



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 27, 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

As WCMA first reported in a member alert last Friday, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) has announced it is issuing a third round of contracts for its [Farmers to Families Food Box program](#). USDA officials shared a [synopsis and solicitation](#) this morning.

USDA announced it will spend the balance of the \$3 billion authorized by Congress for food boxes, an amount expected to total \$600 million. In the third round of the program, USDA will purchase only combination boxes of food, containing fresh produce, dairy products, fluid milk, and meat products. Eligibility will not be limited to previous vendors. USDA officials are saying vendors will be expected to provide more detailed information on their agreements with subcontractors. Distribution is to occur between September 1 and October 31, 2020.

Questions regarding the program may be directed to [USDA staff](#), or to [WCMA staff](#).

WCMA members are invited to [register to participate in a free webinar](#) on the third round of the Farmers to Families Food Box program, hosted by USDA, set for tomorrow, July 28 at 2 p.m. CST.

USDA Issues Solicitation for Butter

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a [solicitation for the purchase of butter](#) for the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Bids are due Monday, August 10 and questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

SBA Shares Procedures for PPP Loan Forgiveness, to Open Platform August 10

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has outlined [procedures for Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness](#), noting lenders may begin to submit forgiveness decisions via a secure online platform on Monday, August 10. SBA officials note they will soon issue an interim rule on how to appeal a determination, if forgiveness is not granted.

Republicans to Unveil Aid for Employers and Employees in Coronavirus Relief Bill

Late this afternoon, Senate Republicans plan to release their proposal for the next coronavirus relief bill, worth approximately \$1 trillion, kickstarting negotiations with House Democrats who [approved a \\$3.4 trillion package in mid-May](#).

Included in the Republican plan, developed in concert with the White House, are: \$1,200 stimulus checks to American adults earning less than \$75,000, a [five-year shield on coronavirus lawsuits against businesses](#), a more targeted round of forgivable small business loans from the Paycheck Protection Program, and a myriad of tax incentives for employers to rehire, retain and retrofit their offices for employees. WCMA will have more information for members on these proposals in the days ahead.

Republicans are also proposing a [\\$200-per-week supplement to unemployment aid](#) and a cap on total unemployment benefits to approximately 70 percent wage replacement. This means the typical unemployment check nationwide will drop below \$400 per week. The \$600 weekly unemployment enhancer added in March officially ends July 31.

For more information, see these news stories:

- *Wall Street Journal*: [GOP to release coronavirus aid proposal after delay](#)
 - *FOX Business*: [White House, Republican proposal cuts extra unemployment benefits from \\$600 to \\$200](#)
 - *U.S. News & World Report*: [Jobless workers worry about end of federal pandemic aid](#)
 - *NBC News*: [Coronavirus relief will include \\$1,200 checks and extension of eviction moratorium, says Kudlow](#)
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Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *NewsDakota.com*: [Dairy Experience Forum delivers consumer insights to help drive dairy demand, details COVID-19 impact](#)
- *North Country Public Radio*: [Lost sales, disrupted markets, health worries: A majority of NY farmers negatively impacted by COVID-19](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [State to offer farmers second round of coronavirus aid](#)

Wisconsin

- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [Wisconsin reports 13 more COVID-19 deaths, 953](#)

[new cases Sunday](#)

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Percentage of positive COVID-19 tests in Wisconsin rises to 9.6](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [104 new COVID-19 cases confirmed in central Wisconsin, most in a single day](#)
- *Green Bay Press Gazette*: [Patchwork quilt of rules, regs develops over COVID-19 face-covering issue](#)
- *Oshkosh Northwestern*: [As Winnebago County considers COVID-19 ordinance, its state representative claims masks are ineffective](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Wisconsin's smallest businesses faced biggest hurdles to get COVID-19 loans, experts say](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: [Wisconsin added to Washington D.C. high-risk state list, travelers asked to self-quarantine](#)

National/International

- *MarketWatch*: [U.S. case tally climbs above 4.2 million after a fifth straight day of more than 1,000 deaths](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Virus back with a vengeance in places it had all but vanished](#)
- *CNN*: [The U.S. sees early signs new virus cases may have hit plateau](#)
- *The Hill*: [First phase three test of coronavirus vaccine candidate begins in U.S.](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Amid virus, uncertainty, parents decide how to school kids](#)

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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