

Wisconsin Farmers Union Government Relations Director

Organization Summary:

Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) is a grassroots membership organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for farmers, rural communities and all people through advocacy, education and cooperative endeavors. Wisconsin Farmers Union works with individuals at the county, state, and national level to support economic democracy, sustain economically viable family farms, support new farmers, reduce concentration in the market, protect ecological systems, increase transparency in the value chain, and ensure that the voices of family farmers and rural allies are heard by policy makers.

Brief Description:

The Government Relations Director will work closely with the Farmers Union staff, county chapters' leadership, and organizational partners to execute a comprehensive government relations strategy promoting the grassroots WFU policy document developed by members annually at the WFU State Convention.

Responsibilities include:

- Lobby for WFU's grassroots policy at the State Capitol. Build and maintain relationships with elected officials, agencies, staff and candidates at the national, state and local levels that help increase WFU's ability to influence policy change.
- Work with colleagues to successfully advance campaigns for high priority issues (reforming dairy policy, improving water quality, reducing consolidation in the market, etc.).
- Coordinate and manage advocacy events including WFU Lobby Day, WFU members' participation in the NFU Fly-In and the policy process at the WFU Convention.
- Draft correspondence to the administration, Legislature and outside organizations. Work with the communications team to draft statements for press releases, newsletters, policy briefs, op-eds, legislative hearings, etc. Represent WFU in the media as requested.
- Represent WFU on boards, coalitions, panels and meetings with other farm organizations, commodity groups and organizational partners.
- Brief WFU staff, county leadership and members on policy updates through emails, social media, newsletter articles, phone calls, trade show staffing and presentations at state and county meetings.
- Work in person and over the phone with individual farmers and farmer advocates to connect them with the necessary resources within the government to address farming and business challenges.
- Travel extensively to WFU events and other meetings.

Experience:

- Demonstrated understanding of agricultural policy and practices.
- Insider knowledge of and experience with state and national legislative processes.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and effective listening skills.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully manage projects with competing priorities, deadlines and demands.
- Demonstrated ability to work in teams while instilling trust and respect with colleagues and partners.
- Exceptional attention to detail, knowledge retention and ability to recall large amounts of detailed information.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Familiar and supportive of WFU and WFU policy.

Qualifications

- Four or more years' experience lobbying on agricultural and/or rural issues.
- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in relevant field: agriculture economics, public policy administration, public relations, communications, political science, natural resources, etc.

Compensation:

Salary DOE. Regular work day hours, with flexibility to attend evening and weekend events as required, especially during the legislative session. Medical, dental, vision, life, wellness plan, employer contribution to simple IRA retirement account, and generous paid time off package provided.

To Apply:

The position will be open until filled. Submit a PDF cover letter, resume, and three references to jbomar@wisconsinfarmersunion.com