



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

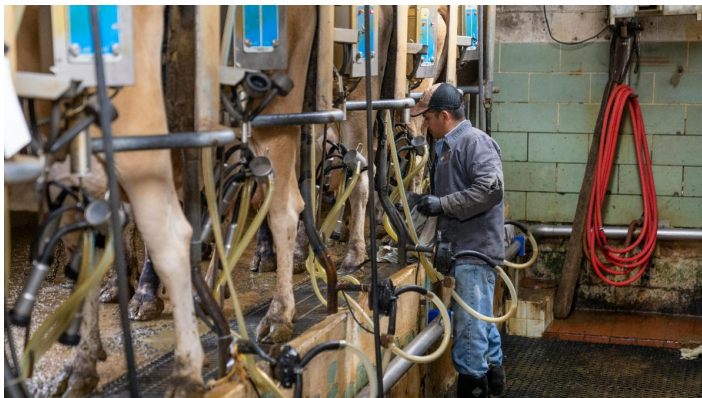
June 17, 2025

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## NEWS

### Trump Administration Resumes Raids on Agricultural Businesses



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is [directing staff](#) to resume immigration raids on farms. The policy reversal comes after President Trump last week [indicated support](#) for pausing these operations on agricultural businesses, saying, "We can't take farmers and take all their people and send them back because they don't have maybe what they're supposed to have, maybe not." Trump has not weighed in on an exemption for manufacturing businesses.

For more details on recent immigration enforcement actions in food processing plants, see the news coverage below:

- Reuters: [U.S. immigration raid of Omaha meat plant cuts staff, fuels food production worries](#)
- Forbes: [Immigration raids hit farms and food plants, as ICE targets agriculture](#)
- Progressive Farmer: [ICE ramps up arrests with raid at Nebraska meat plant, California produce farms](#)
- Barrons: [Trump's ICE raids empty construction sites, cripple meat factory](#)

In a recent meeting of WCMA's Workforce & Education Committee, [Kelly Fortier](#) of WCMA member Michael Best & Friedrich [presented strategies](#) for handling a visit from Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), I-9 audits, and employment authorization verification. Members can [download that presentation here](#).

WCMA is working with expert partners to develop additional resources to help members prepare for possible immigration enforcement action, and will share those materials and continued updates in this e-newsletter. Members with questions may contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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### WCMA Members Awarded WI Dairy Processor Grants

Congratulations to WCMA members [Actus Nutrition](#), [Burnett Dairy Cooperative](#),



[Decatur Dairy](#), [Klondike Cheese Company](#), [Silver Lewis Cheese](#), and [Specialty Cheese Company](#)! These six businesses have been awarded [2025 Dairy Processor Grants](#) through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. WCMA is actively advocating for increased Dairy Processor Grant funding in the state budget. Make your voice heard [in support of key industry priorities](#) today!

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## Ongoing Testing Detects No H5N1 in Wisconsin Milk



Regular sampling under the National Milk Testing Strategy in Wisconsin [confirms the absence of highly pathogenic avian influenza \(H5N1\) in the state](#), according to the latest report from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). Under the mandatory testing program, one sample per dairy farm, per month is collected through existing milk quality labs and tested at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Updates will be posted [online](#) each Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. (CT), and WCMA members can [sign up online](#) to receive email updates from WDATCP as the testing program progresses. [READ MORE...](#)

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## USDA Issues Updated Master Commodity Solicitation



The U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS) has released an [updated Master Solicitation](#) document for Domestic Commodity Procurement, effective June 13. The [document](#) provides guidance for USDA's solicitations for various commodities, including dairy products, for use in federal food distribution programs. [READ MORE...](#)

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# HHS and FDA Seeking Input on Deregulation

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are seeking public input on potential deregulatory actions across the agency. Members of industries regulated by HHS and FDA can [submit comments online now](#) to weigh in on how regulatory changes could affect their businesses. Comments must be submitted by July 14. [READ MORE...](#)

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## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- PBS Wisconsin: [Wisconsin dairy farmer sues Trump administration alleging racial discrimination against white farmers](#)
- Appleton Post Crescent: [Union Star Cheese to bring its classically made cheeses to Neenah with new retail shop](#) (Featuring WCMA member Union Star Cheese Factory)

### National & Global

- Reuters: [Australia's Bega Cheese seeks informal clearance for Fonterra Oceania bid](#)
  - eDairyNews: [Ag Secretary defends USDA cuts](#)
  - Brownfield Ag News: [Van Orden asks Ag Secretary to address milk labeling issues](#)
  - Aspen Times: [Midwest 'Cheese Lady' to carve 500-pound cheddar wheel into artwork in Aspen](#)
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## EDUCATION

### CDR, WCMA Announce New Wastewater Short Course



Registration is open now for a brand-new [Dairy Wastewater Fundamentals](#) short course, hosted by WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research on August 26. This in-person course includes a morning of interactive instruction and an afternoon site visit to Agropur's wastewater treatment facility near Appleton, Wisconsin. Both new and veteran wastewater operators will benefit from this deep dive into the fundamentals of wastewater treatment, taught by CDR staff and industry experts.

**REGISTER TODAY**

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For more educational opportunities from WCMA and our partners, visit: **WisCheeseMakers.org/Events**



### Join WCMA Young Professionals in Milwaukee August 28



Register now to [join the WCMA Young Professionals](#) at American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a Brewer baseball game and tailgate on Thursday, August 28. Enjoy networking and a catered tailgate, then head into the stadium to watch the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Arizona Diamondbacks.

**RSVP TODAY**

### Promote Your Business: Sponsor This Event

Show your support for the dairy processing industry by [sponsoring the WCMA Young Professionals Brewer Game outing](#) on August 28. Sponsorship benefits include:

- One complimentary registration
- Access to attendee list
- Recognition during event with use of company logo
- Recognition on WCMA website on associated event page
- Written recognition via:
- WCMA e-newsletter and e-mail promotions
- WCMA social media

Limited sponsorships are available until August 21. Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

### Upcoming WCMA Events

July 10	July 16	August 14	August 26	September 9
<a href="#">Free Webinar: Optimizing Water Quality in Dairy Processing</a>	<a href="#">Golf Outing &amp; Trap Shoot</a>	<a href="#">Free Webinar: Dairy Food Safety</a>	<a href="#">Dairy Wastewater Fundamentals Short Course</a>	<a href="#">Train the Safety Trainer</a>

**VIEW ALL & REGISTER**

## FEATURED: WEBINARS

### View WCMA Webinar on Cheese Sales On-Demand Now

A recording of WCMA's latest free member webinar, focused on trends in cheese sales, is [available online now](#), as well as

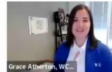


WISCONSIN  
CHEESE MAKERS  
ASSOCIATION



## *Trends in Cheese Sales*

June 12, 2025



[resources and key contacts](#). Learn the latest insights from featured speakers Madlyn Daley of Dairy Management Inc., Mike Brown of T.C. Jacoby & Co., and Denise Greer of Pizza Today.

Our thanks also go to WCMA member [Cornerstone Business Services](#) for their sponsorship of this webinar.

## Save the Date for Free WCMA Webinar on Water Quality

### WCMA Webinar

#### *Optimizing Water Quality in Dairy Processing*

**REGISTER NOW**

Join WCMA and trusted supplier members for a [free, members-only webinar](#) on July 10 at 1:00 p.m. (CT) focused on optimizing water quality for dairy processors - including more information on WCMA's upcoming [Dairy Wastewater Fundamentals course](#) with the Center for Dairy Research. Presenters are still to be announced, but registration is [open now](#).

Thanks go to [Nelson-Jameson](#) for their generous sponsorship of this webinar!

## Connect with Attendees as a Webinar Sponsor

Market your company or cooperative to WCMA members as a [sponsor of the July 10 webinar](#) on water quality management. Sponsorship benefits include:

- Written mention on event webpage
- Written mention in each of these advance WCMA promotions:
  - Social media post
  - Newsletter
  - Promotional email to WCMA members
- Verbal mention at beginning and end of webinar
- Written mention in post-webinar follow-up email to all registrants
- Access to attendee list for follow-up as desired
- Logo displayed during webinar

Only one sponsorship remains available, so [act now](#)! Please contact [WCMA Communications Director Grace Atherton](#) with questions.

## IN MEMORIAM

### John Nelson

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of John Nelson, who [passed away](#) June 2 at the age of 78.

Throughout his 45-year career at Nelson-Jameson, the family business, John's vision and leadership style had a lasting positive impact on the company's employees,



customers, and culture. His deep involvement in the dairy processing industry earned him a WCMA Distinguished Service Award in 2018, and his contributions are still felt today.

More information on a funeral service and memorials is available in John's [obituary](#).

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