



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

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WCMA distributes member bulletins focused on coronavirus information on Thursdays and as breaking news warrants. WCMA delivers electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

USDA Announces \$1B in Food Box Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it has approved [\\$1 billion in contracts](#) for the third round of its Farmers to Families Food Box program. A full list of approved suppliers will be [posted online](#) after 4 p.m. (CT) today.

Earlier this week, USDA announced it had distributed more than [90 million food boxes](#) in support of American farmers and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

State of Wisconsin Now Offering Free, Confidential COVID-19 Workplace Consultations

The State of Wisconsin has alerted WCMA to a brand-new offering to support employers' efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus within their workplaces.

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) has launched a [free, confidential consultative service](#) to help businesses develop COVID-19 exposure prevention, preparedness, and response plans, and identify potential administrative, engineering, and PPE controls. All businesses will receive a service term agreement, and consultations can be delivered via on-site or virtual visit.

To request a consultation, you must complete an [online form](#). Questions may be addressed to [WSLH staff](#) or to your [WCMA staff](#).

Trump, CDC Director Differ on Vaccine Timetable

Testifying before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on Wednesday, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Dr. Robert Redfield said a limited supply of

coronavirus vaccine may be available between November and December of this year, but that it was unlikely to be available to the general public until the summer or fall of 2021. Redfield also testified that wearing a face mask might offer more protection against the spread of coronavirus than a vaccine.

In a later news conference, President Donald Trump said that he thinks Redfield “made a mistake” when he said that a vaccine will not be widely available until 2021, and “under no circumstance will it be as late as the doctor said.” Trump reiterated his belief that the U.S. is ready to distribute the vaccine to much of the country whenever it is available, saying that could be as early as next month.

For more on developments related to a coronavirus vaccine, see the news articles linked below.

- *USA Today*: [Trump says CDC Director Robert Redfield 'confused' about coronavirus vaccine, mask efficacy. Redfield responded.](#)
- *CNN*: [Trump disputes CDC head's vaccine timeline and mask claims](#)
- *FOX News*: [Trump refutes CDC's Redfield vaccine timeline: 'I believe he was confused'](#)
- *USA Today*: [Pfizer reports 'potential' of COVID-19 candidate vaccine after expanding trial to 44,000 people](#)

USDA Seeks 48.4M Pounds of Processed Cheese

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is [soliciting bids](#) for the purchase of 48.4 million pounds of pasteurized process American cheese for delivery throughout 2021. Offers are due October 1 at 1 p.m. (CT). Questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

A complete list of USDA's [open solicitations](#) and information on [how to become an approved vendor](#) are available online.

USDA Awards Contracts for Cheddar and Swiss

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has [awarded contracts](#) totaling \$10 million in value for the purchase of cheddar and swiss cheeses from WCMA members Dairy Farmers of America, Great Lakes Cheese Company, Masters Gallery Foods, Schreiber Foods, Winona Foods, as well as Gossner Foods.

CFAP Tops \$9.9 Billion As Deadline Passes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is reporting Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments have now [topped \\$9.9 billion](#), with \$1.7 billion in relief to dairy producers. The deadline for CFAP applications was September 11, though producers impacted by natural disasters in Louisiana, Oregon, and Texas now have through October 9 to ask for aid.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Feedstuffs*: [GAO recommends evaluation of food box program](#)

Wisconsin

- *WTMJ-TV*: [Eight Wisconsin cities on NYT's list of 20 metro areas with fastest-growing COVID-19 numbers](#)
- *La Crosse Tribune*: [122 more cases in La Crosse County -- fastest rise in cases in U.S.](#)
- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [COVID hospitalizations have spiked in the Fox Valley. Health officials warn if behavior doesn't change, we could be in for a tough fall.](#)
- *WPWR-TV*: [Chicago warns against Wisconsin travel, cites COVID spike](#)
- *WISN-TV*: [Restaurant officials say more than a third of Wisconsin restaurants will go out of business within six months](#)
- *WLUK-TV*: [With less than two weeks to go, it's unclear if the state mask mandate will be extended](#)
- *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram*: [County administration committee approves health orders ordinance](#)
- *Sheboygan Press*: [Sheboygan County Board rejects public health ordinance after residents accuse officials of trying to 'rule'](#)

National/International

- *Newsweek*: [Coronavirus deaths are highest in these five states](#)
- *USA Today*: [Coronavirus stimulus plans: What we know about the negotiations between Congress and the Trump White House](#)
- *FOX News*: [Meadows rips Congress members going home while coronavirus relief 'checks are not going out'](#)

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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