



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: August 20, 2020

NOTICE: Beginning the week of August 24, WCMA will begin distributing coronavirus member bulletins on Thursdays only, and as breaking news warrants. WCMA will continue to deliver electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

FDA & OSHA Share Checklist for Food Processors

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) today released a [checklist for all food manufacturers and processors](#) to use to evaluate the safety of their operations during the coronavirus pandemic. This new resource covers employee health practices, including exposure investigation and testing, workspace configuration examples, and potential changes to food safety or HACCP plans.

Homeland Security Updates Essential Critical Workforce Guidance

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released a [revised edition of Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#), with version 4.0 reflecting the phased reopening of the nation's economy, noting - for instance - the return of teachers to schools.

The document further encourages:

- Critical and essential staff to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance
- Employers to comply with [OSHA requirements](#)
- Remote work, to the extent possible
- Reconsider sick leave policies

The DHS list of "critical and essential" workers continues to include food manufacturing and processing personnel.

Second Round of Wisconsin Farm Support Program Closes Monday, August 24

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (WDOR) will close a second application period for the [Wisconsin Farm Support Program](#) at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, August 24. This program paid out \$41.6 million in \$3,500 increments to nearly 12,000 producers in July, and aims to pay out the balance of the \$50 million Governor Tony Evers directed to it in May from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Only farmers who did not receive support in the first round of the program are eligible for a payment in the second round.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Seven Days*: [The Whey Forward: How the pandemic has reshaped Vermont's farmstead cheese industry](#)
- *KXTV-TV*: [California farming country buckles under COVID-19. Will pandemic make or break the Valley?](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Milk markets head downward as summer wanes](#)

Wisconsin

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [DHS releases new school guidance, warns of testing shortages](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [DHS: It's too early to determine if mask mandate is effective, discusses school expectations](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin restaurant owners facing deep uncertainty about winter business](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [Record demand for food pantries continues](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Wisconsin regulators extend shutoff ban; one third of households behind on utility bills](#)

National/International

- *New York Times*: [Republicans float scaled-back stimulus bill](#)
- *Bloomberg*: [Pelosi says Democrats willing to cut stimulus bill in half](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Coronavirus relief bill, vaccine would revive ragged U.S. economy](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Rise in jobless claims reflects still-struggling economy](#)
- *FOX News*: [Mutated form of coronavirus may be more contagious, but less deadly, experts say](#)
- *Reuters*: [As U.S. schools reopen, concerns grow that kids spread coronavirus](#)
- *CNN*: [Georgia, Texas and Florida lead the country in coronavirus cases per capita](#)

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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