



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: April 10, 2020

As often news and needs warrant, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association will distribute special bulletins alerting you to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). Your WCMA staff is here to support you, and we thank you for your important work.

Federal Order 30: First Milk Checks for April Can Be Less Than March's Lowest Class Price of \$14.87

WCMA members are hereby notified that the Upper Midwest Federal Order 30 will not strictly enforce the minimum dollar requirement for partial payment in April – the milk checks you'll send to producers on or before April 27.

Order language (1030.73(a) (1) notes that "...payment shall be ... not less than the lowest announced class price for the preceding month, less proper deductions authorized in writing by the producer."

The Order 30 market administrator has agreed with WCMA that the order will not penalize a dairy plant that makes a good faith effort on its partial payment to producers, even if that amount is less than the March Class 4 price of \$14.87.

The order administrator noted that payment dates must be met, that a reasonable amount must be offered on the partial payment, and an accurate final payment for April milk will be strictly enforced.

The market administrator is reacting to the sharp drop in cheese and butter prices in recent weeks. A decline in cheese and butter prices reported by NASS will likely result in an April class prices significantly lower than the March class prices.

For more information, contact the Order 30 market administrator Vic Halverson at 952-277-2335 or via email at vhalverson@fmma30.com.

Trump Asks USDA to 'Expedite Help' for Farmers

President Donald Trump tweeted Thursday night that he has called on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue to "expedite help" to

farmers struggling as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Twitter, Trump also said he expects Perdue “to use all of the funds and authorities at his disposal to make sure that our food supply is stable, strong, and safe.”

Administration officials plan to announce an aid package next week, but USDA is not commenting on the timetable or contents.

Here's a look at associated coverage of the President's comments.

- *Bloomberg*: [Trump vows to 'expedite help' to beleaguered U.S. farmers](#)
- *Reuters*: [Trump says he is speeding help to farmers](#)
- *Yahoo! Finance*: [Trump vows to 'expedite help' to farmers](#)
- *Agri-Pulse*: [Trump: Money is going to farmers in the 'pretty near future'](#)

WCMA Notes Rising Food Insecurity in Push for USDA Commodity Purchase

WCMA continues to [push USDA for a massive purchase of dairy commodities](#) for distribution at the nation's food banks, noting not only how important that step is for our industry, but also for the food-insecure.

Before the coronavirus pandemic hit, an estimated 37 million Americans lived with food insecurity. In just the past month, as people have been laid off and faced rising food prices, that number has grown by at least 10.6 million.

This issue is making headlines across the country; here's a look at some of the most recent articles.

- *New York Times*: ['Never seen anything like it': Cars line up for miles at nation's food banks](#)
- *New York Times*: [Facing food insecurity on the front lines](#)
- *National Geographic*: [Food waste and food insecurity rising amid coronavirus pandemic](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Milwaukee food banks, pantries face unprecedented demands](#)
- *KENS-TV*: [10,000 families visit San Antonio food bank as coronavirus exacerbates food insecurity](#)
- *AZFamily.com*: [Food insecurity in Phoenix area amplified by COVID-19](#)

WCMA and other leading dairy organizations will continue to highlight the needs of Americans, as it works to secure support from USDA. If you have questions, please [contact WCMA staff](#).

DairyReporter.com Podcast Details Dairy Industry Challenges, Solutions with WCMA

[DairyReporter.com's weekly podcast with Jim Cornall](#) features an in-depth conversation with WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer on the state of the U.S. dairy industry, given the challenges of coronavirus, and the relief programs for which WCMA is advocating. Click on the linked file below, and scroll to the 31:30 mark, to listen in to that discussion.



Wisconsin State Assembly to Meet Tuesday

The Wisconsin State Assembly is set to hold a virtual session next Tuesday, April 14, though the body's calendar will not be released until Monday.

WCMA has lobbied lawmakers for an end to the one week waiting period of unemployment benefits, and supports Governor Tony Evers' proposals for \$150 million in small business grants, \$10 million in emergency funding for food banks, \$20 million in broadband grants.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *WISN-TV*: [More than 3,000 cases reported, 117 deaths in Wisconsin](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: ['My lungs still burn': 30-year-old Polk County dairy farmer recovered from coronavirus, but he lost nearly 20 pounds in 6 days](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin unemployment projected at 27%](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [DWD upping staff as unemployed wait weeks for assistance](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [Central Wisconsin businesses receive millions in loans, thanks to new SBA program](#)

National/International:

- *CNN*: [America reaches peak death rate](#)
 - *CNN*: [Antibody tests could be available 'in a week or two,' Fauci says](#)
 - *FOX News*: [Trump revives call for payroll tax cuts in 'phase four' coronavirus relief package](#)
 - *The Hill*: [New round of stimulus talks faces GOP roadblock](#)
 - *The Hill*: [Trump officials lay groundwork for a May reopening](#)
 - *USA Today*: [Surgeon General: Most of U.S. won't be reopening by May 1](#)
 - *CNN*: [China is on a knife edge between recovery and another round of coronavirus cases](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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Visit WisCheeseMakers.org for More Resources

WCMA will provide links to new and timely coronavirus resources for members in these bulletins, but we want to alert you that we update our coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) daily. Please visit the page for additional information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations guidance, federal and state support, and ways to salute your critical, essential staff.

WCMA Key Contacts

WCMA staff is continuously reaching out to dairy manufacturer and processor members throughout this crisis to identify ways we can be of service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at any time. Here are ways to get in touch.

- WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer: jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org or 608-225-7130
 - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org or 608-386-3012
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