



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: August 13, 2020

WCMA offers member bulletins regarding coronavirus resources on Mondays and Thursdays, and as news warrants. WCMA delivers electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

Stabenow, Murkowski Reintroduce Food Supply Act

U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have [reintroduced the Food Supply Protection Act](#), which would direct \$8 billion in federal aid to food banks, food processors, and farmers, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The bill offers:

- Grants, loans, and loan guarantees worth up to \$2.5 million for food processors to upgrade machinery, make use of temporary cold storage, and purchase personal protective equipment and test kits
- Grants to improve food bank infrastructure, including cold storage and refrigeration, transportation, and personal protective equipment
- Grants for food purchases, particularly of items left out of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families Food Box program

Originally introduced in May, the bill could be included in a future coronavirus relief package. WCMA supports this proposal, and will keep members informed of major developments in the legislative process.

USDA Awards Butter Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has [awarded contracts for the purchase of butter](#) to WCMA members Associated Milk Producers, Inc. and Prairie Farms Dairy, among others. A list of all [open purchase requests](#) is available online, along with information on [how to become a USDA-approved vendor](#).

WDHS Offers Printable Posters For Workplaces

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) is offering two printable

COVID-19 prevention posters specifically for use in workplaces:

- [Poster: Thank you for wearing face coverings](#)
- [Poster: Thank you for social distancing](#)

WDHS also has an [easy-to-read one-page reference for employers](#) on ways to protect staff, which may be helpful to share with supervisors.

These resources are also available in Spanish, Hmong, Hindi, and Somali on the [WDHS website](#), under the employer toolkit tab.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin cream sales soar](#)
- *Detroit Free Press*: [Most food prices declined in July](#)

Wisconsin

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Mask mandates have broad support among Wisconsin voters, new poll shows](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Seven-day average of coronavirus cases in Wisconsin falls; overall activity remains high](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin's COVID-19 death toll passes 1,000. Here's a look at who is dying, and how the rate compares to other leading causes of death.](#)
- *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram*: [Over 700 quarantined in Eau Claire County as weekly cases set new record](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [Hospital visitors limited, case hospitalizations up in Fond du Lac County](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (via *Marshfield News Herald*): ['Failure of leadership': Sen. Tammy Baldwin questions Mike Pence about diversions of coronavirus testing supplies](#)

National/International

- *Wall Street Journal*: [Coronavirus grips Midwest rural areas that had been spared](#)
 - *MarketWatch*: [Global cases top 20.6 million and U.S. suffers biggest one-day death toll since May](#)
 - *CNN*: [CDC issues dire warning about the fall, if coronavirus guidance is not followed](#)
 - *ABC News*: [COVID-19 vaccine may be less effective in obese people](#)
 - *FOX News*: [Trump says Democrats' mail-in ballot push holding up coronavirus stimulus package](#)
 - *Washington Post*: [Relief talks stumble again as Trump asserts a deal is 'not going to happen'](#)
 - *USA Today*: [U.S. immigration services set to furlough two-thirds of its workers after coronavirus stimulus talks fail](#)
 - *Pioneer Press*: [Minnesota Senate again votes to end Walz's emergency powers during pandemic](#)
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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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