



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: June 18, 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.

USDA Renews Some Food Box Contracts, Offers New Contracts to Other Applicants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced it is [extending the contracts of "select vendors"](#) from the first round of the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#).

The extensions will carry through to August 30, for contracts worth a total of \$1.16 billion worth of food products. Some vendors delivery amounts or locations have been adjusted based on their demonstrated abilities, or at the vendors' request. Similarly, some contracts were not renewed based on performance challenges, or at the vendors' request.

To fill openings in the program, [USDA has also announced it will begin new contracts with a few vendors](#) whose offers were not accepted in the first round, due to technical errors in their proposals. USDA will also solicit new applications.

WCMA will keep members informed of Farmers to Families Food Box Program opportunities and developments. Here's a look at recent news coverage of USDA's announcement:

- *AgWeb*: [USDA extends food box contracts, adds new contractors](#)
- *FeedStuffs*: [USDA extends food box program](#)
- *WCAX-TV*: [Farmers to Families food program gets extended contract](#)

WDATCP Resuming Facility Inspections

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) Manufactured Food Services Section staff are [resuming on-site inspections](#) this week.

WDATEP notes Phase 1 of its return to inspection work plan begins with visits to facilities licensed electronically during the pandemic and facilities addressing compliance actions taken by the agency pre-pandemic. Whenever possible during this phase, inspections will be scheduled. WDATEP officials say it will be several months before staff returns to "normal" operations.

All WDATEP staff will be issued personal protective equipment, including face coverings. On-site, agency inspectors will maintain social distancing of at least six feet, practice appropriate personal hygiene, refrain from bringing all but essential equipment into the facilities, and follow department guidelines for sanitizing work equipment.

USDA Solicits Bids for Shredded Mozzarella

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued a [solicitation for bids](#) on the purchase of shredded mozzarella cheese. Offers are due June 30, and questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#). USDA posts [open solicitations](#) online.

Pennsylvania Launches \$40M Dairy Aid Program

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced a [\\$40 million dairy industry aid package](#) Tuesday. The plan includes [assistance to food banks](#) and direct payments to dairy farmers of \$1,500. Gov. Wolf has set September 30 as the deadline to apply for assistance through the [Dairy Indemnity Program](#).

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 a spotlight on Sue Crull of Klondike Cheese Company. Ever positive, Sue has stepped up during the pandemic to assist with employee health screenings, helping to ensure safety in the production facility. Way to go, Sue!

JUNE DAIRY MONTH



Join us in saluting
#EssentialWorkers.

Today, our thanks go to **Sue Crull of Klondike Cheese Company.**

You make a difference!



WISCONSIN
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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

- *High Plains Journal*: [Webinar sheds light on dilemma dairy producers face](#)
- *Vermont Biz*: [\\$250,000 in COVID-19 response business development grants released](#)
- *Newsweek Op-Ed*: [Why we need SNAP more than ever](#)

Wisconsin

- *WEAU-TV*: [Health experts say La Crosse County has yet to peak as case surge continues](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: [Washington-Ozaukee Counties relax COVID restrictions](#)
- *Wisconsin Rapids Tribune*: [Five Central Wisconsin counties see small increases in coronavirus cases since Monday](#)
- *WLUK-TV*: [Number of COVID-19 patients in Wisconsin ICUs drops below 100](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Evers to give \\$80 million to K-12 schools, higher ed in response to coronavirus](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee announce plans for reopening this fall](#)
- *WDJT-TV*: [Recent studies prove effectiveness of masks](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Elections Commission gives final approval to sending absentee ballot applications to 2.7 million Wisconsinites](#)

National/International

- *CBS News*: [Six states report record-high jumps in coronavirus cases as reopening plans weighed](#)
- *Washington Post*: [Coronavirus cases surge, leading to new mask rules, as Trump dismisses any new shutdowns](#)
- *FOX News*: [To protect against coronavirus, CDC says to have these 3 items on hand when venturing out](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. labor market recovery stalling; second wave of layoffs underway](#)

- *Associated Press*: [1.5 million more laid-off workers seek unemployment benefits](#)
 - *People Magazine*: [11 household-name brands filing for bankruptcy or closing amid pandemic](#)
 - *Politico*: [‘It’s just way too much to take on’: School systems struggle with the politics of reopening](#)
 - *FOX Business*: [China's 'grave' new coronavirus outbreak raises fears for rest of the world](#)
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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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