



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: June 29, 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.

Wisconsin Launches County-by-County Tracking, Other States Offer Trend Reports & Resources

Amid a [rising rate of coronavirus cases statewide](#), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) has launched a [county-by-county coronavirus tracking program on its website](#), offering case counts, trajectories, and activity levels ranging from low to high. WDHS is also offering [new information on hospital readiness](#), by state region, including the number of COVID-19 patients hospitalized and number of available hospital beds and ventilators. A [list of community testing sites](#), updated daily, is also available online.

Other Midwestern states are also providing daily updates and resources online:

- [Illinois](#)
- [Indiana](#)
- [Iowa](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Minnesota](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [South Dakota](#)

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) offers a broader look at trends, including daily updates on the number of confirmed cases and state-by-state totals.

USDA Solicits Bids for Cheese, Butter and Yogurt

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is now [soliciting bids](#) for multiple dairy products,

for use in Section 32 programs.

- Bids for [butter and yogurt](#) contracts are due Tuesday, July 7.
- Bids for [processed cheese](#) contracts are due Wednesday, July 8.
- Bids for [cheddar cheese](#) contracts are due Monday, July 13.

CAST Publishes Report on Economic Impact of Coronavirus on Food and Agricultural Markets

The Council on Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) today released a [report on the economic impacts of coronavirus on food and agricultural markets](#). It quantifies the [amount of milk disposed thus far](#) during the pandemic at 3.7 million pounds, and details the impact of the [loss of food service markets](#).

School Nutrition Flexibility Extended to June 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending certain [flexibility in school nutrition programs](#) through June 2021. Nationwide waivers will allow for parent or guardian pick-up of meals for students in distance learning programs, meals offered outside of normal patterns, and meals served outside of group settings.

USDA Now Accepting Online CFAP Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Friday it will now accept applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) through an [online portal](#).

Final Reminder: Wisconsin Farm Support Program Applications Due Today

Applications for the [Wisconsin Farm Support Program](#) are due today, June 29 at 11:59 p.m. This programs direct relief payments of between \$1,000-\$3,500 to qualifying farmers. Applications can be [completed online](#).

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](#)



Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- Dairy Foods: [Retail dairy sales still seeing double digit growth](#)

Wisconsin

- USA Today: [Wisconsin's percentage of positive coronavirus tests hits highest point in more than a month](#)
- BizTimes: [Even with record unemployment, businesses likely won't see higher payroll taxes until 2022, report says](#)
- Stevens Point Journal/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [The extra \\$600 in unemployment benefits ends July 25, and no extension or new help is in the works](#)
- WISN-TV: [Adults 20-29 among largest Wisconsin case spike; bars 'critical' in slowing spread](#)
- Wisconsin Rapids Tribune/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Sen. Ron Johnson says Wisconsin might need to focus on bars to control coronavirus spread; calls for schools to completely open](#)
- Wisconsin State Journal: [Dane County grants aid to food pantries as COVID-19 pandemic sparks surge in demand](#)
- Pioneer Press: [Here's how COVID-19 affected Minnesota and Wisconsin differently. The reasons why are still unclear.](#)

National/International

- Washington Post: [Arizona, Florida, Texas are latest coronavirus epicenters](#)
- CNBC: [U.S. coronavirus cases surge by more than 45,000 in one day, total surpasses 2.5 million](#)
- New York Times: [E.U. plans to bar most U.S. travelers when bloc reopens](#)
- FOX Business: [COVID-19 drug remdesivir to cost \\$3,120 for typical patient on private insurance](#)
- Washington Post: [Scientists are trying to understand coronavirus mutation](#)
- USA Today: [Tyson Foods announces 371 additional workers have tested positive for COVID-19 at Missouri plant](#)
- ABC News: [Families of three deceased workers sue Tyson over Iowa outbreak](#)
- CNN: [COVID-19 vaccine might not get us the herd immunity if too many people refuse to get it, Fauci says](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. consumer spending rebounds; falling income, surging COVID-19 cases loom](#)
- The Hill: [Spiking coronavirus cases threaten fragile recovery](#)

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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