



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: April 27, 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.

Wisconsin Launches Free Online Screening Tool

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has launched a free, online coronavirus screening tool, called [Wisconsin Health Connect](#). A self-screening can be completed in ten minutes via a smartphone or computer and, following completion, a nurse will call you within one hour to review results. All information is kept private in accordance with HIPAA standards. The service is available at no charge 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

FEMA Issues Guidance on Non-Hospital Use of PPE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued [guidance on the proper use and management of personal protective equipment](#) (PPE) by essential, critical (but non-medical) workers.

WCMA Joins IDFA to Advocate for Recourse Loans

WCMA has joined with the International Dairy Foods Association to advocate for a new recourse loan program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, designed to expand availability of working capital for dairy processors during the coronavirus pandemic. The program should last two years to ensure it can get processors through the crisis, and loan amounts should cover extended terms of up to 120 days on a rolling basis.

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:

- *Janesville Gazette*: [Farmers struggle with prices, production cutbacks and milk dumping \(Notes Decatur Dairy\)](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Green Bay meatpacking plant linked to 189 coronavirus cases](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Federal investigators looking at six Wisconsin job sites, including three meat-packing facilities](#)
- *Green Bay Press Gazette*: [JBS Packerland closed indefinitely as OSHA investigates](#)
- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [Wisconsin companies tried to snap up small-business relief loans before the money ran out. Some were left waiting.](#)
- *WisPolitics*: [Protestors rally at state Capitol against Evers' stay-at-home order](#)
- *WisPolitics*: ['UpFront': Fitzgerald says Evers 'completely circumvented' rule-making process with stay-at-home order extension](#)

National/International:

- *Fort Morgan Times*: [Leprino Foods shuts down Fort Morgan plant amid "high number" of coronavirus cases](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Tyson Foods boss has grim warning on food supply chain](#)
- *MarketWatch*: [Meat shortage looms, as coronavirus shuts packing plants, leaving farmers with tough choices](#)
- *Agri-Pulse*: [Lawmakers launch push for \\$50B in additional farm aid](#)
- *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](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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