



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: June 25, 2020

Member Communications Update:

Since March 12, WCMA has been distributing near-daily bulletins alerting members to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). **WCMA will now offer these messages on Mondays and Thursdays**, and as breaking news warrants. **WCMA will also continue to deliver its regular electronic newsletters each Tuesday**, including both coronavirus updates, and industry and WCMA news. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

China Requests Food Exporters Declare Products Free of Coronavirus Contamination

Chinese customs authorities are now requesting all food exporters, including dairy manufacturers, sign [documents declaring their products free from coronavirus](#) contamination, and that they are in compliance with Chinese law and international guidelines for food safety during the pandemic.

Officials from the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture pushed back in a joint statement](#) Wednesday, noting there is "no evidence that people can contract COVID-19 from food or from food packaging." The agency also noted that some [nations are using COVID-19 to scale back on food exports](#).

CDC Adds Three COVID-19 Symptoms to List

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has added [three new symptoms](#) of COVID-19 to its list. Congestion or runny nose, nausea, and diarrhea were added, joining a list that already included fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell and sore throat.

Sign Up for Updates on Food Security Initiative

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) is encouraging those who may want more information about \$15 million Food Security Initiative to [sign up for email updates](#).

The first round of grants, worth \$5 million, will become available in early July. The purpose of the first round is to support adaptations needed at food banks to address greater demand, including refrigeration and delivery programs.

The second round of grants, worth \$10 million, will become available in mid- to late July, and they will be used to support food banks and pantries increase their purchase of Wisconsin-made products. Applicants will be encouraged to partner directly with agricultural producers and food processors.

WCMA will work to keep members informed, as additional details on this program are shared in the coming weeks.

Apply by Monday for Wisconsin Farm Aid

With more than 11,600 applications already filed, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) is reminding eligible farmers to [apply for direct payments](#) of between \$1,000-\$3,500 through the Wisconsin Farm Support Program. Eligible farmers include those with gross income between \$35,000 and \$5 million for 2019. The deadline to apply is Monday, June 29.

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



WCMA is proud to share this special message from the Fabulous Farm Babe herself, Pam Jahnke of the Midwest Farm Report!



Today, WCMA is shining a spotlight on the [Controls and Automation Department](#) at Advanced Process Technologies, Inc. This crew responds to a 24/7 support line, ensuring dairy manufacturers and processors can keep the milk and cheese moving. Thanks for your extra effort!

Join us in saluting **#EssentialWorkers**.

Today, our thanks go to the **Controls and Automation Team at Advanced Process Technologies, Inc.** 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 you have questions!](#)

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *WDIO-TV*: [Cheese prices at record high in Wisconsin](#) (Featuring WCMA)
- *WAOW-TV*: [Cheese prices are at a record high because of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (Featuring WCMA and Nasonville Dairy)
- *Politico*: [After long decline, SNAP rising due to COVID-19](#)

Wisconsin

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin coronavirus activity level bumped up to 'high' by health department as state reports 432 new cases](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [22 Wisconsin counties have 'high level' of COVID-19 activity, says DHS](#)
- *WXOW-TV*: [21 new COVID-19 cases in La Crosse County, one under four years old](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsinites can now apply for 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [State releases new unemployment rates; Wausau metro area has lowest of state's urban centers](#)
- *The Guardian*: [Ryder Cup will be pushed back to 2021 over coronavirus](#)

concerns

- *Associated Press*: [DNC to move to Wisconsin Center, be mostly virtual](#)
- *WFRV-TV*: [‘COVID Herd Immunity Fest’ changes name, music fest still on](#)

National/International

- *Associated Press*: [‘Coming back and biting us’: U.S. sees virus resurgence](#)
- *The Washington Post*: [New coronavirus cases in the U.S. soar to highest single-day total](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Texas pauses reopening amid spike in COVID-19 cases](#)
- *CNN*: [The three most populous states are breaking coronavirus records, leading to fears of 'apocalyptic' surges](#)
- *Associated Press*: [State, local governments need billions more in aid to avert 4 million layoffs, Moody's finds](#)
- *Reuters*: [U.S. layoffs remain elevated as weak demand persists after businesses reopened](#)

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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