



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

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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.

WHO Reiterates Safety of Food Chain, Packaging

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed the safety of the global food chain, saying it has found no evidence of coronavirus spreading via food or packaging.

WHO Head of Emergencies Program Mike Ryan noted at a briefing in Geneva Thursday, "There is no evidence that food or the food chain is participating in transmission of this virus. And people should feel comfortable and safe."

Ryan's statement came in response to questions regarding a report from Chinese officials, that traces of coronavirus had been found in frozen chicken wings from Brazil and on the packaging of frozen shrimp from Ecuador.

See associated news coverage here:

- *FOX News:* [People 'should not fear' coronavirus spread from food, food packaging, WHO says](#)
- *Reuters:* [WHO downplays danger of coronavirus entering food chain](#)
- *U.S. News & World Report:* [WHO: No evidence of coronavirus transmission through food](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have also posted [resources](#) on this topic online.

USDA Awards \$1.2M in Dairy Product Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has [awarded \\$1.2 million in contracts](#) for butter, yogurt, and pepper jack cheese to three companies: WCMA member Great Lakes Cheese Company, as well as Bongards' Creameries and Chobani.

A list of all [open purchase requests](#) is available online, along with information on

USDA Again Amends Food Box Solicitation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made an [additional amendment](#) to its third round of solicitations for the Farmers to Families Food Box program. The amendment notes state level GAP certification programs as signs of contract quality.

Complete details on the Farmers to Families Food Box program, which continues to accept bids for combination food boxes and dairy food boxes on a rolling basis, is [available online](#).

Wisconsin Launches COVID-19 Response and Recovery Investment Dashboard

On Friday, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers launched the [COVID-19 Response and Recovery Investment Dashboard](#), a site designed to provide transparent, updated information on how and where the state is directing federal funding, including monies from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The site provides a breakdown of funding by program and by county.

Evers has approximately [\\$300 million more in CARES funding](#) to spend on COVID-19 relief efforts between now and the end of the year.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Wall Street Journal*: [More Americans go hungry amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

Wisconsin

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Percentage of positive COVID-19 tests jumps to 11.2 on Sunday](#)
- *Eau Claire Leader Telegram*: [Three dead, 23 sickened in Pierce County outbreak; mass testing conducted Thursday](#)
- *WDJT-TV*: [CBS 58 Investigates: Coronavirus testing result delays](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [Brown County unemployment at 8.8% after extra benefits end](#)
- *WISN-TV*: [Schools statewide wait for guidance on shutdown threshold](#)

National/International

- *Wall Street Journal*: [U.S. coronavirus death toll tops 170,000](#)
 - *Politico*: [Negotiators 'miles apart' on COVID-19 funding, with little hope for deal until September](#)
 - *National Review*: [Pelosi calls House lawmakers back from recess for Postal Service vote](#)
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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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