



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1891

Coronavirus Information and Resources

Bulletin Distributed: March 30, 2020

WCMA Members:

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). Please be assured your WCMA staff is working to support you through this challenging period. Thank you for your important work.

New CARES Act Business Aids Detailed

On Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#), and President Donald Trump immediately signed it into law. The historic \$2 trillion package includes a variety of aids to businesses, which WCMA overviewed following Senate passage.

Now, we're pleased to direct you to in-depth analysis offered by the team at Michael Best on these employment-related provisions in the bill:

- [Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- [Employee Retention Credit](#)
- [Payroll Tax, Pension Plan, and Paid Sick Leave](#)

We encourage all WCMA members to review these resources carefully, and to [contact WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

Mexico Ceasing Import Permits Threatens Trade

U.S. Dairy Export Council today informed members that the Mexican Ministry of Health (COFEPRIS) issued a decree on Thursday, March 26, stopping its administrative operations, including import permits, and legal deadlines between March 27 and April 19. The Ministry is focusing efforts on the COVID-19 outbreak in Mexico.

Import permits can be valid for up to 30 days, according to USDEC staff, and relate to particular product lot numbers that U.S. dairy exporters include in their Certificate of Analysis. Thus, USDEC notes, the Ministry's actions may have severe

consequences on the importation of dairy products into Mexico if the processing of import permits is delayed.

USDEC has contacted high-ranking officials at USTR and USDA to alert them to this development and the threat to trade. We have urged the U.S. government to take steps to ensure that Mexico provides an alternative avenue to allow trade to continue. In addition, USDEC has contacted officials in the Mexican government this weekend to similarly alert them to this problem and urge a swift solution.

Key contacts at USDEC for this issue are [Oscar Ferrara](#) and [Jaime Castaneda](#).

Dairy Food Safety Alliance Releases Updated SOP Template Addressing COVID-19 Positive Worker

Members of the Dairy Food Safety Alliance, including the Center for Dairy Research, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, have released an [updated SOP template](#) for dairy manufacturers and processors, in the event they have a COVID-19 positive employee.

The update includes several changes, reflecting - among other things - new guidance regarding disinfection from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) in the event the employee is on-site when he or she receives news of a confirmed test. This section is found at 5.3.11 on Page 5. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

Thanks go to our friends and colleagues at CDR and DFW for their work on the updated SOP template, and to WOW Logistics for support.

Please note: DFW is hosting a [website](#) with more from the Dairy Food Safety Alliance, including FAQs and employer guidance, and we encourage you to make use of these resources.

Wisconsin Launches Child Care Finder Service

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families today launched a new "[Child Care Finder](#)" program for the state's essential workforce, including dairy manufacturing and processing employees. Please use [this tool](#) to be connected with high quality child care services near home or work.

BMWS Reciprocity Provides New Options

A [change to Wisconsin statute](#) will now allow anyone holding a Bulk Milk Weigher and Sampler (BMWS) license issued by an equivalent regulatory agency in another state to operate in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has issued an [interim BMWS licensing process](#). Note, this means a BMWS license holder will not need to renew their Wisconsin license if they choose to retain another out-of-state license.

WCMA Offers Printable Posters, Thanking Your Critical & Essential Staff

Critical and essential workers deserve our thanks, as they balance their job responsibilities with the concerns we all share. As part of WCMA's ongoing work to salute your critical and essential staff, we're now offering printable posters for use in your breakrooms or in social media promotions.

Click on the links to access three poster options:

- [Critical & Essential: All-American Effort \[Ready to Print\]](#)
- [Critical & Essential: All-American Effort \[Customizable - Add an image of your employees and print\]](#)
- [Critical & Essential: Feeding Our Families \[Ready to Print\]](#)

Please let [WCMA staff](#) know if you have questions or need assistance.

Headline News

Wisconsin:

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Coronavirus hits Wisconsin dairy farms especially hard - - some farmers may even have to dump milk](#)
- *Cap Times*: [As farmers' markets close over COVID-19 worries, small farms get creative](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [State-by-state analysis shows when Wisconsin will peak during pandemic](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Evers announces partnerships with Exact Sciences, Marshfield Clinic, Promega, UW Health to double coronavirus testing in Wisconsin](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Evers to purchase ventilators and masks after clash with lawmakers over whether he needed legislative approval](#)

National/International:

- *Dairy Foods*: [Dairy execs weigh in on coronavirus-related efforts and challenges \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)
 - *Columbus Dispatch*: [Coronavirus in Ohio: Volatile prices, social distancing can't keep farmers from plowing ahead](#)
 - *FOX News*: [Trump says coronavirus 'peak death rate' likely in two weeks, extend social distancing guidelines through April 30](#)
 - *CNN*: [Trump concedes U.S. coronavirus death toll could be 100,000 or more](#)
 - *The Hill*: [U.S. poised for hellish month as coronavirus surges](#)
 - *MSN*: [State-by-state coronavirus news](#)
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Other Resources

WCMA will continue to provide links to both new and essential coronavirus resources for members in these bulletins, but we also want to alert you to a page we've created [WisCheeseMakers.org](#) with links to much more. Please visit the page for additional information on employee safety, operations guidance, and federal and state support.

Dairy Food Safety Alliance Resources:

- [Standard operating procedure template addressing COVID-19 positive worker](#)
- [Coronavirus FAQs](#)
- [Employer guidance](#)
- [Printable mental health hotline poster](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Resources:

- [Interim guidance for businesses and employers](#)
- [Printable hygiene posters](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Resources:

- [Coronavirus and food](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Resources:

- [Printable FMLA benefits poster](#)

Wisconsin Orders:

- [Safer at Home](#)

Wisconsin Department of Health Services Resources:

- [Coronavirus basics](#)
- [Outbreak tracking](#)

WCMA Key Contacts

WCMA staff is continuously reaching out to dairy manufacturer and processor member 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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