



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 23, 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.

Mixed Reviews for Food Box Program in Congress, New RFP Expected This Week

In a [House Committee on Agriculture hearing](#) held yesterday, [lawmakers voiced both support and frustration with the way the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families Food Box program](#) has been run. The first round of contracts delivered 35 million food boxes, about five million short of expectations. However, USDA officials noted they cancelled contracts with some vendors unable to deliver in the second round, and are safeguarding against waste by paying vendors only after delivery of boxes.

USDA is expected to release a new request for proposals (RFP) for the third round of the Farmers to Families Food Box program within the week, and WCMA will alert members to this opportunity.

White House, GOP Lawmakers Reach Agreement on \$1 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package

Senate Republicans announced Wednesday night they have reached agreement with the White House on a \$1 trillion coronavirus aid package. Few details have been released, but the proposal reportedly includes \$70 billion for K-12 education, \$30 billion for colleges and universities, \$16 billion for coronavirus testing, and an unspecified amount for direct stimulus payments to Americans. Republicans are also reportedly considering a "70 percent replacement" proposal for unemployment. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the plan does not include a payroll tax cut.

The Republicans' agreement will serve as a starting place for negotiations with House Democrats who have already approved a \$3.4 trillion package. Congressional leaders do not expect a plan to pass before the end of this month, when a \$600-per-

week unemployment enhancer expires.

For more on this developing story, see the latest news coverage:

- *CNBC*: [New coronavirus relief bill likely coming in August](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Payroll tax cut won't be included in round four, Mnuchin says](#)
- *Politico*: [Republicans prepare to lurch off unemployment aid cliff](#)
- *FOX News*: [Pelosi: \\$3T legislation 'a gift' to Trump](#)
- *MarketWatch*: [No stopgap to preserve \\$600 jobless benefit add-on, White House says](#)
- *Los Angeles Times*: [What happens to the U.S. economy if \\$600 federal unemployment benefit ends?](#)

Reminder: Wisconsin Food Security Grants Offer Opportunity to Partner with Banks and Pantries

Last week, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) released a [request for proposals](#) for \$10 million in grants to help non-profit food banks and pantries purchase Wisconsin food products.

[Hunger Task Force](#), which organizes the [Hunger Relief Federation of Wisconsin](#)— a network of 90 groups addressing hunger statewide, will apply for significant grant dollars. **Hunger Task Force invites WCMA members operating in Wisconsin to offer dairy products for their program via [this form](#). Please complete and return it via email to [Sherrie Tussler](#) no later than tomorrow, July 24 at 5 p.m.** [Feeding Wisconsin](#) has also alerted WCMA to its plans to submit an application for grant monies, and make a significant purchase of dairy products. Feeding Wisconsin has been provided with a list of WCMA members that indicated an interest in partnership.

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

WEDC Distributes \$40M in Small Business Grants

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) announced Wednesday it has approved [\\$40.7 million in "We're All In" grants](#) to help more than 16,000 very small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WDHS Offers Multilingual Posters on Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has shared [numerous downloadable posters and fact sheets](#) for employers and the general public on the best practices for prevention of COVID-19 transmission. These resources are offered in English, Spanish and Hmong, with some also translated into Hindi and Somali.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Dairy Reporter*: [World Cheese Awards in Oviedo rescheduled to 2021](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Global dairy prices bounce back from coronavirus slump](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Dairy markets see highs and lows in coronavirus-buffed roller-coaster](#)
- *Capital Press*: [June milk production up 0.5 percent](#)
- *RFD-TV*: [Dairy programs continue to support farmers amid COVID-19](#)

Wisconsin

- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [State health department adds 712 new COVID-19 cases, virus activity remains 'high' in 80% of Wisconsin counties](#)
- *Cap Times*: [Wisconsin hits coronavirus record as cases in Dane County, Milwaukee dwindle](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota enact mask mandates, Gov. Evers resists statewide order](#)
- *WAOW-TV*: [Schools, businesses seek immunity from COVID-19 lawsuits as cases surge](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Grants to help schools through pandemic now available](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Evers seeks another \\$250M in state budget cuts to offset](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Unemployment drops in all 72 Wisconsin counties](#)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [U.S. coronavirus cases pass 4 million as infections rapidly accelerate](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. records over 1,100 new coronavirus deaths for a second day in a row](#)
- *CBS News*: [Virus cases jump to from 10 million to 15 million worldwide in less than a month](#)
- *U.S. News and World Report*: [Coronavirus model decreases death projection as mask-wearing increases](#)
- *Politico*: [Is Trump on track for October vaccine surprise?](#)
- *USA Today*: [Back to school? Most major schools are heading toward online class as COVID-19 cases spike](#)

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:

