



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: April 22, 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.

U.S. Senate Approves \$450B Relief Package

As expected, on Tuesday, the [U.S. Senate approved a \\$484 billion coronavirus relief package](#), including an additional \$310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), including \$60 billion for community banks and smaller lenders, as well as \$75 billion for hospitals, \$25 billion for testing, and \$60 billion for emergency disaster loans and grants.

The U.S. House is set for a vote on the package as early as tomorrow.

WCMA members who have not yet secured PPP support are encouraged to talk with a SBA-approved lender immediately to ensure readiness for application.

WDNR Suspends Need for Wastewater Operator Continuing Education; License Renewal

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, working with the Governor's office, has announced useful information regarding continuing education and expiration of licenses, including the certified wastewater operator license.

[Emergency Order 30](#), signed by Governor Tony Evers, suspends requirements to gather continuing education credits and suspends the expiration of licenses during Wisconsin's public health emergency (ending May 11, 2020 as ordered in [Executive Order 72](#)).

WDNR is "working to determine a period of time" after May 11 that operators will have to obtain continuing education credits. Based on conversations with WDNR staff, the agency is inclined to push requirements for continuing education credits far enough into the future to allow essential licensed operators to perform their work

during this pandemic without the distraction of finding coursework.

Visit [the Operation Certification Program](#) on the WDNR website for complete information.

Hunger Task Force Partnering with Chalet Cheese, Clock Shadow Creamery, Winona Foods

The Hunger Task Force's new million-dollar [Wisconsin Dairy Recovery Program](#) is now underway and today, the [food bank announced it is partnering with WCMA members](#) Chalet Cheese Cooperative, Clock Shadow Creamery, and Winona Foods to provide cheese via the program.

Last week, Sargento Foods announced a [generous gift to Hunger Task Force](#), providing six weeks' worth of cheese for the families the organization serves.

WCMA applauds all of its members, working with non-profit agencies to address food insecurity, both in Wisconsin and across the country.

Register for Dairy Food Safety Alliance Webinar

WCMA, together with its partners at the Center for Dairy Research and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, will host a **free** Dairy Food Safety Alliance webinar on Wednesday, April 29 from 12-1 p.m.

Experts will detail:

- Standard Operating Procedure: What to do in the event of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive employee
- Standard Operating Procedure: What to do when a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 positive employee returns to work
- Employer rights and responsibilities
- Government support programs
- Regulatory flexibility

Dairy Food Safety Alliance presenters, including CDR's Marianne Smukowski, DFW's Adam Brock, and WCMA staff will also field pre-submitted questions.

This free webinar is not open to the media. RSVP to [WCMA Office and Member Services Manager Sara Schmidt](#) with your interest in joining and include any questions you may wish to ask. You'll receive access information to this Zoom webinar (or telephone call-in option) in reply.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *WMTV-TV:* [Wisconsin reports largest jump in coronavirus cases in two weeks](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:* [Green Bay JBS plant linked to 147 COVID-19 cases](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:* [Wisconsin farm groups ask state for \\$50 million](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal:* [Wisconsin virus order protesters vow to rally without](#)

[permit](#)

- *FOX News:* [Wisconsin says 19 people have coronavirus after voting or working at polls on election day](#)

National/International:

- *Food Navigator:* [Kraft Heinz closes, then reopens two plants after COVID-19 positives](#)
- *USA Today:* [Coronavirus at meat packing plants worse than first thought](#)
- *Associated Press:* [Tyson Foods idles its largest pork plant after Iowa outbreak](#)
- *Bloomberg:* [Food rationing confronts shoppers once spoiled with choice](#)
- *ABC News:* [Barr warns states not to go 'too far' in stay at home orders](#)
- *Associated Press:* [Many wary of reopening as partisan divide grows](#)
- *MSN:* [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

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 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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