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Food Bank Food Purchasing Program Among Top Priorities at Wisconsin Ag Day at the Capitol

[MADISON, Wis.] – Connecting Wisconsin grown food to families facing food insecurity was a key topic at today’s Ag Day at the Capitol. The event brought in farmers from across Wisconsin to speak with their legislators about the agriculture industry’s top priorities this biennium, including asking for a \$20 million investment in a state funded food bank food purchasing program.

Feeding Wisconsin is encouraging legislative leaders and members of the Senate and Assembly Agricultural Committees to support an investment in the food bank food purchasing program to connect Feeding Wisconsin’s network of food banks and pantries with Wisconsin producers. This investment will continue to provide Wisconsin grown food to families experiencing food insecurity.

“Feeding Wisconsin appreciates everyone in the agricultural community who came to Madison to support our goal of supporting Wisconsin families who are struggling to put food on their tables – in a way that also supports our local Wisconsin farmers.” Said Michelle Orge, Feeding Wisconsin Board President. “This program a win for all - the Wisconsin farmers and processors at the source of the nutrient-dense and locally grown food, the food banks and pantries across the entire state, and most importantly – the increasing number of families experiencing food insecurity in every one of our communities across Wisconsin.

Feeding Wisconsin supports a \$20 million investment in DATCP’s Food Bank Food Purchasing Program to support regional food banks and pantries. Currently, our food banks and pantries are experiencing a 30-45% increase in need and are anticipating a surge in need as emergency COVID FoodShare benefits ended earlier this year.

This program would allow for flexibility and local decision making regarding the types of food needed by local communities. Unfortunately, food insecurity remains an issue for 7.2% of Wisconsinites, including 12.6% of Wisconsin children. Not only does this program provide food through our state’s food producers, access to this nutrient dense food can reduce health risks and healthcare costs associated with food insecurity.

For more information or to join the effort, visit www.feedingwisconsin.org.

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