



# WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

## Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: May 7, 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 Offers \$100M in Grants for Biofuels, Supporting CO2 Access

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this week](#) it will make up to \$100 million in competitive grants available for ethanol and other biofuels manufacturers, an action that is expected to expand access to affordable CO2.

As noted in Monday's member bulletin, WCMA has been working with elected leaders and industry partners to address growing industry concerns over limited CO2 supplies. Late last week, Wisconsin Governor Tony [Evers sent a letter to USDA Secretary](#) Sonny Perdue, calling for support for the ethanol industry.

Please contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) with questions or concerns.

---

### SBA Again Updates PPP Guidance

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has offered updates to its [Paycheck Protection Program FAQ](#) twice in the last two days, adding clarity on loan repayment and employee headcounts, for those organizations which operate both domestically and internationally.

---

### Wisconsin Expands Community Testing, Launches New Online Tool Noting Sites

On Wednesday, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services launched [a new tool to help people find free COVID-19 testing sites](#) throughout the state. The tool's

searchable map notes testing site locations, contact information, hours of operation, and guidance on how to schedule an appointment.

Earlier in the week, Governor Tony Evers announced an expansion of testing, and on Wednesday, [more than 4,000 people were tested for COVID-19](#), a new high for the state.

---

## Wisconsin Supreme Court Deliberates Safer at Home Order Extension

Wisconsin's Supreme Court continues to deliberate a case brought by Republican lawmakers arguing Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm overstepped her authority in extending Governor Tony Evers' safer at home order.

Should the court determine the order invalid, the Legislature has asked the court to keep the order in place for six days, so that new rules might be determined.

WCMA will alert members to any breaking news impacting their operations. In the meantime, here's a look at news coverage of the court case.

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Assembly Speaker outlines possible GOP changes to stay-at-home order](#)
  - *FOX News*: [Wisconsin stay-at-home order is 'definition of tyranny,' state supreme court justice suggests](#)
  - *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Bice: Supreme Court Chief Justice Roggensack blasted as 'elitist,' 'out of touch' for meatpacking remark](#)
  - *WISN-TV*: [Milwaukee County officials prepping 'stay home' order pending Supreme Court action](#)
  - *WSAW-TV*: [Local governments plan for all possible outcomes of Supreme Court ruling](#)
- 

## Number of COVID-19 Cases in Food Processing Plants Continue to Grow

Both in Wisconsin and throughout the country, the number of reported COVID-19 cases tied to food processing plants - mostly in meatpacking - continues to grow. Here's a look at recent headlines covering plant outbreaks.

### Wisconsin:

- *WKOW-TV*: [Employees at Monroe cheese plant tested for COVID-19](#)
- *U.S. News & World Report*: [Richelieu Foods to test all Beaver Dam employees](#)
- *Beloit Daily Times*: [Cases of COVID cropping up at food processors](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: [Smithfield Foods-Cudahy announces final COVID-19 numbers following testing \(86 employees positive\)](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Cargill Meat Solutions in Milwaukee will close temporarily for COVID-19 testing](#)

### National:

- *USA Today*: [Meatpacking industry hits grim milestone of 10,000 coronavirus cases](#)
- *The Hill*: [Senate Democrat presses meat processors on worker protection](#)

- *Bloomberg*: [American meat workers are quitting as virus-ridden plants reopen](#)
  - *Bloomberg Law*: [Smithfield wins dismissal of meat workers' safety lawsuit](#)
- 

## Emergency Trucking Permits Expire May 11

On May 11, Wisconsin's order for emergency oversize and overweight permits for trucking operations is set to expire. Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary-designee Craig [Thompson has alerted state lawmakers to the order expiration](#), noting they could take action to extend permits. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) if you have questions or concerns.

---

## Dairy Donations Continue to Help Food-Insecure

WCMA applauds the contributions of its members and other industry leaders to address food insecurity through the donation of dairy products. Here's a look at some gifts making headlines.

- *Facebook*: [Klondike Cheese Company and Odyssey Foods donates yogurt for local students](#)
  - *WZAW-TV*: [350 pounds of cheese going to Marathon County families](#) (Featuring WCMA member Mullins Cheese)
  - *Facebook*: [Cady Cheese donating 60,000 pounds of cheese](#)
  - *KOIN-TV*: [Tillamook Creamery Association pledges \\$4 million for COVID relief](#)
  - *Bennington Banner*: [Surplus milk to fill Vermont foodbanks](#)
- 

## Coronavirus Headline News

### Wisconsin:

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Social distancing fatigue sets in](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Four Wisconsin counties still have no reported COVID-19 cases. How is that possible?](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [Wisconsin Restaurant Association says we could lose 50 percent of restaurants if order continues past May](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin unemployment claims top half a million as coronavirus upends economy](#)
- *BizTimes*: [Wisconsin exports down slightly in Q1 as imports from China fall 37 percent](#)

### National/International:

- *Newsweek*: [Study finds 20 percent of American children going hungry](#)
  - *Marketplace*: [Land O'Lakes CEO Beth Ford on why some farmers are dumping milk](#)
  - *Politico*: [French farmers sound alarm in cheese market meltdown](#)
  - *Associated Press*: [Trump Administration shelves CDC guide to reopening country](#)
  - *FOX News*: [Trump says coronavirus task force will continue 'indefinitely' and shift focus to reopening and vaccines](#)
  - *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](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130
  - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: [rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-386-3012
-