



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

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.

PPP Loan Forgiveness Timeline May Be Extended

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin noted Thursday that he is working with Congress on a [proposal to lengthen the time period small businesses have to spend Paycheck Protection Program support](#) and still be eligible for loan forgiveness. Mnuchin said in an interview with *The Hill*, "There is bipartisan support to extend [the eight-week period] to 10 or 12 weeks."

Senate Republicans are considering a stand-alone bill to extend the PPP spending period to 16 weeks, and House Democrats are expected to bring similar legislation to the floor next week.

CDC: Coronavirus 'Does Not Spread Easily' on Surfaces or Objects

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued [updated guidance](#), noting that virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people, but that "it does not spread easily in other ways," including "touching surfaces or objects."

For additional information and analysis, see these news reports:

- *USA Today*: [The CDC says coronavirus 'does not spread easily' on surfaces or objects. Here's what we know.](#)
 - *FOX News*: [CDC now says coronavirus 'does not spread easily' via contaminated surfaces](#)
 - *Washington Post*: [Virus 'does not spread easily' on contaminated surfaces, revised CDC website states](#)
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WDATCP Seeks Information on Food Box Decisions

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Interim Secretary Randy [Romanski sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) seeking information on how the agency made determinations related to the Farmers to Families Food Box program.

In the letter, Romanski notes that Wisconsin-based companies were awarded less than one percent of all dairy product and fluid milk program purchases.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry:

- *WFRV-TV*: [Evers announces \\$50 million for farmers, \\$15 million for food aid](#)
- *WEAU-TV*: [New legislation being introduced to help dairy farmers](#) (Featuring WCMA)
- *WLAX-TV*: [New proposed legislation would help dairy farmers](#) (Featuring WCMA)
- *WBAY-TV*: [Foremost Farms announces closure of Chilton plant](#) (Featuring WCMA member Foremost Farms USA and WCMA)
- *Vermont Digger*: [As part of relief package, Scott proposes grants for dairy farmers](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Strong rally in cheese market boosts milk prices](#)

Wisconsin:

- *WISC-TV*: [Nearly 600 more COVID-19 cases confirmed as eight percent of tests come back positive](#)
- *USA Today*: [Wisconsin's high court said to reopen. Did residents self-quarantine?](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Counties lifting stay-at-home orders ahead of schedule](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [Unemployment backlog: DWD says 140,000 applications 'on hold'](#)
- *Journal Times*: [COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating Wisconsin's rural broadband problem](#)

National/International:

- *USA Today*: [CDC chief issues stark warning about possible second wave and more lockdowns](#)
 - *Associated Press*: [Nearly 39 million have sought U.S. jobless aid since virus hit](#)
 - *FOX Business*: [Fed's Powell says U.S. economy facing a 'whole new level of uncertainty'](#)
 - *Business Insider*: [Some major stores won't take cash as they reopen](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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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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