



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). Your WCMA staff is here to support you, and we thank you for your important work.

WDNR Issues Disposal Guidance for Processors

WCMA staff has worked in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on [guidance for dairy processors](#), should they face emergency disposal of mass quantities of milk or dairy products.

The guidance outlines step-by-step procedures, primary contacts, and options available to dairy processors. We encourage you to review this document and share it with interested parties.



The DNR will work as quickly as possible on a solution in response to the compliance assistance request.
Do not implement alternative methods until receiving DNR written approval.

[WDNR has also launched compliance website](#) featuring the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's temporary guidance](#) on noncompliance, and a [step-by-step process](#) for working on necessary flexibility.

Milk Disposal Now Reported in 18 States

There are now reports of milk disposal in at least 18 states, including [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Idaho](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Nebraska](#), [New York](#), [Ohio](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Vermont](#), [Wisconsin](#), as well as in [Canada](#).

WDATCP Asks Farmers to Report Milk Disposal

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) is asking processors to encourage farmers to report instances of milk disposal. WDATCP's Farm Center Hotline is 1-800-942-2474 and emails may also be directed to FarmCenter@wisconsin.gov. In addition to tracking the levels of disposal in the state, the hotline offers farmers support and resources.

WCMA Continues Push for USDA Purchase

WCMA continues to push for a U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity purchase, both in work behind-the-scenes with members of Congress and USDA staff, and in public interviews to apply pressure. Here's a look at the latest headlines.

- *Yahoo! Finance*: ['We're in dire need': Food service shutdown slams dairy farmers, producers](#)
 - *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Ag groups call for USDA action during milk dumping crisis](#)
 - *SouthernMinn.com*: [Groups want emergency assistance expedited](#)
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Congress Debates Fourth Round of Relief

Democratic Congressional leaders this morning announced their priorities for a [fourth round of coronavirus relief](#), including a 15 percent increase in funding for SNAP. Partisan clashes may delay final votes on the package, which Republican Congressional leaders had hoped to complete this week.

For more on the latest developments, see these news articles.

- *The Hill*: [Phase-four virus relief hits a wall](#)
 - *NPR*: [Congressional leaders at odds on next steps](#)
 - *CNBC*: [Pelosi and Schumer push for emergency coronavirus bill with at least another \\$500 billion in aid](#)
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WDWD Ramps Up Push for End to One Week Waiting Period for Unemployment Benefits

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) Secretary Caleb Frostman today [ramped up a push](#) from the Evers Administration for an end to the one week waiting period for displaced Wisconsin workers in need of unemployment benefits. On Monday, [WCMA also called for this policy change](#), and is actively lobbying members of the Assembly and Senate.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *WISC-TV*: [Wisconsin coronavirus death toll reaches 100](#)
- *Green Bay Press Gazette*: [Child care providers seek hazard pay, health care coverage as they serve children of essential workers during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Wisconsin waits for spring election results - and then the lawsuits](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Gas down to 98 cents a gallon in Milwaukee, statewide average \\$1.40](#)

National/International:

- *WFMJ-TV*: [USDA approves Ohio COVID-19 disaster food distribution program](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Coronavirus hits meat plants as some workers get sick, others stay home](#)
- *NBC News*: [U.S. sees deadliest day](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. coronavirus death projection lowered but official warns of 'second wave'](#)
- *Reuters*: [African Americans dying of coronavirus at higher rates](#)
- *Reuters*: [Wobbly U.S. fiscal response could deepen coronavirus recession](#)
- *Successful Farming*: [USDA says to restrict contact with animals if sick with COVID-19](#)
- *CNN*: [Fauci predicts when kids will return to school](#)
- *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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