



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 2, 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.

USDA Extends Food Box Contracts, Plans to Add More Vendors, to Lift Food Box Deliveries

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that 27.5 million food boxes had been delivered to food-insecure households by the end of June, an amount well short of its 40 million box goal for the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#).

On July 1, [USDA announced](#) that it has extended contracts with Food Box vendors to move \$1.27 billion more products, including \$288 million in dairy products. In addition, USDA has approved \$202 million in new contracts with select vendors whose offers were not previously accepted due to various technical issues with their proposals. These extended and new contracts will run July 1 through August 30.

In late July, USDA will announce additional opportunities for new vendors to participate in the Food Box program. Information about this next round of contracting will be made available on the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program website](#).

Senate Approves PPP Extension

The U.S. [Senate unanimously approved legislation late Tuesday to keep the Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) active](#), hours before it was to expire with \$130 billion left unspent. The bill would give the U.S. Small Business Administration the authority to continue issuing PPP loans, which may be forgiven, through August 8. The U.S. House of Representatives and President Donald Trump must take action to approve the measure, for it to be enacted.

WEDC Report on COVID-19 Recommends Training, Broadband Support for Recovery

A [report released this week by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation](#) details the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the state's business community, and recommends investments in training opportunities for the unemployed, rural broadband access, and general support for start-ups to set the state on a path to recovery.

The 150-page report, called "[Wisconsin Tomorrow — An Economy for All](#)," was required by lawmakers in COVID-19 response legislation approved in April.

WDATCP Launches 24/7 Farmer Wellness Hotline

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has [launched the 24/7 Farmer Wellness Hotline](#), offering providing access to licensed mental health professionals around-the-clock for producers in crisis. The hotline number is 1-888-901-2558.

In addition to immediate support via the hotline, callers can schedule tele-health counseling sessions or request to meet in-person with a local provider through the longstanding Counseling Voucher Program.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Bloomberg*: [Dairy farmers worldwide are on the brink of crisis](#)
- *WQOW-TV*: [Roundtable with Rep. Kind: COVID hurting the dairy industry](#)
- *The Times (Indiana)*: [Prairie Farms Dairy, Franciscan Health distribute free milk \(Featuring WCMA member Prairie Farms\)](#)
- *Reuters*: [Farmers dial back crop plantings amid coronavirus uncertainty](#)

Wisconsin

- *Green Bay Press-Gazette*: [Brown County's Latino community 'terrorized' by coronavirus, and the numbers show why](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [Medical leaders concerned as COVID-19 hospitalizations, hotline calls rise in central Wisconsin](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [Outagamie County sees an increase in COVID-19 cases across all age groups](#)
- *Janesville Gazette*: [Beloit has more COVID-19 cases; Janesville tops in mortality rate](#)
- *La Crosse Tribune*: [La Crosse confirms 47 new COVID-19 cases from weekend, officials urge against gathering for Fourth](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [Dane County order limits gatherings, bar and restaurant activity](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [As Wisconsin coronavirus cases continue to rise, a lawsuit tests local officials' power to control spread](#)
- *Milwaukee Business Journal*: [Full Recovery from Pandemic Will Take More Than 2 Years in Wisconsin](#)
- *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram*: [Two Weeks, 100 New Cases...in EC County](#)

National/International

- *New York Times*: [New U.S. coronavirus cases up 80 percent in past two weeks](#)
- *CNN*: [The U.S. has 4 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of its coronavirus cases](#)

- *National Public Radio*: [Green, yellow, orange or red? This new tool shows COVID-19 risk in your county](#)
 - *Wall Street Journal*: [As U.S. coronavirus cases climb, states chart their own course](#)
 - *CNN*: [Some U.S. states return to previous restrictions to slow surge of coronavirus cases](#)
 - *Forbes*: [U.S. buys world supply of coronavirus breakthrough drug remdesivir](#)
 - *USA Today*: [Despite warnings, the US wasn't prepared with masks for coronavirus. Now it's too late.](#)
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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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Office Closed Friday for Independence Day

Please note, WCMA offices will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observation of Independence Day. We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday!
