



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3204/1
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2025 SENATE BILL 326

June 12, 2025 - Introduced by Senator CABRAL-GUEVARA, cosponsored by Representatives NOVAK, TRANEL, DITTRICH, KITCHENS, PENTERMAN and WICHGERS. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Revenue.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 93.58 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating a nutrient loss
2 reduction grant program.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a nutrient loss reduction grant program, under which the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection may award grants to farmers for the purpose of purchasing enhanced efficiency fertilizer products, implementing variable rate technology, or preparing a nutrient management plan. Under the bill, an “enhanced efficiency fertilizer product” is a controlled-release or slow-release fertilizer formulation or a product, added to fertilizer, that includes a urease inhibitor or a nitrification inhibitor. “Variable rate technology” is defined under the bill as the practice of testing soil in sections of six acres or less using georeferenced data points and applying fertilizer at a prescribed rate for each section depending on the results of the soil samples. A “nutrient management plan” is a plan for using commercial fertilizer, manure, or organic byproducts in a manner that reduces nutrient loss.

Under the bill, if a grant will be used for purchasing and using an enhanced efficiency fertilizer product, the grant amount may not exceed the lesser of \$7 per acre or 50 percent of the cost of the product. If a grant will be used for implementing variable rate technology, the grant amount may not exceed the lesser of \$8 per acre or 50 percent of the cost of soil sampling. If a grant will be used for preparing a nutrient management plan, the grant may not exceed the lesser of \$2 per acre or 50 percent of the cost of preparing the plan. In addition, a grant

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recipient may not receive more than \$20,000 in any given year under the grant program.

The bill allows an applicant to receive a grant that covers multiple allowable activities in a single year. The bill also allows an agricultural retailer (a person that supplies resources, materials, and products to farmers) to submit an application for a grant on behalf of a farmer. Finally, the bill allows DATCP to request certain information and materials from a grant applicant or recipient, including land and field information, receipts and invoices, and an attestation that the applicant is not receiving any other funding or incentives for the activities funded by the grant.

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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 93.58 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **93.58 Nutrient loss reduction grant program. (1)** In this section:

3 (a) “Agricultural retailer” means a person that supplies resources, materials,
4 and products to agricultural producers.

5 (b) “Enhanced efficiency fertilizer product” means any of the following:

6 1. A controlled-release or slow-release fertilizer formulation.

7 2. A product, added to fertilizer, that contains compounds that inhibit the
8 activity of urease or the process of nitrification.

9 (c) “Nutrient management plan” means a plan, developed for an agricultural
10 producer, for using commercial fertilizer, manure, or organic byproducts in a
11 manner that reduces nutrient loss.

12 (d) “Variable rate technology” means the practice of testing soil on
13 agricultural land in sections of 6 acres or less using georeferenced data points and
14 applying fertilizer at a prescribed rate for each section depending on the results of
15 each soil sample.

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1 (2) The department may provide grants under this section to agricultural
2 producers to cover the cost of one or more of the following activities:

3 (a) Purchasing an enhanced efficiency fertilizer product.

4 (b) Implementing variable rate technology.

5 (c) Preparing a nutrient management plan.

6 (3) A grant provided under this section may not exceed any of the following
7 amounts:

8 (a) If the grant will be used for purchasing and using an enhanced efficiency
9 fertilizer product, the lesser of \$7 per acre or 50 percent of the cost of the product.

10 (b) If the grant will be used for implementing variable rate technology, the
11 lesser of \$8 per acre or 50 percent of the cost of soil sampling.

12 (c) If the grant will be used for preparing a nutrient management plan, the
13 lesser of \$2 per acre or 50 percent of the cost of preparing the plan.

14 (4) For the purpose of awarding grants under this section, the department
15 may request any of the following from a grant applicant or recipient:

16 (a) Contact information.

17 (b) An attestation that the applicant is not receiving any other funding or
18 incentives for any of the activities under sub. (2) (a) to (c).

19 (c) An acknowledgement that the department may aggregate and share
20 information relating to land on which any of the activities under sub. (2) (a) to (c)
21 are undertaken.

22 (d) Receipts or invoices for any of the activities under sub. (2) (a) to (c) that
23 show the completion date and the number of acres on which the activities were
24 undertaken.

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(e) Information about any land tract or field where the activities under sub. (2) (a) to (c) are undertaken.

(5) A grant under this section may cover multiple activities under sub. (2) (a) to (c) in the same year. No person may receive grants under this section totalling more than \$20,000 per year.

(6) An agricultural retailer may, at the request of an agricultural producer, submit an application for a grant under this subsection on behalf of the agricultural producer.

(END)