



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: May 27, 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 Announces Plans for More Dairy Purchases

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced [plans to purchase more dairy products](#) for distribution to food nutrition assistance programs. [Solicitations will be released soon](#) for salted butter, cheddar cheese chunks, various sizes of packages of shredded cheddar, packages of shredded cheddar, and instant milk. Questions can be directed to [USDA staff](#).

FDA Offers Labeling Flexibility

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is granting temporary regulatory flexibility on food labeling requirements, in response to manufacturers' challenges in sourcing some ingredients during the coronavirus pandemic. The [FDA guidance document](#) notes minor formulation changes may not trigger label updates, so long as ingredients do not introduce allergens or foods known to cause sensitivities.

Make Your Voice Heard on Bipartisan Billion-Dollar Proposal for Ag Supply Chain

Last week, U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Angus King (I-ME), along with U.S. Representatives Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD), introduced the [Farming Support to States Act](#), which would provide \$1 billion in flexible funding for states and agricultural stakeholders to respond to challenges in the industry's supply chain.

WCMA is lobbying for this proposal, and welcomes any member with an interest in the legislation to [get in touch](#). Sen. Baldwin's office is collecting quotes from industry

Register Now for WCMA Webinar: What Happens When An Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19

WCMA invites members to join in a **free, educational webinar on Wednesday, June 3 from 1-2 p.m.** The webinar will offer a practical look at what happens when an employee tests positive for COVID-19, and best practices both for prevention and for successful management of a confirmed case.

We're pleased to announce that Dr. Jonathan Meiman, Wisconsin Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Occupational and Environmental Health, and Green County Public Health Officer RoAnn Warden will present, alongside WCMA staff.

Webinar topics include:

- Prevalence of outbreaks in food processing facilities in Wisconsin
- Best practices for prevention
- What information is asked of an employer, in the event of a positive
- Investigations and the role of contact tracers
- How determinations regarding continued operations are made

Please RSVP to [WCMA Office and Member Services Manager Sara Schmidt](#) with your interest in joining and include any questions you may wish to ask. You'll receive access information for the webinar (or telephone call-in option) in reply.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *Milwaukee BizTimes*: [Area restaurants carefully approach reopening](#)
- *Milwaukee State Journal*: [Wisconsin State Fair board votes to give chair authority to cancel fair](#)
- *Leader Telegram*: [Eau Claire extends emergency order to June 23](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [Brown County releases plan to reopen amid coronavirus](#)

National/International:

- *Associated Press*: [American virus deaths at 100,000](#)
 - *Newsweek*: [Fauci says America can avoid a second wave](#)
 - *Reuters*: [WHO says the Americas are new coronavirus epicenter as deaths in Latin America surge](#)
 - *The Hill*: [U.S. braces for COVID-19's 'slow burn'](#)
 - *Washington Post*: [Trump's mockery of wearing masks divides Republicans](#)
 - *New York Times*: [Hunger program's slow start leaves millions of children waiting](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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Visit 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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