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Secretary Newson Announces Job Center of Wisconsin Feature: Agriculture Industry Page Highlights Careers in Diverse Sector Driving Wisconsin Economy

Online employment site's new page developed with sector representatives

PRAIRIE DU SAC – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced the new [Agriculture Industry](#) page on [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](#). The page is a one-stop online resource for information about agriculture careers, training resources, reports and other information about working in the agriculture industry.

“Agriculture contributes \$59.16 billion annually to Wisconsin’s economy and accounts for one in every 10 jobs,” Secretary Newson said. “Even so, this mainstay of our economy has to contend with misconceptions about agriculture careers. This industry-specific page on our online employment site, [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](#), presents the agriculture industry for what it is today: a diverse sector offering traditional farming jobs along with openings for production supervisors, computer support specialists, graphic designers and financial managers. These are the kinds of jobs that support working families and can move Wisconsin workers along the path toward greater independence and prosperity.”

The Agriculture Industry page is the third page of its kind since [JobCenterofWisconsin.com](#) was launched in September 2008. Pages devoted to manufacturing and transportation job opportunities have been added since 2011 to the free, user-friendly site, which currently lists more than 43,000 job openings statewide.

Highlighting a wide variety of jobs, the agricultural industry page was developed in partnership with the Wisconsin Agricultural, Education & Workforce Development Council (WAEWDC). Council Chair Paul Larson of Appleton joined DWD Deputy Secretary Jonathan Barry at Badgerland Financial In Prairie du Sac, where on Secretary Newson’s behalf, Deputy Secretary Barry formally announced the new JCW page.

“The mission of the WAEWDC is to attract, develop and retain the premier workforce required to grow Wisconsin’s agriculture, food and natural resource systems,” Larson said. “Agriculture is such a huge employer that we’re concerned we’re not going to have enough workers. We typically run at least 10 percent short in agriculture every year. According to DWD projections, we’re going to be short about 132,000 people by 2020.”

Larson said the projected shortage is due to anticipated job growth, but primarily vacancies occurring as baby boomers retire. Impressed by the existing manufacturing and trucking pages, Larson and council members began working with DWD last year to develop the industry-specific page. Larson said the page will complement efforts by the council and others in the agriculture industry to encourage present and future job seekers to consider opportunities in the industry, for example, production or retail sales supervisors paid earning as much as \$45,000 or more a year, or financial managers paid over \$100,000 a year.

“Absolutely these are good paying jobs with great benefits,” Larson said. “Some of them come with a vehicle. These are good quality jobs with a sustaining wage to make sure that people are going to be able to maintain themselves and their families.”