calibrate their equipment.

Animal health services

The Division of Animal Health is responsible for the preventing, diagnosing, and controlling animal disease. The goal is to protect animal and human health and to prevent losses to livestock and animal industries. The division employs several tools to achieve this goal, including animal health and disease programs, animal disease response, and proactive education. The division has two bureaus, Animal Disease Control and Field Services, and also includes the Veterinary Examining Board.

Animal health and disease programs

The division manages several animal health and disease programs. The division licenses animal markets, animal dealers, animal truckers, feedlots, deer farms and fish farms to assist with disease control and animal traceability. These entities are required to keep records of livestock movement, including official identification of animals. The division requires that a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) accompany all animals imported into the state. The division manages disease certification programs, which make it easier for owners to sell and move animals intra- and interstate. The division also manages the state dog sellers program, which establishes minimum facility and care requirements.

Animal disease response

The division is responsible for animal disease response. When a disease of concern is identified, the division implements quarantines and conducts epidemiological investigations to trace the disease to its place of origin and to other potentially infected premises. The division administers the livestock premises registration program through a contract with the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, which significantly enhances the division's ability to respond rapidly to a disease outbreak. The ability to trace animal movements rapidly is essential to containing and eradicating disease threats and protecting export markets for animals and animal products.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, two Taylor County mink farms were confirmed to be positive for SARS-CoV-2 by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories and were placed under quarantine, prohibiting the movement of any animals or animal products off of the farms. Approximately 5,500 mink died during the outbreak. The quarantine has since been lifted on the first farm and has been lifted on the operational portion of the second farm.

In the previous biennium, Division of Animal Health staff continued an extensive Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) investigation. In September 2018, TB was identified in a cow from a Wisconsin farm with over 2,000 cattle. The division immediately issued a quarantine of the affected premises and began an investigation. In accordance with direction from the USDA, the division began a test and removal protocol of the infected herd, rather than a full depopulation. A total of 11 rounds of whole herd testing were conducted by division staff, including initial within-herd prevalence testing, removal testing to cull infected animals, and verification testing to establish a low probability of continued infection within the herd. The quarantine was lifted in August 2021. Through this investigation, Wisconsin preserved its status as a TB-free state. The division will conduct annual assurance testing in the next biennium.

Division staff participate in emergency preparedness training to enhance the team's response capabilities for incidents when they occur. In the past biennium, staff have been working with industry and government partners to prepare for African Swine Fever (ASF), which has been found in countries outside of the United States.

Proactive education

Another component of the division's mission is to provide education and guidance to the public and affected industries. The division's veterinary program managers frequently meet with private veterinarians, members of animal industries, and local units of government to discuss program changes, diseases of concern, and disease reporting. The division provides chronic wasting disease sampler certification training, humane officer training, and rabies control trainings. Division staff provide expertise and guidance as needed regarding the humane handling of animals.

The Division of Animal Health also supports the Veterinary Examining Board. The division provides support for licensing of veterinarians, certification of veterinary technicians, veterinary complaint investigation, disciplinary monitoring, administrative rule proposals, and communications and outreach with industry. During the biennium, the VEB received 263 complaints regarding veterinarians and veterinary technicians. Of these, the VEB opened 85 cases for investigation. The VEB closed 63 investigations during the biennium.

Agricultural development services and assistance

The Division of Agricultural Development serves and strengthens the state's agricultural industry, helping producers and processors to innovate, expand and thrive, through one-on-one consultations, referrals to expert technical assistance through public and private providers, and financial assistance through grant programs funded by federal and state resources. The Division of Agricultural Development has two bureaus: Agricultural Export and Business Development and Agricultural Resource and Promotion.

Agricultural Export and Business Development Bureau

International Agribusiness Center

Wisconsin exports a diverse range of food, forestry and agriculture products to over 150 countries. The [International Agribusiness Center](#) provides export assistance to Wisconsin food, forestry and agricultural companies. The staff utilize their expertise to provide one-on-one consultations to assist companies resolve compliance, logistics, marketing and other issues faced by both experienced and emerging exporters. In addition, the staff help companies identify opportunities and evaluate export readiness as well as establish a strategic plan to successfully export. For those new to exporting, DATCP provides training and development through export seminars.

The International Agribusiness Center also coordinates international trade shows and trade missions abroad as well as hosting buyers' missions in the state. The International Agribusiness Center team helps Wisconsin agribusinesses access grant funding and trade support from the USDA through the Food Export of the Midwest and U.S. Livestock Genetics, the Small Business Administration's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Grant program, administered by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and through WEDC's state funded International Market Access Grant and Collaborative Market Access Grant.

Agricultural Economic and Innovation Center

The Agricultural Economic and Innovation Center supports the growth and success of local and regional food systems through business development programs and services. The team provides information, resources and connections for businesses and organizations throughout the supply chain to sustain and grow Wisconsin's agricultural industry.

The Center offers technical assistance to farmers and processors. Staff seek to foster connections and provide access to resources and information. The Center works to ensure that beginning, minority, and women farmers can access information and resources to scale-up production and continue to grow Wisconsin's agricultural economy. Staff also work to connect local farmers to schools and institutions through the Farm to School program.

The Agricultural Economic and Innovation Center also distributes grants to support innovation, profitability, and long-term viability of Wisconsin agriculture. [Dairy processor grants](#) provide access to services and resources for proposed dairy processing plant projects that enhance or develop the current business, solve an existing problem at

the plant, improve production or profitability or help the processor innovate. [Organic Certification Cost Share](#) federal funds, which are distributed by DATCP, help organic farmers and processors pay for organic certification. [Specialty Crop Block Grants](#) fund crop production research, grower education, and market development projects. [Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin](#) grants work to mitigate barriers in local food channels, increasing efficiencies in processing, marketing, and distributing local food in markets including stores, schools, and institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges for Wisconsin's agricultural industry. Local, domestic, and international markets shut down almost overnight. The pandemic highlighted weak points in the supply chain and the opportunity to enhance resiliency of local agricultural and community partnerships. It increased stress on Wisconsin's farmers, and deepened food insecurity across the state. The Division of Agricultural Development responded to these needs by working with partners to develop the [Food Security Initiative](#), [Wisconsin Dairy Recovery Program](#), and the [Passion for Pork program](#) which supported farmers and families by providing markets for their products, keeping the food supply chain moving and moving food to families in need. Through the Food Security Initiative, Wisconsin provided grant funding to the food security networks to purchase Wisconsin products for the food insecure and help cover costs by non-profit food banks and food pantries to meet the unique challenges of COVID-19.

Agricultural Resource and Promotion Bureau

Farm Center

The [Wisconsin Farm Center](#) helps farmers sustain, grow, or transition their businesses by providing free and confidential, specialized, readily available assistance. Farmers can reach the Farm Center through a toll-free phone number and by email to ask questions about farming, or to receive help identifying available resources. Services include [financial consulting](#), transition planning, farm mediation, and veterinary analysis through its [Herd-Based Diagnostics Program](#). The Center also seeks to connect with [veteran farmers](#) through a variety of outreach efforts.

The [Farmer Wellness Program](#) works to address the barriers that prevent farmers from obtaining mental health assistance. Using newly received funding, the Farm Center created its Farmer Wellness Program which extends beyond the longstanding Counseling Voucher Program that provides farmers under duress vouchers for in-person counseling sessions with licensed mental health professionals. New services developed and launched include a 24/7 Farmer Wellness Helpline, tele-counseling, farm couple workshops, Question/Persuade/Refer (QPR) trainings, online support groups, and a monthly podcast for farmers. Tele-counseling makes counseling services more accessible and readily available to farmers on their schedule and in the comfort of their own home. The [Rural Realities' podcast](#) focuses on helping farmers tap into their resilient nature by sharing expert advice that can help reduce stress, improve a farm's financial situation, implement good farm family communication skills, and more.

Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Farm Center was a dependable resource for farmers. Staff researched eligibility requirements and assisted farmers in navigating the variety of COVID-19 relief programs including: Coronavirus Food Assistance Programs (CFAP), Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and the Wisconsin Farm Support Program.

Marketing and Outreach Center

The [Something Special from Wisconsin™](#) (SSfW) is a trademarked marketing program that provides marketing and business opportunities for small to medium-sized businesses. Businesses can apply to use the SSfW logo if at least 50% of the value of the product or service is attributable to Wisconsin ingredients, production or processing activities. Currently there are more than 450 members who utilize this program.

One of the most recognizable spokespersons of Wisconsin agriculture is [Alice in Dairyland](#). Alice in Dairyland is a public relations professional who promotes Wisconsin products to audiences of all ages, educating the media, youth, and civic groups about the many facets of the state's agricultural industry. Alice in Dairyland works with media personnel across the state of Wisconsin, and beyond, to share the story of Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

Marketing and Outreach Center staff manage seven [marketing orders](#) for major agricultural commodities in Wisconsin including cherry, cranberry, corn, milk, soybean, ginseng, and potatoes. Staff provide operational guidance and election oversight to these boards as they determine how to manage funds for market research and development, industrial research, and educational and promotional programs. Marketing and Outreach Center staff

also work with [county and district fairs](#) to improve exhibits and signage to better showcase and educate fairgoers about Wisconsin agriculture. They also register licensed [ginseng growers](#) and dealers throughout Wisconsin and the United States and compile the value and acreage of Wisconsin ginseng. In addition, staff issue shipping and retail certificates for cultivated ginseng growers and dealers.

Agricultural resource management

The Division of Agricultural Resource Management is responsible for farmland preservation, soil and water conservation, plant industry protection, and agrichemical management. The Division of Agricultural Resource Management includes three bureaus: Land and Water Resources, Plant Industry, and Agrichemical Management.

Land and Water Resources Bureau

The [Land and Water Resources Bureau](#) works with local governments, other state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, university researchers, and landowners to conserve soil, prevent agricultural runoff, and preserve farmland for future generations. This work is done through numerous programs and partnerships.

DATCP distributes soil and water resource management grants to fund county conservation staff and landowner conservation practices, support services such as [nutrient management](#) education and training from project cooperators, and aid innovative conservation projects. Conservation engineering staff provide technical assistance, and nutrient management staff provide training and support in developing nutrient management plans. In 2020, 3.3 million acres, or 36.3%, of Wisconsin's cropland was covered by an approved nutrient management plan. Through producer-led watershed grants, funds and resources are distributed to farmers to voluntarily implement local conservation practices, crop, and nutrient management changes to prevent and reduce runoff from farm fields.

The bureau also has numerous programs to preserve farmland. Staff analyze the impacts of public utility and transportation projects on privately or publicly-owned agricultural land. [Agricultural Enterprise Areas](#) (AEAs) are community driven efforts to identify locally important agricultural areas. Once established, landowners within an agricultural enterprise area can enter into a 15-year farmland preservation agreement with the state. The Department designated six new AEAs and modified one existing AEA during the biennium. As of January 1, 2021, Wisconsin has 43 AEAs totaling 1,475,280 acres.

The bureau also implements the [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) (CREP), in cooperation with the USDA and the counties. The Department enters into 15-year agreements or perpetual easements with landowners that establish conservation practices such as buffers and filter strips along eligible water bodies to reduce agricultural runoff, protect the soil and improve water quality.

The Land and Water Resources Bureau develops technical standards for [livestock facility siting](#) under the livestock facility siting law (s. 93.90, Wis. Stats. and Wis. Admin Rule ATCP 51), and provides administrative support to the Livestock Facility Siting Review Board, which hears appeals of zoning decisions regarding livestock siting made by local governments who have adopted livestock facility siting regulations under the livestock facility siting law. Staff also oversees drainage districts statewide and is responsible for monitoring county drainage board and drainage district compliance with applicable law.

Plant Industry Bureau

The [Plant Industry Bureau](#) protects Wisconsin's agricultural and horticultural industries and native plants by overseeing and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations involving plant pests, honeybees, nursery plants, Christmas trees, firewood, and seed. The bureau implements programs designed to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful plant pests and diseases, especially introduced regulated invasive species. Plant Industry Bureau programs include inspection, export certification, quarantine and survey activities.

The bureau also facilitates interstate and international trade in Wisconsin agricultural products and commodities by certifying plant health and the pest-free status of plants and plant products. To carry out its mission the bureau maintains cooperative agreements with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), the USDA Forest Service (USDA FS), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the University of Wisconsin and other state and federal agencies.

The Plant Industry Bureau Laboratory detected 105 different plant pathogens on 624 nursery plant and Christmas tree samples and 376 field crop, fruit and vegetable samples in 2019. In 2020, 791 samples were tested for the Christmas tree, nursery and phytosanitary programs. During the biennium, an invasive pest called elongate hemlock scale (EHS) was found on Fraser and balsam fir wreaths, trees, baskets, and boughs from eastern states. EHS is a threat to Wisconsin's Christmas trees, native hemlock and balsam fir forests, and decorative evergreens. The bureau did outreach efforts to encourage people to purchase local greens to avoid this pest.

During the biennium, the Plant Industry Bureau also continued its work managing the [Wisconsin Hemp Program](#). Hemp grower numbers remained steady from 2019 (1,251 growers licensed and registered) to 2020 (1,249 growers licensed and registered) while the number of samples collected and tested declined from 2019 (2,200) to 2020 (1,752). There were 560 processors registered in 2019 and 629 registered in 2020. Wisconsin Hemp emergency rules were updated twice in 2020. The Wisconsin hemp program will end December 31, 2021, and the USDA will directly regulate hemp production in Wisconsin beginning January 1, 2022.

Agrichemical Management Bureau

The mission of the [Agrichemical Management Bureau](#) is to protect human health and the environment, promote agriculture, and assure a fair marketplace by mitigating risks and preserving the benefits of regulated produce. The bureau regulates chemicals used in agriculture, such as a pesticide or fertilizer, known as agrichemicals, to protect human health, property, and the environment, as well as agrichemical storage, handling, use, and disposal. The bureau also directs clean-up of pesticide and fertilizer spills, and administers the [Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program](#). Staff also oversees pesticide regulation, fertilizers, soil additives, lime, and animal feeds. DATCP is a member of the state Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) and provides funding for pesticide and fertilizer related groundwater research.

During 2020, the pesticide certification program made major adjustments because the COVID-19 pandemic stopped, then severely limited the ability to provide in person examinations. In April 2020, a new process was started to test commercial applicators with a remote exam hosted by the UW Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) platform. Applicators who passed the online test were granted temporary certification until October 31, 2020. In December 2020, the UW PAT switched platforms to a different system for online exams, and expanded the offering to include both commercial and private applicator testing. Additionally, the expiration for temporary certification credentials obtained from passing the online exam were extended until December 31, 2021. Individuals with certifications that expired in 2020 and 2021 had their certifications extended to December 31, 2021. The ACM Bureau began developing permanent online examination option, which was implemented in October 2021.

Central administrative services

The Division of Management Services provides administrative support to the department, including finance, information technology, and laboratory services. The division is also responsible for developing and reviewing DATCP policies and procedures and providing agency-wide services such as workplace health and safety and mail and print services.

Finance

The Bureau of Finance has overall responsibility for the department's financial operations. The department administers a wide range of programs with diverse fund sources with a number of appropriations and statutory funds. Less than one-third of the department's expenditure authority and only 32% of its position authority is from general purpose revenue (GPR) funding. A table of expenditure and position authority includes:

(Table 1. Expenditure and position authority)

DATCP expenditure and position authority by fiscal year and fund source, 2019-21 biennium. (Source: state budget system.)

	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21 Percentages	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21 Percentages
	\$	\$	%	FTE	FTE	FTE%
GPR	\$28,909,000	\$29,088,700	27%	199.40	199.40	32%
PR	\$20,512,800	\$20,195,300	19%	178.89	178.89	28%
PR-S	\$7,917,100	\$7,988,000	8%	39.88	39.88	6%
FED	\$11,676,900	\$11,415,000	11%	92.62	84.62	13%
SEG	\$36,268,000	\$36,404,800	35%	130.50	130.50	21%
	\$105,283,800	\$105,091,800		641.29	633.29	

About 16% of the department's budget is used for local assistance and aids to individuals and organizations. This includes grants to individuals, businesses, and local governments. The remainder is used for state operations, including salary and fringe benefits, rent, equipment, and supplies. A table of expenditure authority by use includes:

(Table 2. Expenditure authority by use)

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection expenditure authority for fiscal year 2020-21, by use. (Source: state budget system.)

	2020-21	%
State Operations	\$87,830,000	84%
Aids to Individuals & Organizations	\$6,662,700	6%
Local Assistance	\$10,599,100	10%
	\$105,091,800	

Information technology

The Bureau of Information Technology manages the department's internal network, telecommunications, geographic information system (GIS), and data used by program staff in handling licensing, inspections, and related functions. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, DATCP's information technology staff needed to pivot to support staff who were suddenly telecommuting. After state agencies returned to normal operations, the information technology staff again needed to adapt, providing support to staff working in a hybrid model (i.e. combining working from the office and telecommuting).

Information technology staff continue to work to improve customer service, offering additional services online via the [MyDATCP](#) and decommissioning outdated systems. MyDATCP allows customers to apply for many licenses online, submit complaints, access lists, and schedule exams. In the biennium, DATCP decommissioned an outdated system, AMANDA, moving all the programs into a Microsoft customer relationship management (CRM) platform.

Laboratory services

The Bureau of Laboratory Services performs sample testing in support of various statewide regulatory programs. Examples include animal feed and fertilizer label guarantees, protection of groundwater from agricultural chemicals, industrial hemp, food and meat safety, and more.

Performance measures

Food safety and consumer protection

DESCRIPTION	BY THE NUMBERS	TIME PERIOD
Dairy farm inspections	13,247	Calendar year 2020
Food and Recreational Safety licensing information packets sent out, all programs	2,868	Calendar year 2020
Retail food, lodging, and recreation inspections	7,104	Calendar year 2020
Meat establishments issued a license	248	Calendar year 2021

DESCRIPTION	BY THE NUMBERS	TIME PERIOD
Complaints resolved by the Business Trade Practices Bureau	3,188	Biennium
Unique numbers registered on the Wisconsin Do Not Call list	4,800,000	Calendar year 2020
Completed weights and measures inspections	252,000	Calendar year 2020
Completed tests to ensure fuel quality	11,500 tests	Calendar year 2020

Animal health services

DESCRIPTION	BY THE NUMBERS	TIME PERIOD
Pigs with Senecavirus A (SVA) lesions, which are indistinguishable from lesions caused by Foot and Mouth Disease and therefore require prompt testing and diagnosis to keep interstate commerce and international trade moving	524 pigs	Biennium
Animals imported and moved accompanied by Certificates of Veterinary Inspection to prevent the spread of disease	699,724 animals	Calendar year 2020
Fish farms licensed and monitored	2,398 fish farms	License year 2021
Credentialed veterinary and veterinary technicians	6,516 veterinary and veterinary technicians	Bi-annual renewal cycle

Agricultural development services and assistance

DESCRIPTION	BY THE NUMBERS	TIME PERIOD
Jobs created by recipients of the Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grants	23 new jobs	Biennium
Export services provided, including attending seminars, trade events, client consultations, and certificates of free sales	790 export services	Biennium
Social media impressions by Alice in Dairyland	1,500,000	Calendar year 2020
Food and infrastructure grants provided for necessary equipment and food to food banks and pantries across Wisconsin	\$24,400,608	Calendar year 2020

Agricultural resource management

DESCRIPTION	BY THE NUMBERS	TIME PERIOD
Amount of funds allocated to pay for conservation staff in 72 counties	\$18.8 million	Calendar years 2020 and 2021
Active producer-led groups that have been funded through the DATCP program across the state	34	Calendar year 2021
Number of citizens of the state provided services to properly collect and dispose of agricultural chemicals and household hazardous waste, including unwanted prescription drugs	70,000	Calendar year 2020
Treated acres for <i>Lymantria dispar</i> (gypsy moth) at 58 sites in 18 counties	152,978	Calendar year 2020

Central administrative services

DESCRIPTION	BY THE NUMBERS	TIME PERIOD
Percentage of total expenditures to certified minority-owned business enterprises and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (The Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program goal is 5%.)	26.99%	FY2020
Total number of samples tested by the Bureau of Laboratory Services	19,664	Biennium
Samples tested and average turnaround time for Bureau of Laboratory Services microbiology testing (Dairy – Grade A, General Food, Meat)	10,279 samples 3 days	Biennium
Programs added to and available in the MyDATCP online service portal	7 added 95 available	Biennium