



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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## Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: June 11, 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.

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### **OSHA Issues FAQ Guidance for Employers on Use of Face Coverings in the Workplace**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a guidance in the form of frequently asked questions, to provide insights on the [use of facial coverings in the workplace](#)

Key takeaways include:

- OSHA generally recommends that employers encourage workers to wear face coverings at work.
- Cloth face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing measures.
- While employers are not required to provide face coverings for employees, OSHA notes that employers must "furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm" and that employers may "choose to ensure that cloth face coverings are worn as a feasible means of abatement in a control plan."

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### **USDA Extends Child Nutrition Program Flexibility**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it is [extending a key flexibility for child nutrition programs](#), to allow providers to serve free meals to all children, regardless of where they live, throughout this summer. Typically, USDA summer meal sites are offered only in low-income areas. Meal sites across the country are [listed online](#), and can be searched by zip code.

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### **WCMA Advocates for Member Interests in**

# Wisconsin's Marathon County

WCMA staff has worked quickly to oppose an [ordinance under consideration](#) this afternoon in Wisconsin's Marathon County. The ordinance involves county response to COVID-19 cases, including mandatory actions for citizens and businesses, the threat of temporary business closure, and associated fines of up to \$25,000.

WCMA submitted a [letter to members of the county's Executive Committee](#) detailing specific instances where the ordinance orders stricter controls than those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and fails to recognize the dairy industry as critical and essential. WCMA staff have also directly lobbied key elected officials.

Here's a look at recent news coverage:

- WSAW-TV: [Firm that won Wis. Supreme Court case finds legal issues with ordinance](#)
- Wausau Pilot: [Chamber opposes proposed COVID-19 ordinance](#)
- WAOW-TV: [Marathon County considering sweeping COVID-19 ordinance](#)

WCMA will keep members informed of key policy decisions at all levels of government, with an update on this matter planned tomorrow, and will continue to advocate for you, your businesses, and your employees.

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## Clarification: Extended B&I Application Period

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept applications for its [Rural Development Business and Industry CARES Act loan guarantees](#) through September 15, 2021 or until funds are expended. This \$1 billion program is designed to help rural business owners meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Details on eligibility and application are [available now](#).

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## 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



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!](#)

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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Dairy Industry:

- *FarmJournal's MILK*: [Demand for cheese keeps growing](#)
- *WKBT-TV*: [State of the state fairs: Iowa's the latest to pull the plug](#)
- *Monroe Times*: [Cheese Days moves to 2021](#)
- *Wisconsin Ag Connection*: [Half of Wisconsin fairs have canceled](#)
- *CSP Daily News*: [Kwik Trip, State Farm team up to deliver free milk](#)

### Wisconsin:

- *WBAY-TV*: [Percent of positive cases in Wisconsin grows](#)
- *Stevens Point Journal*: [Positive cases in Portage County triple in last six days; additional testing site offered](#)
- *Journal Times*: [Racine's understaffed health department pushed to the limit as 14.3 percent of all tests come back positive](#)
- *WCLO-AM*: [Rock County moves to Phase Two of reopening, with changes](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: ['Food is always last on my list': Pantries scramble to meet demand during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- *PSC Press Release*: [State moratorium on utility disconnections to end July 25](#)
- *WDJT-TV*: [DWD estimates months before unemployment backlog is cleared](#)

### National/International:

- *Washington Post*: [U.S. surpasses two million coronavirus cases](#)
- *CNN*: [Experts predict coronavirus deaths are expected to drop before a sharp rise in September](#)
- *CNBC*: [U.S. debt surges to \\$55.9 trillion amid big increases in government and corporate borrowing](#)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

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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.

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## 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](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130
  - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: [rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-386-3012
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