

WISCONSIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

Wisconsin Agricultural Export Advisory Council

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Katy Sinnott

Email: katy.sinnott@wedc.org

Katy Sinnott is Vice President of Global Trade and Investment with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). In this role, she is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to grow Wisconsin's economy in three key areas: helping Wisconsin companies expand and accelerate their exports, expanding and growing key driver industries by working with key stakeholders in the state, and through attracting both foreign and national investment into Wisconsin. Katy has more two decades of business management and financial services experience, working in more than 40 countries with an emphasis on China. Before joining WEDC, she was the CEO and a board director for ERIC Paris Salons, a chain of salons based in China. Prior to that, Katy was a consultant in Hong Kong for McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting firm. Katy also held several positions in Hong Kong with HSBC Ltd., one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations. A Wisconsin native, Katy holds a Bachelor of Science in finance from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING)

Sen. Joan Ballweg

Email: Sen.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Joan Ballweg was born the oldest of four to a first generation American in West Allis, WI on March 16, 1952, and she is the state senator for the 14th District located in south central Wisconsin. Joan and her husband, Tom, live in Markesan in Green Lake County. Joan and Tom own and operate a John Deere Farm Equipment dealership in Waupun and a yard and garden store in Beaver Dam, and they have been in that business since 1976. Joan graduated in 1974 from UW-Stevens Point, and was a first grade teacher before she and Tom went into business. Her public service began in Markesan, where she served as alderperson on the Markesan City Council for 4 years, and then served as mayor for another 6 years. Later, she sat on the Waupun Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and was Chair from 2002 to 2004. From 2003 to 2004, she also served on the management committee of Agnesian HealthCare Enterprises. Most recently, Senator Ballweg served as the state representative for the 41st Assembly District from 2004 through 2020.

Rep. Dave Considine

Email: Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov

A proud Wisconsin native, Dave Considine was born in Janesville and raised in North Prairie. After attending Mukwonago High School, Dave earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater and holds a Master of Arts in Education from Viterbo University. Dave and his wife Gretchen have resided in the Baraboo Bluffs and the Town of Caledonia for over 40 years. They have raised five children on their farm and are now enjoying sharing it with their twelve grandchildren. In addition to owning and maintaining their farm as conservation land, they have been active community members in Baraboo and the surrounding area for many years. For 29 years, Dave served as a teacher at Jack Young Middle School in the Baraboo School District, retiring in 2014 to run for State Assembly. He is currently in his third term as State Representative for the 81st District. As an educator, association leader, steward of the land, outdoorsman, hunter, trainer in Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, nationally recognized dairy goat judge, singer, and track coach, Dave has experience with a wide variety of areas and interests.

Rep. Tony Kurtz

Email: Rep.Kurtz@legis.wisconsin.gov

Representative Tony Kurtz was born in Columbus, Ohio. Following high school, Tony spent the next two decades in the U.S. Army. Since retiring from the Army, Tony and his wife Kim have made their home in Western Wisconsin, where they own an organic grain farm in Wonewoc. They have two children, Kaylin and Nick, who are currently attending college in Wisconsin. He received a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Master of Science in International Relations from Troy State University. He was elected to the State Assembly in 2018.

Sen. Jeff Smith

Email: Sen.Smith@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Jeff Smith has served in the State Senate since 2019 and the Eau Claire region as a small business owner, operating a window cleaning business for 30 years. He also served on the Brunswick Town Board as Chair for 6 years. He was active with the Governor's Task Force for Educational Excellence, the Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association Board, the Department of Public Instruction's Parent Leadership Corps, and the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. Senator Smith was later elected to the State Assembly and served during the 2007 and 2009 legislative sessions. Senator Smith was Chair of the Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaign Reform. Senator Smith was elected Minority Caucus Chair for the 2021-22 legislative session and currently serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform & Ethics and the Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business, & Rural Issues. He also serves as member of the Agriculture & Tourism Committee; the Education Committee; the Government Operations, Legal Review & Consumer Protection Committee; and the Utilities, Technology & Telecommunications Committee. Senator Smith and his wife Sue live on their farm in the Town of Brunswick caring for horses, chickens, dogs, cats, a llama, and their land.

INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS (VOTING)

At-Large

Craig Briess | Term: 2022-2024

Email: Craig.briess@briess.com

Craig Briess is Chief Executive Officer and fifth generation leader of family-owned Briess Industries, a producer of natural specialty ingredients for food and beer. He began his career as a Customs and International Trade Law attorney at a New York City-based law firm before joining the International Trade Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. He subsequently joined U.S. Customs and Border Protection, where he was an attorney with the Office of Chief Counsel, Trade, and Finance and Chief of the Trade Agreements Branch, where he managed trade agreements and special trade legislation matters. Briess earned his Bachelor of Arts from Franklin and Marshall College, International MBA from Instituto de Empresa Business School in Spain, and law degree from University of Miami School of Law. He is a member of the New York, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C. bars and admitted to practice before the Court of International Trade.

Kevin Krentz | Term: 2022-2025

Email: kkrentz@wfbf.com

Since 2020, Kevin Krentz has served as the president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF), previously serving on the WFBF board of directors. He also serves as president of the Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Kevin was elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors in 2021 and appointed to serve on the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's board of directors. He also currently serves on the Wisconsin Livestock ID Consortium and University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences board of visitors. He has served on DATCP's Raw Milk Taskforce, the Department of Commerce Dairy 2020 Council, American Farm Bureau Federal Milk Marketing Order Workgroup, and the Wisconsin DNR NR 151 Technical Advisory Committee. He has participated in the U.S. Dairy Export Council Trade Policy Committee meeting discussions, and in 2016, he participated in a Transatlantic Dialogue Agriculture Perspectives trip to Germany focusing on dairy production and trade. Kevin, his wife Holly, and their family own and operate a dairy farm in Berlin, Wisconsin.

Crop

Brandon Bickham | Term: 2022-2025

Email: bbickham@delongcompany.com

Brandon Bickham is the Senior Export Director at The Delong Co., Inc, which is consistently ranked in the top five containerized exporters in the Journal of Commerce and the number one agricultural exporter of containers in the U.S. From corn and soybean production to exports, he has spent his entire life involved in agriculture. He was hired by Delong 16 years ago as an Export Sales Associate and is now responsible for Delong's Export Sales, Container Logistics and Export Documentation teams. Bickham has served on the board of directors for the U.S. Soybean Export Council and currently serves on Delong's board of directors. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Agricultural Business, and in his free time, enjoys spending time with family and friends, along with hunting and shooting sports.

Brian Cummins | Term: 2022-2023

Email: brian@gndwi.com

Brian Cummins is the founder of Great Northern Distilling in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. After studying Chemical Engineering, he moved to Stevens Point for a position in the paper industry. After a career which included process engineering, quality control, product development, and marketing strategy, Brian founded Great Northern Distilling in 2013 to make spirits of exceptional smoothness from ingredients sourced within 150 miles of the distillery. In partnership with Hsu's Ginseng Enterprises, Great Northern Distilling developed an American Ginseng Whiskey that has been exported to customers in Asia. Cummins also serves on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Small Business Regulatory Review Board, Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Wisconsin Distillers Guild.

Jackie Fett | Term: 2022-2023

Email: jackie@ginsengboard.com

With more than 20 years of experience in the natural products industry, Jackie Fett is passionate about promoting the value of agriculture. She currently serves as the Executive and Marketing Director for the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin (GBW), a board dedicated to the research, education, and promotion of Wisconsin ginseng. During her previous 16 year career with Standard Process, a Wisconsin whole food supplement manufacturer, Jackie held a variety of roles in marketing, education, and management. Jackie graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing.

Larry Krueger | Term: 2022-2024

Email: larry@kruegerlumber.com

Larry Krueger was born and raised on a family-owned sawmill and forestry business called Krueger Lumber Company where he is now the owner. Through this business, he exports forestry products to China, Vietnam, and the European Union and has participated in DATCP-led trade missions in the past. He is a member of the Wisconsin Freight Advisory Committee and served on the board of directors for the Lake States Lumber Association (LSLA), a regional hardwood lumber organization, for many years.

Kevin Lipps | Term: 2022-2024

Email: klipps@senecafoods.com

Kevin Lipps has served as Vice President of International Sales at Seneca Foods Corporation since 2011. Growing up in New Richmond, Wisconsin and graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, he began his international career in 1997 with the Friday Canning Corporation, transitioning to Seneca when acquired in 2003. He has participated in numerous international trade missions and trade shows, helping Seneca's processed vegetables from Wisconsin reach more than 50 countries annually. He is grateful for the opportunity to explore further success in promoting Wisconsin's agricultural and agribusiness exports.

Charles Wachsmuth | Term: 2022-2023

Email: charleswachsmuth@cvbean.com

Charles Wachsmuth is a Vice President at Chippewa Valley Bean, the largest processor and exporter of dark red kidney beans in the world. He joined the company in 2012 as part of the sales team, focusing on targeting and developing new export markets, and now leads Chippewa Valley Bean's Sustainability and Social Responsibility projects. Prior to this position, Charles managed his own consultant business for 10 years with a focus on agricultural development and humanitarian feeding. Over his years of experience, Wachsmuth has worked and traveled in more than 50 countries. He currently holds committee assignments with the Global Pulse Confederation, American Pulse Association, and U.S. Dry Bean Council.

Bob Wilson | Term: 2022-2025

Email: BWilson@thecranberrynetwork.com

Bob Wilson currently serves as the Managing Member of Food Partners International, The Cranberry Network, and Cranberry Partners. He also serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the Cranberry Cooperative of the Americas, Managing Director of BNK Enterprises, and Director of Synesis. Through these positions, he works to supply frozen cranberries and blueberries to the European Union from multiple points of export within the U.S. and Canada. In addition to his business positions, he is an associate member of the Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association and the Cranberry Institute, where he has previously served as director and chairman.

Dairy

Jeff Schwager | Term: 2022-2024

Email: jschwager@sartoricheese.com

Jeff Schwager has led Sartori Cheese as the President since 2009, accepting the role of Chief Executive Officer in July 2020. He brings more than 20 years of global executive experience to Sartori, where he has led the company through significant growth and strategic initiatives, including the development of Sartori into a premium, retail brand with worldwide distribution in more than 50 countries. Jeff also holds the positions of Vice Chair of Trade Policy for the U.S. Dairy Export Council and Vice Chair of the Consortium for Common Food Names.

Chad Vincent | Term: 2022-2025

Email: cvincent@wisconsinmilk.org

Chad Vincent serves as CEO of the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW), leading efforts to build demand and awareness for Wisconsin's \$50 billion dairy industry. He has extensive experience in business, international, marketing, and management, driving growth at Fortune 500 companies. At Miller Brewing Company, Vincent conducted consumer research and led international marketing and export operations. As President of the Asia-Pacific division, he opened and built Miller's businesses in China, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, and all Asian markets. As president and global marketing lead at Fiskars Brands & Gerber outdoor, he built and managed an extensive Asian manufacturing and sourcing operation. Prior to joining DFW, he helped build the Sartori Cheese brand and retail business as their chief marketing officer. Vincent holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance and Marketing from Michigan State University. Father of four, Chad currently resides in Madison with his wife Wendy.

Ryan Wucherer | Term: 2022-2023

Email: ryanw@mctdairies.com

Since 2015, Ryan Wucherer has served as the Global Director of Sales and Supply Chain at MCT Dairies, where he leads the company's International Supply Chain, Logistics, and Sales Team. Selling to more than 50 countries around the world, Wucherer and his team travel the globe for business. Prior to this position, he served as the Global Sourcing and International Sales Manager for Schreiber Foods, where he was responsible for the international sale of dairy ingredients and negotiating and executing multi-million dollar contracts. Wucherer is an active board member for the U.S. Dairy Export Council, include the council's cheese marketing team. Growing up, he was raised on a farm in Southeast Wisconsin.

Meat

Bob Fitzgerald | Term: 2022-2024

Email: BFitzgerald@johnsonville.com

Since 2012, Bob Fitzgerald has served as the Vice President of International Business for Johnsonville, leading the companies export business. He is involved with the U.S. Meat Export Federation, U.S.A Poultry and Egg Export Council, U.S. Dairy Export Council, and the Madison International Trade Association. He has also led the development and growth of products produced in Wisconsin, exported to more than 30 countries, and been involved with exporting fresh and cooked Sausage, cheese, and frozen bread. Fitzgerald obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Dayton, MBA from Rutgers University, and a Graduate Certificate in Global Supply Chain Management from Boston University.

Keith Heikes | Term: 2022-2023

Email: Keith.heikes@urus.org

Keith Heikes retired as the Chief Operating Officer of URUS in 2021 after a 40-year career in the cattle breeding industry. Prior to this position, he served as the Chief Operating Officer of GENEX Cooperative and Chief Executive Officer of Cooperative Resources International. He also spent 15 years as the Vice President of International Programs for CRI, helping expand their international reach around the world by establishing new distributors through the acquisition of retail businesses. Heikes has served as a board member and chairman for the National Association of Animal Breeders, a board member for the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, member of the USDA Emerging Markets Advisory Committee, board member and vice-chair of the Overseas Cooperative Development Council, and board member of joint ventures in India and Australia. He currently is on the board of World Dairy Expo and serves on its finance committee.

Dr. Amy Radunz | Term: 2022-2025

Email: aeradunz@gmail.com

Dr. Amy Radunz currently works as a beef cattle technical consultant for Purina Animal Nutrition and owns a stocker operation in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. She has been actively involved in Wisconsin's beef industry for the past 10 years. She served as at-large board member for Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association (WCA) from 2015-2020. Since 2019, Radunz has represented the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association on the Wisconsin Beef Council (WBC) and serves on the WBC Executive Committee as President-Elect. In 2021, she represented WBC at the Latin American Product Showcase to help promote Wisconsin beef and will be representing WBC at the U.S. Meat Export Federation. Amy is looking forward to serving on the WAXC committee to apply her experience and interest in beef cattle, meat science, and international trade to help Wisconsin agriculture.