



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

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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). Please be assured your WCMA staff is working to support you, and thank you for your important work.

WCMA Partners with Industry in Response, Action Following Milk Disposal in Wisconsin

You will see in a few new reports today and more tomorrow that some Wisconsin dairy farmers have been asked to dispose of their milk.

- Midwest Farm Report: ["Devastating"- West Bend dairy dumps milk](#)
- Kenosha News: [Faced with an oversupply, dairy farmers have to dump milk](#)

WCMA has worked in partnership with Edge Dairy Cooperative, Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Farmers' Union, and Cooperative Network on a united response, via this [news release](#).

Our organizations are also calling on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to take swift action to deliver unprecedented aid to dairy farmers and commodity purchases. Our [letter to Secretary Perdue](#) detailed specific commodity purchases, which we believe will help the industry move through this challenging period.

WDATCP Farm Center Hotline Available to Help

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Farm Center is available to provide resources and support to Wisconsin farmers and their families, and those faced with disposal are urged to call. The Farm Center Hotline is 1-800-942-2474 and emails may also be directed to FarmCenter@wisconsin.gov.

Evers Calls on USDA for Commodity Purchases and

Re-Opening of Dairy Margin Coverage Program

Wisconsin Governor Tony [Evers has sent a letter to USDA](#) requesting the purchase of surplus commodities for redistribution to food banks, nutrition assistance programs, and other sources in an effort to divert Wisconsin's nutritious commodities to Americans who need them. The letter also calls on USDA to re-open the enrollment of the Dairy Margin Coverage program.

"In a time when many people are already food-insecure, it's more important than ever that we get Wisconsin's nutritious commodities in the hands of consumers who need them the most," said Governor Evers. "I'm hopeful that our federal partners understand the urgency of the need here, and will take action accordingly."

Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *WKOW-TV*: [Wisconsin cheesemaker gives economic lifeline to dairy farmers](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Largest 1-day case increase: 1,550 positive for COVID-19 in Wisconsin, 18K+ negative, 30 deaths](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [25 percent of Wisconsin COVID-19 patients have been hospitalized](#)
- *WBAY-TV*: [Evers requests presidential disaster declaration for Wisconsin](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Gov. Tony Evers to use National Guard members to work the polls amid massive shortage of workers](#)
- *WisPolitics*: [Evers announces second shipment of PPE arrives from national stockpile](#)

National/International:

- *Reuters*: [Partly-false claim: Drinking milk fights coronavirus](#)
 - *The Washington Post*: [Trump projects up to 240,000 coronavirus deaths in U.S., even with mitigation efforts](#)
 - *CNN*: [Up to 50% of carriers can infect others blindly](#)
 - *CNN*: [80 percent of Americans under stay-at-home order](#)
 - *Business Insider*: [Employers cut nearly half a million job openings last week](#)
 - *CNBC*: [Stocks tumble 900 as Trump warns of mounting toll](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) for More Resources

WCMA will continue to provide links to both new and timely coronavirus resources for members in these bulletins, but we want to alert you that we have added much more to our resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org). 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 member 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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