



WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS

2019 Annual Dues and Trade Association Advocacy Contribution Notice

In 2017 WAPAC members voted to become more active in Trade Association Advocacy. This has resulted in WAPAC's increased recognition as the agricultural professionals that we are with State agency staff and other agricultural and environmental advocacy groups. Our advocacy takes not only volunteer time but also member financial resources to retain the professional services of Jordan Lamb with DeWitt, Ross, and Stevens. While we recognize who the decision makers are at the fertilizer or seed dealership, Jordan knows who the decision makers are at the State level.

Success

- ✓ We advocated for producer-led watershed grants which are now increased from a \$250,000/year to \$750,000/year for 2018 and 2019.
- ✓ We achieved wetland reform that prevents tillable acres from being classified as wetlands and exempts artificial wetlands from DNR permitting requirements.

Progress and Participate

- ✓ The final NR151 Targeted Performance Standards for manure applications in Silurian bedrock areas contain many of our recommendations. Members had unprecedented input, THANK YOU!! **Members will need to be engaged as ATCP50 is updated at DATCP to implement NR151.**
- ✓ WAPAC will continue to be involved as groundwater nitrates are addressed in order to promote scientific, research based outcomes that can be implemented on farm.

The Effect of WAPAC's Participation

- ✓ Many more policy items were discussed, considered and acted upon. Because of our Trade Association Advocacy, WAPAC is being invited to participate in more deliberations as our professional roles and expertise are recognized.

For professional advocacy WAPAC pays \$2,250/month (\$27,000/year). Since this advocacy is mostly discussions with agency staff, approximately 90% of advocacy contributions are considered ordinary business expenses. Thanks to engaged WAPAC members, 2018 advocacy contributions are up 37% over 2017. While that is very positive, contributions were still roughly two months short of our retainer. Please consider how our Trade Association Advocacy impacts your business and support this advocacy as you are able.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

WAPAC Board of Directors and Legislative Committee

*Please consult with your tax professional regarding deductible business expenses.