



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

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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.

Evers Withdraws Scope Statement for "Safer At Home" Replacement After Republican Rejection

Moments ago, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers [withdrew a scope statement on emergency rules](#) to replace his Safer At Home order, after Republican lawmakers with veto authority stated their opposition to his plans.

Here's a look at news coverage:

- *Associated Press*: [Evers withdraws virus plan outline amid GOP opposition](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Evers' proposal to replace stay home order rejected](#)
- *WISN-TV*: [Evers says it's now up to the people to take precautions against COVID-19](#)

Neither the Evers Administration nor Wisconsin Department of Health Services immediately commented on the withdrawal.

WCMA will continue to keep members informed of policy developments impacting their business operations.

House Relief Bill with Dairy Recourse Loan Proposal Unlikely to See Senate Action

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives approved a proposal authored by Democrats late Friday to provide \$3 trillion in coronavirus relief, including direct cash payments to Americans, an unemployment benefits extension, and hazard pay for front-line workers. The package also includes a proposal backed by WCMA; the Recourse Loan Program for Commercial Processors of Dairy Products would make \$500 million plan in working capital loans available to dairy processors, packagers,

merchants, marketers, wholesalers and distributors carrying heavier inventories due to coronavirus order delays.

The bill is regarded as dead on arrival in the Republican-controlled Senate, following a veto warning from President Donald Trump.

Here's a look at recent news coverage:

- *CBS News*: [House votes on HEROES Act](#)
- *FOX News*: [House passes \\$3T coronavirus relief bill - the most expensive in history](#)
- *National Public Radio*: [House approves \\$3 trillion proposal with dim Senate future](#)

Evers Announces \$75M Grant Program for Wisconsin Small Businesses

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers today announced the state will release [\\$75 million in small business grants as part of the "We're All In" initiative](#) from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

Funded largely by federal aid, the program will provide \$2,500 cash grants to offset some of the costs of business interruption, or for health and safety improvements, wages and salaries, rent, mortgages, and inventory.

Businesses must have 20 or fewer full-time employees and must not have received other WEDC support related to the coronavirus pandemic to be eligible. Up to 30,000 businesses will receive grants. More details, including application forms, will be available later this month and businesses will be able to apply for grants in June.

USDA Now Issuing Grants to Support CO2 Access

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched an online portal to begin accepting applications for \$100 million in [Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program](#) competitive grants. This program is designed to expand the sale and availability of affordable ethanol and biodiesel fuels, including CO2 used in the dairy processing industry, now in short supply.

WDATCP Announces Online Sign Up for BMWS License Renewal Inspections

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection today announced [online sign up](#) for bulk milk weigher and sample (BMWS) license renewal inspections, which are required once every two years. These brief checks will be held in eleven locations in August and September.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry:

- *USA Today*: [Fact check: Dairy farmer payments drop, even as retail prices rise](#)
- *BBC*: [Stilton sales plunge 30 percent in pandemic](#)

Wisconsin:

- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [State announces \\$51 million program to boost child care amid pandemic](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [No new deaths, percentage of positives drop Sunday](#)
- *WDJT-TV*: [DWD takes on hundreds of new employees to field unemployment claims](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: [Secretary of Administration Joel Brennan: 'Customer habits' will be final metric in coronavirus recovery](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [No masks, no gloves, no problem. As coronavirus cases soar, carefree day-trippers from Illinois pour in.](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [UW system planning COVID tests for all students, faculty, and staff to return to in-person classes this fall](#)
- *Chippewa Herald*: ['They're going to be skeptical': Industries will deal with prolonged COVID-19 impacts](#)

National/International:

- *Washington Post*: [Moderna's coronavirus vaccine shows encouraging early results in human trial](#)
- *Politico*: [U.S. on pace to pass 100,000 COVID-19 deaths by June 1](#)
- *Politico*: [Democratic governors hit with flurry of legal challenges to pandemic lockdowns](#)
- *FOX Business*: [14 more states are loosening restrictions on coronavirus lockdowns today](#)
- *Washington Post*: [Areas without social distancing have 35 times more potential coronavirus spread](#)
- *The Hill*: [Fed chair: U.S. economy will rebound, but not by end of 2020](#)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

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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