



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3964/1
JAM:cdc

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 743

December 6, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives C. ANDERSON, CONSIDINE, JACOBSON, J. ANDERSON, BARE, BEHNKE, CLANCY, DRAKE, EMERSON, JOERS, OHNSTAD, PALMERI, RATCLIFF, SHANKLAND, SHELTON, SUBECK and HAYWOOD, cosponsored by Senators PFAFF, SMITH, SPREITZER, HESSELBEIN, ROYS and TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.115 (4) (av) and 93.65 of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 value-added agricultural practices, granting rule-making authority, and
3 making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The bill allows the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to provide education and technical assistance related to producing value-added agricultural products. Under the bill, DATCP may provide education and assistance related to organic farming practices; collaborate with organic producers, industry participants, and local organizations that coordinate organic farming; and stimulate interest and investment in organic production. The bill also allows DATCP to provide grants to organic producers, industry participants, and local organizations, which may be used to provide education and technical assistance related to organic farming, to help create organic farming plans, and to assist farmers in transitioning to organic farming. The bill also authorizes DATCP to provide grants to entities to provide education and training to farmers about best practices related to grazing. DATCP is also authorized under the bill to help farmers market value-added agricultural products.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

ASSEMBLY BILL 743

SECTION 1

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

			2023-24	2024-25
3 20.115 Agriculture, trade and consumer				
4 protection, department of				
5 (4) AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE				
6 (av) Value-added agricultural prac-				
7 tices	GPR	B	400,000	400,000

8 **SECTION 2.** 20.115 (4) (av) of the statutes is created to read:
9 20.115 (4) (av) *Value-added agricultural practices.* Biennially, the amounts in
10 the schedule for the value-added agricultural practices program under s. 93.65.

11 **SECTION 3.** 93.65 of the statutes is created to read:

12 **93.65 Value-added agricultural practices. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section,
13 “value-added agricultural product” means a farm product that satisfies any of the
14 following:

- 15 (a) The product has undergone a change in physical state.
- 16 (b) The product is produced in a manner that enhances its value.
- 17 (c) The product is physically segregated in a manner that enhances its value.
- 18 (d) The product is a source of farm-based or ranch-based renewable energy.
- 19 (e) The product is aggregated and marketed as a locally produced farm product.

20 **(2) VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS.** The department may provide education and
21 technical assistance related to promoting and implementing agricultural practices
22 that produce value-added agricultural products, including by doing all of the
23 following:

ASSEMBLY BILL 743**SECTION 3**

1 (a) *Assistance for organic farming practices.* Providing education and technical
2 assistance related to organic farming practices, including business and market
3 development assistance; collaborating with organic producers, industry
4 participants, and local organizations that coordinate organic farming; and
5 stimulating interest and investment in organic production. The department may
6 award grants from the appropriation under s. 20.115 (4) (av) to organic producers,
7 industry participants, and local organizations that coordinate organic farming. The
8 department may award a grant to an organic producer, industry participant, or local
9 organization under this paragraph for any of the following purposes:

- 10 1. Providing education and technical assistance related to implementing
11 organic farming practices.
- 12 2. Helping to create organic farming plans.
- 13 3. Assisting farmers to transition to organic farming.

14 (b) *Grazing grants.* Awarding grants from the appropriation under s. 20.115
15 (4) (av) to appropriate entities to provide education and training to farmers about
16 best practices related to grazing.

17 (c) *Promotion.* Helping producers market value-added agricultural products,
18 including products produced through the use of a practice described in s. 93.67.

19 **(3) RULES.** The department may promulgate rules to administer this section.

20 **(END)**