



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 16, 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.

WDATCP Releases RFP for \$10M in Food Security Grants, Processors to Partner with Non-Profits

As expected, late on Wednesday, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) released a [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for \$10 million in grants to help non-profit food banks and pantries purchase Wisconsin food products.

Applications will require a letter documenting the participants' commitment to provide a specific Wisconsin food product, meaning a product with at least 50 percent of its value attributed to Wisconsin ingredients, production, or processing. As a result, if a food bank wishes to purchase cheese from a Wisconsin dairy processor, the food bank's grant application must include a letter of commitment from the dairy processor. Please [contact WCMA staff](#) by 12 noon tomorrow, July 17 to be listed as an interested provider.

[COVID-19 Food Security and Wisconsin Products grants](#) will be distributed to food banks and pantries for purchases made through December 30, 2020. Applications are due Wednesday, July 29, and will undergo a competitive review process.

These 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](#).

FDA Announces Intentional Adulteration Inspections Will Not Begin Until March 2021

On Wednesday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that

[routine inspections of small businesses to verify compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act's \(FSMA\) Intentional Adulteration \(IA\) rule will not begin until March 2021](#). While the compliance deadline for businesses with fewer than 500 employees remains July 27, 2020, FDA officials say the agency "recognizes the unique circumstances COVID-19 has created for both industry and regulators."

USDA Solicits Bids for String Cheese

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today issued a [solicitation for string cheese](#), with bids due Tuesday, July 28. Please contact [USDA staff](#) with questions.

Half of Child Care Centers Nationwide May Close; Up to 25% of Wisconsin Centers at Risk

Nationwide analysis from the Center for American Progress shows that roughly half of U.S. child care capacity is at risk of permanent closure. Surveys show that only 85 percent of child care facilities reopened following COVID-19 shutdowns, and are operating with less than half of usual enrollment.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Family Services officials reported Wednesday that between [15 and 25 percent of the state's child care centers are predicted to close permanently](#). Closures are in reaction to capacity rules and parents' discomfort in sending their children.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Telegraph Herald*: [Shullsburg Cheese Fest called off](#)
- *Monroe Times*: [Pleasant View testing more often](#) (notes Mexican Cheese Producers)
- *KTVZ-TV*: [OHA investigating outbreak](#) (notes Columbia River Processing, part of Tillamook County Creamery Association)
- *Saint Albans Messenger*: [Scott administration announces launch of dairy relief program](#)

Wisconsin

- *WBAY-TV*: [Wisconsin nears 40,000 coronavirus cases with 900 new positives tests](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Chicago mayor says Wisconsin could be added to city's 14-day quarantine list if coronavirus worsens](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Wauwatosa to consider mask ordinance](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin officials overpaid \\$21.2M in unemployment benefits due to April technology issue](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin experts say remote work likely to outlast pandemic](#)

National/International

- *USA Today*: [More than half of all states, including California and Michigan, pause reopening or take steps to halt the spread of COVID-19](#)

- *CNN*: [Walmart, Kroger to require all customers to wear face masks](#)
 - *USA Today*: [Target, CVS to also require face coverings](#)
 - *ABC News*: [Georgia bans cities and counties from requiring masks](#)
 - *USA Today*: [EU extends travel ban on Americans amid spike in U.S. coronavirus cases](#)
 - *CNN*: [Nobel laureates call for 'challenge trials' to speed up vaccine process](#)
 - *Los Angeles Times*: [Will children spread COVID-19 if they go back to school?](#)
 - *FOX Business*: [Stocks slide as coronavirus job losses top 51M](#)
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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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