



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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WCMA distributes member bulletins focused on coronavirus information on Thursdays and as breaking news warrants. WCMA delivers electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

WCMA Advocates for End to Enhanced Federal Unemployment Benefits in Wisconsin

WCMA this week [called on Wisconsin lawmakers](#) to refuse the federal unemployment booster of \$300 per week, as many members note ongoing challenges to fill job vacancies.

Speaker Robin Vos (R-Burlington) and State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) have [introduced a proposal](#) to discontinue Wisconsin's participation in the program, and Republican legislators held a hearing on it this week. They say the bill should be ready for full floor votes in June.

Governor Tony Evers says he is considering vetoing the bill, should it reach his desk. Democrats say jobless individuals still need additional aid, and have suggested that the booster is not the cause of workforce shortages, noting that Wisconsin's unemployment rate stands at 3.8%, lower than the national rate of 6% and close to pre-pandemic levels.

So far, officials in 24 states have [announced plans](#) to reject the federal unemployment booster before it is set to expire on September 6.

Apply Now for \$420M in Wisconsin Tomorrow Grants

Wisconsin-based WCMA members are encouraged to [apply now](#) for \$420 million in Wisconsin Tomorrow Small Business Recovery Grants, a program launched by Governor Tony Evers this week and supported with federal COVID-19 aid.

This new grants program will provide as many as 84,000 Wisconsin small businesses with a flat award of \$5,000. Eligible businesses will have an annual gross revenue between \$10,000 and \$7 million. Grant money can be used for any business operating costs, including but not limited to wages and salaries, rent, mortgages, and inventory, and/or for health and safety improvements.

The [application form](#) should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. All applications must be submitted by Monday, June 7. Awards will be distributed by June 30.

Answers to [frequently asked questions](#) are available online, and [WCMA staff](#) are available to help members as needed.

Following Success of Ohio Lottery, More States Incentivize Vaccination with White House Support

This week, the Biden Administration is [encouraging states](#) to use federal aid to incentivize vaccination through lotteries and other prizes, following the success of Ohio's "Vax-A-Million" lottery. Ohio's program awards \$1 million to a vaccinated person each week for five weeks, and has boosted vaccination rates among 20- to 49-year-olds by 55%.

One in five states are now offering vaccination incentives. Here's a look at pending announcements and current offerings in key dairy processing states.

California

Governor Gavin Newsom is expected to announce a [vaccine incentive program](#) this afternoon, though details have not yet been released.

Minnesota

Governor Tim Walz is [set to announce](#) today that, beginning Memorial Day weekend, the next 100,000 people to seek COVID-19 vaccinations will be eligible to select free passes to Minnesota attractions, sports, fairs and state parks or free fishing licenses.

New York

Governor Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday [added a raffle](#) for a full-ride scholarship to a New York public university to his state's array of incentives, which also include free subway and ferry rides, park passes and tickets to sporting events. Newly vaccinated New Yorkers also receive \$20 lottery scratchers with a chance to win \$5 million.

[Click Here to Find a Vaccine Appointment Now](#)

Final Reminder: Register Now for WCMA Vaccine Confidence Webinar Happening Today

[Register now](#) to join in a free WCMA webinar today from 1:00-1:45 p.m.



(CT), focused on strategies to build vaccine confidence and participation rates among dairy processing's valued workforce.

The webinar features Elise Balzer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, detailing resources and messages to convey vaccine safety and efficacy, and to combat misinformation.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Successful Farming*: [Pandemic payments to producers top \\$400 million under Biden](#)
- *Monroe Times*: [Pop-up COVID-19 vaccine clinic to be held at dairy breakfast](#)

Wisconsin

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [More than 7,000 people have died from COVID-19 in Wisconsin](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [A labor camp, a Super 8 and a long bus ride home: What happened when COVID-19 hit Seneca Foods in Wisconsin](#)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [U.S. weekly jobless claims drop sharply](#)
- *Los Angeles Times*: [How to get your PPP loan forgiven](#)
- *National Public Radio*: [Half of all U.S. adults are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#)
- *Time*: [CDC's new mask guidance may be motivating people to get vaccinated - but not for the reason you might think](#)

Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) for More Resources

WCMA's coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) is updated daily, featuring information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations guidance, federal and state support, and salutes to your critical, essential staff.

WCMA Key Contacts

Members with pandemic-related questions or concerns should feel encouraged to contact WCMA staff at any time. Here are ways to get in touch.

- WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer:
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