



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: July 6, 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.

WCMA Opposes the Release of Open Records Data on Businesses with COVID-19 Cases

Today, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association [sent a letter](#) to Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers stating the dairy industry's opposition to the release of a list of businesses with COVID-19 illnesses in Wisconsin's workforce in response to Open Records requests. A list is expected from the state this week, spurred by media requests for open government records.

"If information is released," the letter states, "the State of Wisconsin can choose to analyze and explain the data it holds, to make clear worker safety efforts in the dairy industry and other industries, to make clear that COVID-19 is not a food safety issue, and to make clear that dairy farmers and dairy manufacturing workers have proudly served in an essential industry."

State officials have told WCMA they will contact businesses with COVID-19 cases before making a list public. WCMA has prepared [a page of facts](#) dairy manufacturers can add to their own descriptions of their COVID-19 workforce efforts for use in media inquiries.

Food Banks, Pantries Can Now Seek \$5 Million in Wisconsin Grants

Food banks and pantries in Wisconsin have entered [a three-week window to write grant proposals](#) for COVID-19 Food Security Network Support Grants offered by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). This \$5 million grant program will help with costs incurred by food banks and pantries related to COVID-19. The deadline for [applications](#) is 5:00 PM on July 22, 2020.

Funds will be awarded for costs related to COVID-19 incurred between March 1, 2020-December 30, 2020. WDATCP urged local pantries to work through their respective food banks to ensure their needs are represented and demonstrate partnerships, rather than submit their own separate application. Payments should be issued in mid-August.

A second round of WDATCP grants will be released later in July and will focus on helping pantries and food banks purchase Wisconsin agricultural products for Wisconsin residents in need.

Reminder: Submit USDA Dairy Product Bids

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is now [soliciting bids](#) for multiple dairy products, for use in Section 32 programs.

- Bids for [butter and yogurt](#) contracts are due Tuesday, July 7.
 - Bids for [processed cheese](#) contracts are due Wednesday, July 8.
 - Bids for [cheddar cheese](#) contracts are due Monday, July 13.
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Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *DairyBusiness.com*: [Noted dairy economist Dr. Mark Stephenson discusses the big negative PPDs](#)
- *Food Dive*: [Chobani rolls out PB&J yogurt to help feed those hurt by coronavirus](#)
- *News Dakota*: [Dairy supply chains need to adjust to changing conditions](#)

Wisconsin

- *Eau Claire Leader Telegram*: [Thousands await farm support program payments](#)
- *WKOW*: [Wisconsin sees big jump in positive tests, decrease in overall testing](#)
- *Appleton Post-Crescent*: [Almost 11% of Wisconsin's new coronavirus tests came back positive; 738 additional cases sets one-day record](#)
- *Fox 11 News*: [COVID-19 hospitalizations creep up in Wisconsin](#)

National/International

- *The Hill*: [Lobbying battle brewing over access to COVID-19 vaccine](#)
 - *NPR*: [U.S. COVID-19 deaths near 130,000; Florida and Texas report record case numbers](#)
 - *CNN*: [Doctors say the US is in a 'free fall' with coronavirus as 32 states struggle with higher rates of infection](#)
 - *USA Today*: ['Almost like a social pandemic': As states pause reopenings, experts warn of more confusion, isolation, agitation](#)
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Visit 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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