



WCMA Dairy Facts

An Exclusive Newsletter of the WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

January 18, 2019



Shutdown Enters Day 28, Impacts U.S. Dairy Industry

The shutdown of the United States federal government has now entered day 28, making it the longest in the nation's history. Impacts on the agricultural industry are widespread, though agency heads are now working to address the most pressing concerns.

On Wednesday, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue ordered 2,500 employees back to work without pay at half of the country's Farm Service Agency locations, noting the offices would be open for three days to address producers' concerns over existing farm loans. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has also demanded 150 furloughed employees resume inspections of high-risk foods.

Unfortunately, implementation of the new Farm Bill remains at a standstill, and the release of several key USDA reports, including the much-anticipated World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates, has been delayed. The start of U.S. trade negotiations with the E.U. and Japan have been delayed due to the federal government shutdown, as well.

For more on these and other shutdown developments, review the news stories linked below.

- *USA Today*: [Inspections resume for high-risk foods like seafood, baby formula](#)
- *Yahoo*: [Seven foods to avoid during the shutdown](#)
- *CNBC*: [USDA calls back 2,500 workers from shutdown furlough as farmers wait for trade war bailouts](#)
- *Minnesota Public Radio*: [Thanks to shutdown, expected farm data wasn't released Friday. Here's why that matters](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Shutdown could delay trade talks with EU, Japan, Grassley warns](#)
- *Politico*: [Farmers shut off from their federal lifelines as shutdown persists](#)
- *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram*: [Shutdown delays Dairy Margin Coverage program rollout](#)

**Final Reminder: Comments to
FDA on Dairy Labels Due January
28**



The Food and Drug Administration deadline for comments on the use of dairy labels for plant-based products is Monday, January 28. To submit a comment, [click here](#).

WCMA Notes: Dairy and the Evers Administration

Earlier this month, Wisconsin welcomed a new governor and state leadership in key roles. But, what will they mean for Wisconsin's dairy industry?

WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer shares insight on Governor Tony Evers and agency heads in the latest edition of WCMA Notes. Click [here](#) to read on!



WDATCP Secretary Brad Pfaff and WCMA's Rebekah Sweeney on Inauguration Day

Join Us for WCMA Lobby Day

WCMA staff is connecting with new state leaders to convey members' legislative and policy priorities in this transitional window.

The Association's Policy Committee is set to meet with new Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Secretary Brad Pfaff and key state legislators in Madison on Wednesday, January 30.

To join us for WCMA's Lobby Day, please contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Romanski, James Join Pfaff to Lead WDATCP

Long-time public servant Randy Romanski has been tapped to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) under incoming Secretary Brad Pfaff.

Romanski has spent the past eight years working as Safety Programs Chief at the Department of Transportation. He served as WDATCP Deputy Secretary from April 2008-August 2010, stepping in to serve as Secretary during the final months of the Doyle Administration. He has also worked as Executive Assistant at the Department of Natural Resources and Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Jim Doyle.



WDATCP Deputy Secretary Randy Romanski

Angela James is set to join WDATCP as Assistant Deputy Secretary on Tuesday, January 22.

James is familiar to many in the Wisconsin dairy processing



WDATCP Assistant Deputy
Secretary Angela James

industry through her work in private practice on water quality matters including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) engagement, and nutrient trading.

She worked as a consultant for the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association from 2016 through 2018, and WCMA staff looks forward to working with her in her new role.

IN THE NEWS...

- *USA Today*: [Food recalls up 10 percent since 2013 as foodborne illnesses kill 3,000 Americans per year](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Farms, more productive than ever, are poisoning drinking water in rural America](#)
- *ABC News*: [Trump formally nominates acting chief Andrew Wheeler to EPA administrator](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Judge: Wisconsin improperly gave up authority to dairy group](#)
- *New Hampshire Public Radio*: [Agriculture proposes "New Hampshire's Own" dairy label](#)
- *Food Ingredients First*: [Chobani launches new plant-based recipe for U.S. market but advocates EU non-dairy labeling rules](#)
- *Food Ingredients First*: [Kraft Heinz launches natural cheese range made from milk without rbST hormone](#)
- *The Takeout*: [The race to produce a truly American cheese](#)
- *Dairy Foods*: [The secret to good, aged cheese](#)
- *San Francisco Chronicle*: [Bay Area artisans represent well in 2019 Good Food Awards](#) (Featuring Uplands Cheese)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Salemville Cheese Co-op creates market for Amish farmers' milk](#) (Featuring Salemville Cheese Co-op)
- *Vernon County Broadcaster*: [Viroqua's Luke Zahn to be featured in episode of "Discover Wisconsin" January 19](#) (Featuring Carr Valley Cheese, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery-Comstock Creamery, and Widmer's Cheese Cellars)
- *WSAU-TV*: [Cheesemaker to close](#) (Featuring Bletsoe's Cheese)
- *WSAW-TV*: [Bletsoe's Cheese in Town of Hamburg to close](#) (Featuring Bletsoe's Cheese)
- *WAOW-TV*: [Marathon County cheese factory to close](#) (Featuring Bletsoe's Cheese)

UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIP CHEESE ²⁰¹⁹ CONTEST

March 5-7, 2019 | Lambeau Field Green Bay, WI

Entry Deadline January 31!



[Enter the U.S. Championship Cheese Contest](#) by January 31 for a chance to call your cheese the nation's best.

Thousands of cheese, butter, yogurt, and dry dairy foods entries in a record 116 classes will be evaluated by the Contest's respected judging team March 5-7 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

More information and online entry are available at USChampionCheese.org.

Join Us for Cheese Champion!

Be there for the exciting moment the next champion is named!

A limited number of tickets to Cheese Champion, the Contest's pinnacle event, are available now at USChampionCheese.org.

Held Thursday, March 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Cheese Champion features more than 50 Contest cheeses and a unique, guided tasting experience from Contest judges. Wisconsin cheesemakers will offer samples of their specialty products. Tickets cost just \$30, and they're selling quickly. [Reserve yours today!](#)



WCMA Members Well Represented at Winter Fancy Food Show



WCMA members - and Contest champs - were out in full force this past week at the Winter Fancy Food Show in San Francisco! Pictured above is WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohmer with representatives from Savencia Cheese USA, winners of the 2018 World Championship Cheese Contest. Visit [WCMA's Facebook page](#) for pictures of our friends from BelGioioso Cheese, Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Carr Valley Cheese, Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, Door Artisan Cheese Company, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, Hook's Cheese, LaClare Family Creamery, Marieke Gouda, Nasonville Dairy, Pine River Pre-Pack,

Join the NATION'S PREMIER cheese, butter and whey industry event

www.cheeseconference.org



2019 CHEESE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

April 17 & 18, 2019 | Alliant Energy Center | Madison, Wisconsin

Seminar Schedule Announced



WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research have announced key partnerships with Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, and the U.S. Dairy Export Council, to deliver more educational programming than ever before at the 2019 Cheese Industry Conference.

Seminars focus on five main topics: business development and workforce retention, global cheese sales, food safety, quality cheesemaking, and new technology and design practices.

[Click Here to Review 2019 CIC Seminar Schedule](#)

Reminder: registration is NOW OPEN for the 2019 Cheese Industry Conference, April 17-18 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Register by January 31 on CheeseConference.org for the best rates!

**JOIN WCMA IN
AUSTRIA & GERMANY!**



Reserve Your Tickets by January 31!

Join WCMA in 2019 for a [Cheese Technology Tour](#) of the beautiful countries of Austria and Germany! Explore cheese manufacturing, packaging facilities, and cutting-edge suppliers with your friends in industry September 27-October 6.



The complete trip agenda is [available here](#), and features tours of ALPMA, Frischpack, Allgau, LEEB Flexibles, the Anuga Trade Show, and a cheese factory in Worgl, Austria. It balances work with a bit of adventure, including visits to Oktoberfest, Neuschwanstein Castle, Fraueninsel, and Salzburg.

Space is limited to 30 persons, and just eight remain available. Dairy manufacturers have first priority for seats, followed by cheese processors, marketers, and then supplier members. A deposit is required by January 31 to secure a ticket. [Click here to make arrangements](#), and direct questions to [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#).



Congrats to WCMA's Learning to Lead Graduates!



Pictured: Specialty Cheese President Paul Scharfman shares leadership insight with the class on January 9.

WCMA congratulates the graduates of its Learning to Lead management training series. This great group of industry personnel, hailing from Alpine Slicing & Cheese Conversion, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery-Wohlt Cheese, Foreign Type Cheesemakers Association Laboratory, Grande Cheese Company, Klondike Cheese Company, Schuman Cheese-Lake Country Dairy, Specialty Cheese Company, and Wapsie Valley Creamery, engaged fully in the classes, exploring and experimenting with new ways to build and motivate their teams.

To register for upcoming WCMA trainings, contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Apply by February 20 for WCMA Scholarships

WCMA encourages members and their employees to apply by Wednesday, February 20 for a chance to receive one of five scholarships worth \$3,000 each.

For complete program details and to download application forms, [click here](#).



2018 Scholarship Recipients

This year, WCMA is also offering a promotional poster for use in breakrooms, as handouts, or to be used in email communications. [To download the poster, click here](#). Questions may be directed to [WCMA Office and Member Service Coordinator](#)



WCMA Welcomes Three Members

WCMA warmly welcomes three supplier partners as members of our Association, including: [Axis Communications](#), [Keyence Corporation of America](#), and [Zone Mechanical](#).

For 126 years, WCMA has served as the voice of cheese and dairy manufacturers, processors, and marketers. Today, our organization includes 105 dairy companies and cooperatives operating 259 facilities in 22 states, backed by more than 500 companies that supply equipment and services to the dairy industry.

Social Media Opportunity: National Cheese Lover's Day is Sunday!

Sunday is one of our very favorite days of the year: National Cheese Lover's Day! This holiday is a great opportunity for social media posts.

Members in Wisconsin may consider content made available by our friends at Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. Good, shareable content is [available here](#) and on [DFW's Facebook page](#).



In Brief...

Very limited space is still available in UW-River Falls' upcoming HACCP workshop, January 23-25. [Register now!](#)

The 2019 Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held on January 29, 2019. To view the agenda and register, [click here](#).

Registration is now open for the Wisconsin Process Cheese Seminar, set for February 19-21 at the Center for Dairy Research. [Click here](#) to learn more and to register today.

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin invites WCMA members to register now for the following educational opportunities:

- [Food Defense Training](#) - February 20-21, 2019 | Eau Claire, Wisconsin
- [PCQI Training](#) - March 19, 2019 | Madison, Wisconsin
- [Supplier Food Safety Management Course](#) - April 9-10, 2019 | Green Bay, Wisconsin

For more information, contact [DFW's Adam Brock](#).

