



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: June 10, 2020

As often news and needs warrant, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association will distribute special bulletins alerting you to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). Your WCMA staff is here to support you, and we thank you for your important work.

Apply by June 22 for USDA Rural Development Business & Industry CARES Act Loan Guarantees

The deadline to apply for [U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Business and Industry CARES Act loan guarantees](#) is Tuesday, June 22. This \$1 billion program is designed to help rural business owners meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Complete details on eligibility and how to apply are [available now](#).

USDA to Host CFAP Webinar for Dairy Industry Leaders Tomorrow

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency will hold a webinar tomorrow, June 11 at 2 p.m. (CT) on Coronavirus Food Assistance Program basics and resources. This webinar is intended for dairy industry leaders only, and USDA is recommending [preregistration](#). USDA also plans to share a recording of the webinar, and WCMA will alert members to its availability.

WisPolitics Webinar: COVID-19, Trade Tensions, Turbulent Markets - Trouble for Wisconsin Ag

WCMA members are invited to join in a WisPolitics-WisBusiness webinar tomorrow, June 11 at 12:00 p.m. (CT) discussing issues impacting Wisconsin agriculture, including COVID-19, trade challenges, and turbulent markets. Featured panelists include University of Wisconsin-Madison Ian Coxhead, Senator Janis Ringhand, Representative Travis Tranel, Cal Dalton of the United Wisconsin Grain Producers,

and Dan Smith of Cooperative Network. This online event is free to WCMA members, but [pre-registration is required](#).

WCMA Salutes Essential, Critical Dairy Processing Employees for June Dairy Month

WCMA is saluting your critical, essential workers throughout June Dairy Month, with three features on our social media pages:

- A [Facebook profile frame](#)
- Messages of thanks, and
- #EssentialWorker spotlights



Today on our social media channels, we're shining a spotlight on Paul Rutledge, Vice President of Risk and Loss Control at Masters Gallery Foods. He is a key team member working to keep employees informed and safe during the pandemic. Thanks, Paul, for your important work!

A rectangular graphic with a blue border. On the left, it says "JUNE DAIRY MONTH" in large yellow letters. Below that is a yellow wedge of Swiss cheese. To the right of the cheese, it says "Join us in saluting #EssentialWorkers." in blue. Below that, it says "Today, our thanks go to Paul Rutledge, Vice President of Risk and Loss Control at Masters Gallery Foods." in blue. At the bottom left, it says "You make a difference!" in blue, next to a glass of milk. On the right side of the graphic is a photograph of Paul Rutledge, a man in a blue striped polo shirt, sitting at a desk and talking on a phone. At the bottom right of the graphic is the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association logo.

Help us applaud our industry's best by [sending a picture of your staff member or team](#), and noting their work. WCMA will design and share shout-outs to these special dairy processing staffers on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. [Let us know if you have questions!](#)

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry:

- *WISC-TV*: [Health officials investigate confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Arena Cheese](#)
- *Chicago Tribune*: [Coronavirus spreads beyond meat plants with outbreaks at 60 U.S. baking, agricultural, dairy facilities, raising specter of food shortages](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: ['A slow healing process': Slammed by the dairy crisis, shuttered by the coronavirus, small towns forge ahead](#)

Wisconsin:

- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [Wisconsin reports 270 new coronavirus cases as percentage of positive tests drops below 2% for first time in months](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Positive test rate hits lowest level in Wisconsin since outbreak began](#)
- *WSAU-AM*: [Marathon County considers sweeping COVID-19 ordinance](#)
- *WisBusiness*: [WMC opposes Marathon County ordinance](#)

National/International:

- *FOX Business*: [California, Southwest face new coronavirus woes as U.S. economy reopens](#)
- *The Washington Post*: [14 states and Puerto Rico hit highest seven-day average of new coronavirus infections](#)
- *Reuters*: [Study shows widespread mask-wearing could prevent COVID-19 second waves](#)
- *Reuters*: [Social distancing will suppress recovery despite emergency aid, CBO chief says](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Trump administration to 'seriously' look at more direct payments for Americans](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. power use to drop by record amount in 2020 due to coronavirus](#)
- *USDA Press Release*: [America's meatpacking facilities operating at more than 95% of capacity compared to 2019](#)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

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 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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