

Greetings!

The summer weather proved challenging for Wisconsin farmers, all the way from severe drought to high winds and hail to extreme flooding. It is why I have joined the Governor's efforts for a federal declaration of disaster for these hardships. Ensuring that we maintain a strong, sustainable agricultural economy is essential to our rural way-of-life.

Agriculture has always been an important part of my life - from growing up on a dairy farm to working as a short-term ag lender after college to farming in our family partnership. One of my reasons for originally running for the Legislature was to help influence state policies affecting farmers, agricultural businesses and our rural communities. As the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, I put these experiences to work.

This legislative update is intended to provide you with a brief update on agricultural issues. Please feel free to offer your feedback and input.

Sincerely,
Sheila
Sheila Harsdorf
State Senator
10th Senate District



**Farmers' Health Care Cooperative
Going Strong**

**Statewide health insurance cooperative to serve
farmers and agribusiness**



**Harsdorf joins
Governor Doyle at
the announcement of
the Farmers' Health
Care Cooperative in
February 2007.**

As an interim board member of the Farmers' Health Care Cooperative (FHCW) and original author of legislation to create Health Care Cooperatives in Wisconsin, Harsdorf has been on the forefront of expanding health care options for farmers and agribusiness.

FHCW is owned and governed by its farmer and agribusiness members. A membership deposit fee is required upon entry for three years. Roll out of the program began in April 2007 and in 3 months has surpassed its one year sign-up goal. Cooperatives facilitate benefits often not realized through individual health care markets, including coverage for 24 hour care, wellness programs, and prescription drugs.

continued...

State Senator
SHEILA HARSDORF

State Capitol • PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WI
PERMIT #1763

*****ECRWSS*****
Residential Customer

State Senator **SHEILA HARSDORF** AGRICULTURAL update

Health Care Cooperative continued...

By spreading risk and encouraging prevention, FHCW seeks to avoid high rate increases that limit affordability for farmers.

More information about FHCW can be learned by calling the Co-Op Care hotline at 1-800-539-9370 or visiting www.farmershealthcooperative.com

Health Care Coop town hall meetings
coming soon! Call me for more info.
1-800-862-1092

Promoting Alternative Fuels: Ethanol



Senator Harsdorf at a State Capitol press conference promoting E-10.

Ethanol is an environmentally friendly, renewable fuel that benefits farmers' through increased market opportunities. Promoting homegrown alternative fuels benefits consumers by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and creates jobs in Wisconsin.



As a 4-H'er and fair exhibitor, I have experienced firsthand the benefits fairs provide to our communities and our youth.

Fairs not only provide valuable opportunities for learning life and career skills, but also instill the values of family and working together.

State aids for county fairs helps maintain their vitality. As a past member of the state's budget writing committee, I was pleased when my colleagues joined me in restoring county fair funding. There is also a proposed increase in fair aids in the pending state budget bill. Fairs are a tremendous resource for communities, families, and kids. I could not imagine a summer without them.

State Senator Sheila Harsdorf WI Toll Free: 1-800-862-1092 • Webpage: www.harsdorfsenate.com
PO Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • Email: Sen.Harsdorf@legis.wisconsin.gov