



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: June 15, 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.

Wisconsin Officials Push for Impact in Next Round of Farmers to Families Food Box Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sharing [insight on the future of its Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#).

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) Secretary-designee Randy Romanski, who had questioned the transparency of the program, says USDA administrators plan to soon open the application period for an additional \$1.8 billion in food box contracts. Romanski has conveyed hope that more Wisconsin producers and processors have the opportunity to be part of the next round.

Romanski says USDA is also reviewing the organizations currently under contract and whether those organizations have fulfilled requirements.

As of today, [14.9 million food boxes have been delivered](#), and USDA expects 40 million will be delivered by the end of the month.

USDA Releases \$2.9B in Direct Farmer Relief

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports it has processed nearly \$2.9 billion in payments to more than 220,000 farmers nationwide who applied for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Nearly \$667 million has been directed, thus far, to dairy farmers.

Program progress updates are released each Monday at 1:00 p.m. (CT) on [USDA's website](#), with the report breaking down payments by state and agricultural industry.

New Wisconsin Grants Now Available for Small Business Owners, Farmers

Two new coronavirus relief programs in Wisconsin are now accepting grant applications.

This morning, the Wisconsin "[We're All In](#)" program opened its [online application portal](#). The program will provide \$2,500 grants to 30,000 small businesses between now and June 23. Businesses are eligible if they are Wisconsin-based, for-profit, employ 20 or fewer full-time employees, including the owner, and have less than \$1 million in annual revenues.

The [Wisconsin Farm Support Program](#) is also now accepting applications. Wisconsin farmers with gross income between \$35,000 and \$5,000,000 in 2019 may be eligible to receive a payment. Individual payments will range from \$1,000-\$3,500 and will be issued after the application period closes on June 29.

Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

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, we're shining the spotlight on WCMA supplier member [ISG](#)'s food and dairy team, pictured below at Agropur's Lake Norden, South Dakota plant. Thank you for your dedication!

JUNE DAIRY MONTH



Join us in saluting
#EssentialWorkers.

Today, our thanks go to the **ISG Food and Dairy Team.**

You make a difference!



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](#)

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *The Advocate*: [First Borden Dairy coronavirus case reported to company weeks before outbreak](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Why milk's best sales in a decade won't save struggling dairy farmers](#)
- *AgWeek*: [Coronavirus aid payments a lifeline for some, too little for others](#)

Wisconsin

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Workers cautiously return to jobs during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Virtual schools see bump in interest as COVID-19 pandemic makes for uncertain fall](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [UW System's 13 schools will be open this fall, but how they operate will vary from campus to campus](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Dane County moves to Phase 2 of COVID-19 order Monday, further expanding businesses](#)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [Record spikes in new coronavirus cases, hospitalizations sweep parts of U.S.](#)
- *Washington Post*: [As coronavirus infections surge nationwide, 21 states see increase in average daily new cases](#)
- *New York Times*: [CDC calls for face mask use at large gatherings](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Stocks plunge as coronavirus resurgence spooks investors](#)
- *The Hill*: [Mnuchin says he'll have bipartisan discussions on oversight of PPP loans](#)
- *The Hill*: [Kudlow calls \\$600 unemployment checks a 'disincentive,' expects them to stop in July](#)
- *Reuters*: [Meatpacking workers often absent following Trump order to reopen](#)
- *Minnesota Public Radio*: [Emails reveal chaos as meatpacking companies fought health agencies over COVID-19 outbreaks in their plants](#)

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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