



WCMA Dairy Facts

An Exclusive Newsletter of the WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

February 15, 2019



WCMA Policy Committee Meets State Leaders

Members of WCMA's Policy Committee met this week with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection incoming Secretary Brad Pfaff and Assistant Deputy Secretary Angela James to strengthen the partnership between the dairy processing community and the state agency.

The group enjoyed positive, productive discussion with state leadership on the following policy proposals:

- Increasing allocations for dairy-specific consultants at the International Agribusiness Center
- Offering state dairy processing license exams in Spanish
- Extending the validity of rbST affidavits
- Reclassifying dairy sanitarians and specialists to retain quality staff
- Increasing allocations for dairy processor grants



DATCP leaders also expressed their desire to work with industry to support growth through an application for federal funding via the [Dairy Business Innovation Act](#), a \$50 million appropriation championed by Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin in the Farm Bill.



Committee members also met with State Senators Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and Representatives Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel) and Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) on Wednesday.

Discussion focused on budget priorities, including funding for two additional staff members at the UW-River Falls Dairy Pilot Plant and a capital access proposal championed by WCMA and, in

particular, WCMA Board Member Paul Scharfman.

WCMA thanks committee members from Cedar Grove Cheese/Clock Shadow Creamery, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery - Wohlt Cheese, Grande Cheese Company, Great Lakes Cheese, Klondike Cheese Company, Landmark Creamery, Meister Cheese, and Specialty Cheese Company for their time this week and ongoing industry advocacy. To get involved in WCMA's Policy Committee, contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Evers Calls for Bonding to Address Water Quality Concerns

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced this week that his budget - coming in March - will call for borrowing of \$70 million to support water quality solutions in urban and rural areas.

His plan includes the following initiatives, related to Wisconsin's dairy processing industry:

- Provision of \$10 million in bonding authority to support cost sharing grants to farmers for infrastructure that reduces non-point water pollution from agriculture
- \$400,000 in funding for Target Runoff Management non-bonded projects, including studies and programming on best practices for non-point runoff management, with the majority of funding used to support work in the Karst Silurian Bedrock area (Door County south to Milwaukee County)
- \$300,000 to UW-Extension for education and outreach to farmers
- Funding for four full-time positions to accelerate the implementation of Wisconsin River, Milwaukee River, Rock River, and St. Croix River basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans



WCMA considers an investment-based approach to water quality concerns helpful, and will continue to communicate with state leaders about industry needs and partnership opportunities.

For more information on Evers' proposal, click on the news links below.

- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [Evers wants to borrow \\$70 million to address water quality](#)
- *La Crosse Tribune*: [Gov. Tony Evers continues 'year of clean drinking water' with \\$2 million to remediate contaminated private wells](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Evers wants more money for wells, drinking water study](#)

Shutdown Avoided, Trump Declares National Emergency

Another federal government shutdown was narrowly avoided today, as President Donald Trump agreed sign a Congressional funding plan. This means, among other things, that implementation of the Farm Bill will move forward.



The funding plan, notably, did not include any funding for a proposed U.S.-Mexico border wall. In reaction, President Trump this morning declared a national emergency to unlock billions of dollars in federal funds which he says he will use to build the wall. For more on these developments, click on the news links below.

- *Reuters*: [Trump declares U.S.-Mexico border emergency; Democrats protest](#)
 - *New York Times*: [Trump declares national emergency to fund border wall](#)
 - *CNN*: [Trump declares border national emergency to bipartisan skepticism](#)
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IN THE NEWS...

- Reuters: [U.S. and China to resume trade talks in Beijing](#)
- RTE: [No-deal Brexit may see 90 percent collapse in beef and cheese exports](#)
- Bloomberg: [If you're wondering how hard a 'Hard Brexit' could be](#)
- ANSA: [Cheese factory halts production \(Italy\)](#)
- The Telegraph: [UK's first vegan 'cheese' monger is misleading consumers, dairy industry complains](#)
- Associated Press: [Dairy farmers across U.S. cast wary eye on prospects for 2019](#)
- Wisconsin State Farmer: [What's ahead? Change for sure](#)
- Hoard's Dairyman: [More cheese, please](#)
- Food+Bev Media: [Dairy Farmers of America debuts Craigs Creamery cheese brand \(Featuring Dairy Farmers of America\)](#)
- Food Business News: [Chr. Hansen takes top spot in global sustainability rankings \(Featuring Chr. Hansen\)](#)
- Money: [Ten things you didn't know about Land O'Lakes CEO Beth Ford](#)
- UPROXX: [Tillamook is giving out a literal ton of cheese for National Cheddar Day](#)
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [He loved growing up on a farm, now he's making cheese from milk produced on that farm](#)
- MarketWatch: [Costco is selling a 24-pound wedding cake made of cheese](#)
- Eater: [In a Vermont dairy farm with the country's largest cheese cave](#)
- Better Homes & Gardens: [Aldi just released six cheeses named after 80's hit songs](#)

UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIP CHEESE ²⁰¹⁹ CONTEST

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

Contest Again Breaks Entry Record



The U.S. Championship Cheese Contest has broken the record for entries again in 2019.

A total of **2,555 dairy products** will be judged at the Contest, March 5-7 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Entries will be evaluated by the Contest's renowned judging team, including cheese graders, cheese buyers, dairy science professors and researchers. To view the roster, [click here](#).

**Join Us for Cheese
Champion!**

Join us for [Cheese Champion](#), the crowning event of the U.S. Championship Cheese Contest, held on Thursday, March 7 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Lucky ticket holders will enjoy a taste of more than 50 Contest cheeses paired with Wisconsin craft brews. [Buy your ticket today!](#)



2017 Cheese Champion



Scholarship Applications Due Wednesday



2018 WCMA Scholarship Recipients

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

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

Questions may be directed to [WCMA Office and Member Service Coordinator Sara Schmidt](#).



Wage Survey Responses Due February 28

WCMA has issued its [2019 Wage and Workforce Survey](#), and urges dairy manufacturer and processor members to **complete it by Thursday, February 28**. A summary report will be issued to participants only in March.

Please direct any questions to [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).



Supervisor Training Rescheduled



Due to significant snowfall on Tuesday, February 12, an offering of WCMA Front-Line Supervisor Training - Part A, focused on leadership essentials, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 5.

To sign up for this training or for other upcoming educational programming sponsored by WCMA, click on the links below.

WCMA Front-Line Supervisor Training - Part A

Focus: Leadership Essentials

When: Tuesday, March 5

Where: Madison College, Madison, Wisconsin

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

WCMA Front-Line Supervisor Training - Part B

Focus: Emotional Intelligence, Coaching, and Performance Feedback

When: Tuesday, March 12

Where: Madison College, Madison, Wisconsin

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

WCMA Front-Line Supervisor Training - Part C

Focus: Personal Productivity and Managing Workplace Stress

When: Tuesday, March 26

Where: Chippewa Valley Technical College - Gateway Campus, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

WCMA Front-Line Supervisor Training - Part C

Focus: Personal Productivity and Managing Workplace Stress

When: Tuesday, April 9

Where: Madison College, Madison, Wisconsin

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)



WCMA member employees who have completed all three parts of Front-Line Supervisor Training OR the Learning to Lead management series will enjoy FREE full registration to the 2019 Cheese Industry Conference.

Contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#) to sign up today.

If you are a manufacturer operating in Wisconsin, note that the Department of Revenue has launched the 2019 e-filing system for M-Forms. If you e-filed last year, the M-Forms will pre-fill with previous data, saving you time.

To learn more about this tool, [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?



Welcome

WCMA Welcomes Six Members

WCMA warmly welcomes six members to our Association this week, including manufacturer/processors [Biery Cheese Company](#) and [Family Fresh Pack](#), and suppliers [Apex Ironworks and Fabrication, Inc.](#), [Cottingham & Butler Inc.](#), [James Farrell & Co.](#), and [McGough Construction](#).

For more than 127 years, WCMA has served as the voice of cheese and dairy manufacturers, processors, and marketers. Today, our organization includes 107 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.

In Brief...

The Madison International Trade Association invites WCMA members to join in an International Dairy Trade Policy Discussion featuring Shawna Morris, Vice President of Trade Policy for the U.S. Dairy Export Council. The event is set for March 12, from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Fluno Center at UW-Madison. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.

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

- [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](#).

Registration is now open for the World of Cheese from Pasture to Plate, set for April 22-26 at the Center for Dairy Research. [Click here](#) to learn more and to register today.

Get nationally recognized for your business' efforts to hire and retain veterans! Apply by April 30 for a chance to earn a U.S. Department of Labor's HIRE Vets Medallion Award. More information is [available here](#).

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STAY CONNECTED:

