



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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## Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 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.*

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### WDATCP to Announce \$10M Food Security Grants Opportunity on Wednesday

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an estimated \$10 million in grants to help nonprofit food banks and pantries purchase Wisconsin food products this coming Wednesday.

WCMA has learned:

- Applications will require a letter documenting the participants' commitment to provide a specific Wisconsin food product. This means, if a food bank wishes to purchase cheese from a dairy processor, the food bank's grant application must include a letter of commitment from the dairy processor.
- A Wisconsin food product is defined as a product with at least 50 percent of the value of the product or service attributable to Wisconsin ingredients, production, or processing activities.
- If your organization wishes to be considered for a contract with a vendor, email your contact information and a list of available products to [DATCPFoodSecurityInitiative@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPFoodSecurityInitiative@wisconsin.gov), and that information will be distributed to food banks and pantries statewide.

The full RFP is expected [online](#) on Wednesday, July 15. Grant funds will be distributed to food banks and pantries through a competitive review process for purchases made through December 30, 2020.

The COVID-19 Food Security and Wisconsin Products Grants are made possible by funding directed by Governor Tony Evers through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Questions? Please contact [WCMA staff](#).

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## USDA Awards Contracts for Process Cheese

On Friday, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it has awarded process cheese contracts](#) to WCMA member Associated Milk Producers, Inc., and to Bongards' Creameries.

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## Survey Shows PPP Loans Effective, Though Some Small Businesses Still Anticipate Layoffs

The National Federation of Independent Business Research Center today released a [survey](#) noting the effectiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL) in assisting employers in the retention of staff. However, the survey showed 22 percent of those employers who received PPP or EIDL support anticipate layoffs in coming months.

The survey - which is across all industries, and not specific to food processing - notes 53 percent of businesses require employees and/or customers to wear a face covering, with 46 percent reporting the practice difficult to enforce.

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## WDATCP Resuming More Dairy Plant Inspections

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) has announced plans to resume more dairy plant inspections in the weeks ahead.

This month, WDATCP inspection staff will resume quarterly Grade A plant inspections, as well as inspection of receiving stations and transfer stations, and water sampling. In August, sanitarians will resume Grade B dairy plant inspections, focusing first on U.S. Food and Drug Administration contract assigned facilities.

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## Register for Webinar on Coronavirus Testing Strategy for High-Density Critical Workplaces

Experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration will present a webinar on [draft guidance](#) regarding coronavirus testing strategy for high-density critical infrastructure workplaces after identification of a COVID-19 case. [Register now](#) to join in this free Food and Beverage Issue Alliance event on Thursday, July 16 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. (CT).

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## Wisconsin Mask Mandates Up for Debate

As coronavirus cases continue to climb, more Wisconsin communities are implementing - or considering - face mask mandates. Here's a look at recent news reports:

- *WISC-TV*: [Dane County's face mask mandate begins](#)
  - *WDJT-TV*: [Milwaukee Council to vote on mandatory masks](#)
  - *WSAU-TV*: [Portage County debates mandatory mask ordinance](#)
  - *WBAY-TV*: [Door County Board votes against mandatory masks](#)
  - *WSAW-TV*: [Wood County not planning on issuing mask order at this time](#)
  - *Wisconsin State Journal*: [With recent uptick of COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin, responses likely limited to local orders](#)
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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Dairy Industry

- *Wall Street Journal*: [From flour to canned soup, coronavirus surge pressures food supplies](#)
- *Bloomberg*: [Some Chinese ports are jammed again on intensive testing of food](#)

### Wisconsin

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Three-quarters of Wisconsin employers say COVID-19 has had negative effect on business](#)
- *WISN-TV*: [As cases skyrocket, people line up to get tested for coronavirus](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [Percent positive COVID-19 cases increases with 769 new cases](#)
- *Sheboygan Press*: [Sheboygan County sees highest number of coronavirus cases to date](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: ['We're only moving backward': Milwaukee restaurant owners stuck between rock and hard place as COVID-19 cases spike](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Few Wisconsin school districts seek early start during COVID-19 pandemic](#)

### National/International

- *The Hill*: [COVID-19 surge pushes U.S. toward deadly cliff](#)
  - *CNN*: [Coronavirus cases in the U.S. continue to surge, reaching nearly 1 in 100 Americans](#)
  - *USA Today*: [As coronavirus surges in Republican territory, so does rage over masks](#)
  - *Reuters*: [Florida sets one-day record with over 15,000 new COVID cases, more than most countries](#)
  - *The Hill*: [WHO chief: Pandemic is going to get "worse and worse and worse"](#)
  - *FOX News*: [Stocks surge as two coronavirus vaccines are given "fast-track" status](#)
  - *FOX Business*: [Coronavirus phase 4 stimulus bill coming, Kudlow says 'conclusively'](#)
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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.

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# 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](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130
  - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: [rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-386-3012
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