



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: May 8, 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 Approves \$1.2B in Contracts for Farmers to Families Food Box Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today [approved \\$1.2 billion in contracts](#) through its new [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#), including \$317 million for a variety of dairy products and \$175 million for combination boxes of dairy, fresh produce, or meat products. USDA's [list of Food Box suppliers](#) includes WCMA members Masters Gallery Foods, approved for dairy food boxes, and Prairie Farms, approved for dairy food boxes and fluid milk.

USDA Offers Milk Contracts, Donation Flexibility

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today issued two separate requests for proposals for fluid milk purchases, with submissions due May 22. [One solicitation](#) directs deliveries to Idaho, Massachusetts, Montana, Vermont and Washington, while [the other directs deliveries to 24 states](#), including all of the Midwest.

USDA also announced today it will [waive certain documentation requirements](#) in the Commodity Specifications for Fluid Milk and Milk Products Eligible for the Milk Donation Reimbursement Program.

Evers Shares Reopening Strategies for Businesses, WEDC Guidelines Include WCMA Input

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers today shared [COVID-19 guidelines and best safety practices for businesses to follow when they reopen](#). Downloadable brochures, issued by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, offer both [general](#)

[guidance](#) and industry-specific advice for 14 business types.

WCMA, along with its partners at the Center for Dairy Research and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, was pleased to contribute to guidance documents for [manufacturers](#) and for [agriculture](#).

State Unemployment Fund May Be Gone by October

The State of [Wisconsin may have to borrow money from the federal government to pay unemployment benefits](#), if the high rate of joblessness continues. Analysis from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) reported Thursday shows the [state's \\$1.8 billion Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is on track to be depleted by October](#).

[Nine states have already indicated they plan to ask for loans](#) including California, Illinois, Texas, New York, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Ohio and West Virginia.



Focus Friday: Stress Management Strategies

WCMA is proud to bring you *Focus Friday*, highlighting leadership strategies to help you motivate your team and move your business forward.

Be sure to check out a new, free e-book, [Leadership. Not Cancelled. Leading in Challenging Times](#), from our leadership training instructor [Cyndi Wentland](#) of [Intentionaleaders](#).

This week, Cyndi shares a bit of encouragement, along with six key stress management strategies via the quick video and one-page guide linked below.



6 STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING STRESS & OVERWHELM

1. AVOID IF POSSIBLE Keep away from things that cause you stress, &/or stop yourself from engaging in activities that drain energy when & where possible.	2. ALTER BEHAVIORS Examine your ability to change yourself or your situation. Take actions that will contribute to a more successful outcome for you.
3. ADAPT YOUR MIND Be an honest observer of your thought patterns, attitudes and self talk. Are your thoughts helping you or causing you more distress?	4. ACCEPT REALITY Be willing to accept reality. Sometimes this requires a change in beliefs. Let go of what you can't control.
5. FIND RELAXATION Consider what you need to find peace and calm. This may look very different for different people. Make these choices intentionally.	6. LIFESTYLE CHOICES Examine your habits honestly. What small areas, if changed, would provide you more capacity and energy for your family, work and life?

© 2020 Intentionaleaders, LLC

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *Monroe Times*: [167 tested, 13 positive at Wisconsin Cheese Group in 'great joint effort'](#)
- *WBAY-TV*: [Wisconsin sees huge increase in testing, big drop in percentage of positive cases](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [As Wisconsin collects data on coronavirus and its effects, some positive trends are emerging](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin nears 400 COVID-19 deaths; men over 70 with health issues; obesity common among younger victims](#)

National/International:

- *Hoard's Dairyman*: [Dairy has lost at least \\$10 billion](#)
- *Brownfield Ag News*: [Perdue says CFAP payment limits will be higher](#)
- *Bloomberg*: [More cows are ending up as hamburgers in virus twist](#)
- *FOX News*: [Why farmers dump food while grocery stores run dry](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Some blame meatpacking workers, not plants, for virus spread](#)
- *CNN*: [April jobs report: 14.7% unemployment, and it doesn't even include everyone who's out of work](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Experts worried CDC is sidelined in coronavirus response](#)
- *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)

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 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
-