



Legislative Update

Pollinator Protection Package, Groundwater Monitoring & More!

About Us



The **Midwest Food Products Association** is the leading voice and resource for the food manufacturing industry in the region. Our members process and pack products including vegetables, fruits, beans, meat, snack foods, pickles, fermented products & other packaged goods. We have members throughout the Midwest, including Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and other surrounding states.

Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Package



- Seven bills aimed at improving pollinator habitats, expanding education about pollinators and increase public outreach
- Introduced by Rep. Lee Snodgrass (D – Appleton)
- Some bills include:
 - Creating a “Protect Pollinators” license plate
 - Designating Pollinator Awareness Month
 - Designating the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee as WI’s native insect
- Other bills are more concerning...

Assembly Bill 287 / Senate Bill 292



- Bill Authors: Rep. Lee Snodgrass (D – Appleton) & Sen. Jeff Smith (D – Brunswick)
- Current law prohibits cities, towns, villages or counties from prohibiting or regulating the use of pesticides
- This bill would allow such local governments to regulate pesticides in order to “protect pollinators and pollinator habitats.”

Assembly Bill 289 / Senate Bill 298



- Bill Authors: Rep. Lee Snodgrass (D – Appleton) & Sen. Brad Pfaff (D – Onalaska)
- This bill would prohibit the DNR from using any insecticide from the neonicotinoid class on land maintained by DNR
- The bill does not target farmers directly, but could impact adjacent lands
- The bill is also part of a broader effort by environmentalists aiming to ban neonicotinoids across Wisconsin

Groundwater Monitoring & Notification



- Introduced by Rep. Jill Billings (D – La Crosse) and Sen. Jesse James (R – Thorp)
- Broad bi-partisan support for the legislation
- The bill aims to create a notification system for county and tribal health departments, and county land and conservation departments if the DNR verifies there has been an exceedance of groundwater standards for PFAS

Assembly Bill 635 / Senate Bill 628



Whenever on the basis of any information available to it the department finds that there has been a exceedance of any groundwater protection standards under ch. 160 or of any standard for PFAS, as defined in s. 299.48 (1) (b), **in a proposed or promulgated rule of the department**, the department shall notify the county health department, tribal health department, and county land and conservation department in the affected county and the county health department, tribal health department, and county land and conservation department **in any adjacent county that the department determines may be negatively affected** as a result of the exceedance.

Innocent Landowner Protections for PFAS Contamination



- Introduced by Rep. Jeff Mursau (R – Crivitz) and Sen. Eric Wimberger (R – Oconto)
- The bill aims to create an innocent landowner provision in Wisconsin’s Spills Law to protect certain entities from liability if they have PFAS contamination on their land
- Broad coalition of stakeholders are working with the bill authors on reaching an agreeable compromise

Assembly Bill 130 / Senate Bill 127



- Exempts the following entities from the Spills Law if they abided by applicable permits and regulations:
 - A person that **spread biosolids or wastewater residuals** contaminated by PFAS
 - A person that owns property that is used exclusively for **agricultural or residential** purposes
 - A person that owns **commercial property** upon which biosolids or wastewater residuals contaminated by PFAS were spread
 - A **fire department or municipality** that responded to an emergency that required the use of PFAS, or that conducted training for such an emergency
 - A **municipal waste landfill** that disposed of PFAS-contaminated leachate at a publicly owned treatment works
 - A person that owns, leases, manages, or contracts for property **on which the PFAS contamination did not originate**
- However, there are three exemptions that could impact farmers and food processors...

Assembly Bill 130 / Senate Bill 127



- The exemptions do not apply if and entity:
 - Owns or operates an industrial or manufacturing facility that **has used or is using** PFAS in industrial or manufacturing processes or operations
 - Owns or operates a commercial facility that has used or is using PFAS in its processes or operation and the commercial facility caused or contributed to a discharge
 - Conducts permitted **landspreading of industrial liquid wastes**, by-product solids, or sludges



Thank You!

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