



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: April 30, 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.

FDA Issues Guidance on Food Processor Protocol in the Event of COVID-19 Positive

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued two guidance documents for food processors, one on [proper protocol, in the event of an employee testing positive for COVID-19](#), and another on the [use of face masks and shields](#).

Please also note, the Dairy Food Safety Alliance, comprised of staff from the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, Center for Dairy Research, and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, has issued standard operating procedures for two key scenarios:

- [When an employee is suspected/confirmed to have COVID-19](#)
- [When an employee confirmed to have COVID-19 returns to work](#)

Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

USDA to Buy Yogurt, Butter, Pepper Jack Shreds, Cheddar Slices and Processed Cheese

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, via the Agricultural Marketing Service, today [requested proposals for yogurt, butter, pepper jack shreds, cheddar slices, and processed cheese](#). Offers are due Tuesday, May 14, and questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

USDA Requesting Proposals for String Cheese Buy

USDA is also [requesting proposals for a string cheese contract](#), due Tuesday, May

USDA Awards Contracts to AMPI, Winona Foods

USDA today announced awards of recent [contracts for butter and cheddar shreds](#) to WCMA members Associated Milk Producers, Inc. and Winona Foods. AMPI has also won a [contract for processed cheese](#).

USDA Updates Farmers to Families Food Box FAQ, Shares Webinar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today posted [updated FAQs](#) with answers to more than a dozen new questions, and shared a [recent informational webinar](#) on its new [Farmers to Families Food Box](#) program. Proposals are due tomorrow (Friday, May 1).

DFW, WDATCP, Farm Groups Launch Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in partnership with farmer advocacy groups, today announced the launch of the [Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund](#), which will collect support for Feeding Wisconsin and Harvest of Hope. [Learn more here](#).

Wisconsin Now Offering Extra Unemployment Aid

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced yesterday is now distributing [an extra \\$600 per week in emergency unemployment benefits](#), made available through the federal CARES Act. Emergency aid payments are retroactive to March 29, and will be made automatically, without additional application forms.

More than 1.2 million Wisconsinites have filed for unemployment aid, and DWD has distributed \$290 million in benefits, just since March 15.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *Wisconsin Ag Connection:* [Wisconsin still leading the nation in dairy product output](#)
- *Courthouse News:* [Wisconsin farms await aid as pandemic slams dairy industry](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal:* [Dane County giving \\$3 million to pantries to buy dairy, meat from local farmers](#)
- *WTMJ-TV:* [Food processing plants in Wisconsin see surge in coronavirus](#)

[cases, including 100 in Darien](#)

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Number of positive coronavirus cases at Cudahy Smithfield plant 'not yet known'; 503 employees tested](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [OHSA will oversee opening of meatpacking plants following Trump order](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [When Wisconsin's safer-at-home order might end](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Wisconsin suspends fees, penalties for missed rent payments](#)
- *WMTV-TV*: [Wisconsin National Guard deploys to aid coronavirus testing](#)

National/International:

- *Fort Morgan Times*: [Leprino plant in Fort Morgan to return to work this weekend](#)
- *The Denver Post*: [Leprino Foods set to reopen Fort Morgan plant after workers test positive](#)
- *FOX News*: [Dairy farmers feel the squeeze as milk sales dry up](#)
- *Politico*: [Food banks press Congress to increase SNAP](#)
- *24/7 Wall Street*: [States with the highest number of coronavirus cases per capita](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Fauci warns states against 'tempting' a coronavirus rebound](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. to speed development of coronavirus vaccine](#)
- *USA Today*: [What schools will look like when they reopen](#)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.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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