



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Ballweg Leads Agriculture and Natural Resources Investments**

Madison... Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) led her Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) colleagues in supporting broad investments in agriculture and natural resources at today's executive session on the state budget.

Important investments made include:

- Adopting a comprehensive agriculture export program
- Supporting the meat processing industry through increased positions and grant dollars
- Continuing to prioritize farmer mental health

Senator Ballweg's version of the comprehensive agriculture export program, which was also introduced as a bill this session, will require the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, to create a plan and achieve export objectives in dairy, meat, fruit, vegetable and other agricultural products.

"Not only will this program create a plan to achieve 25% increases in export objectives, it will also ensure real outcomes to our farmers by monitoring the data so we can continue this effort into the future," said Ballweg.

Certain areas of the Department of Natural Resources were also taken up, including an increase to the waterfowl stamp and ATV fund authorized expenditures. An increase to this stamp was last made in 1997 and will help the state complete additional waterfowl and wetland conservation projects. ATV and UTV registration fees are meant to be used for the development and maintenance of the trails for their users and this action will allow for more local projects.

*To reach Sen. Ballweg with questions or comments please call (608) 266-0751 or email [Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Ballweg@legis.wi.gov). The 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District is located in Central Wisconsin, and is composed of parts of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Outagamie, Sauk, Waupaca, and Waushara counties.*

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