

By this point, most counties are quite familiar with the issue related to USDA-Farm Service Agency representation on county LCCs. In Nov. 2021, the FSA Attorney Advisor issued a determination that FSA county commission members in Wisconsin do not represent FSA in any official capacity in "outside groups," including committees of the county board.

This determination created confusion and differing interpretations across counties as to what was necessary to comply with the statute, as Chap. 92 required each county board to appoint to the LCC a person from the county's FSA committee.

Act 32 removes the requirement in Chap. 92 to appoint an FSA member to the county LCC and replaces it with a requirement to appoint a person who is engaged in an agricultural use. "Agricultural use" is defined as crop or forage production; keeping livestock; beekeeping; nursery, sod, or Christmas tree production; floriculture; aquaculture; fur farming; and forest management. This is an existing statutory definition of "agricultural use" that is used in the Farmland Preservation Program (s. 91.01 (2) (a) 1. to 7). This new statute will take effect during the next cycle of counties naming LCC members, in 2024.

WI Land+Water applauds the passage of Act 32 and the leadership of Governor Evers for signing this bipartisan legislation. We are grateful to have had the privilege of working with the offices of Sen. Ballweg and Rep. Schutt to shape this sensible legislation that allows agriculture to continue to have a seat on county LCCs, while allowing counties the flexibility to determine the best way to do that.

WI Land+Water's Legislative-Administrative Committee was vitally important to shaping this legislation, as was productive dialogue with Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, whose support on this we appreciate.

[Click here](#) to see a press release from Rep. Schutt in support of Act 32/AB 131, her first bill as a legislator.

Best,



Matt Krueger,  
Executive Director



*From left: Rep. Ellen Schutt,  
Gov. Tony Evers, Sen. Joan Ballweg,  
and Matt Krueger.*

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