



# WCMA Dairy Facts

An Exclusive Newsletter of the WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

June 8, 2018



## Mexico Hits Back in Wake of Trump Steel Tariffs Announcement

Late last month, President Donald Trump imposed a new set of heavy tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum imports from the European Union, Canada, and Mexico.

In response, Mexico announced on Tuesday that it will [impose tariffs](#) of 15 to 25 percent on U.S. cheese exports. According to analysis from our partners at International Dairy Foods Association, this means that fresh cheeses, including mozzarella, will face a 15 percent duty until July 5 when the duty will be raised to 25 percent. Grated cheese from the United States now faces a 10 percent duty until July 5 when the duty will be raised to 20 percent. A 10 percent duty was placed on Grana or Parmigiano-Reggiano, gouda, havarti and fontina cheese until July 5 when the duty will be raised to 20 percent. All other American-made cheeses now face a 15 percent duty until July 5 when the duty is raised to 25 percent.

Canada has also [promised strong pushback](#), though Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed hope that the [G7 summit would lead to continued communications](#). The European Union has announced plans to impose tariffs on \$3.3 billion worth of American goods will go into effect in early July, the European Commission said Wednesday. Additional details are expected next week.

Thanks go to the WCMA members have been advocating for the industry in media reports. Please consider reviewing these articles for more information.

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:* [Tariffs take toll on Wisconsin manufacturers \(Featuring Sartori\)](#)

*WKOW-TV:* [Tariffs could hurt Wisconsin agricultural industry \(Featuring Sartori\)](#)

*Bloomberg:* [How tariffs are a wash in the cross-border flow of cheese \(Featuring Saputo\)](#)

*Washington Post:* [Mexico makes good on threats to impose tariffs on \\$3 billion worth of US cheese, pork, and other products](#)

*CNN Money:* [Trump is starting a global trade war](#)

WCMA is monitoring this dynamic situation and partnering with federal organizations to advocate for member interests. WCMA will send member alerts as warranted and provide updates via this e-newsletter. For more frequent updates, contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) or [Communications, Education and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

## Senate Ag Committee Reaches Agreement on Farm Bill



Leaders of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee announced on Thursday that they had [reached agreement](#) on a bipartisan Farm Bill designed to avoid a partisan fight over expanded work requirements for access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) plan a committee vote for next Wednesday, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) promising to bring the bill to the floor before the July 4 holiday. A draft should be shared publicly [here](#), soon.

Congressional leaders hope enact the 2018 Farm Bill before the 2014 law expires at the end of September. This goal will prove challenging, given the failure of a House version of the bill on May 18. House Democrats voted in opposition due to concerns over SNAP cuts - and 30 Republicans joined them. Those members of the Freedom Caucus were leveraging their support in order to get a vote scheduled on immigration policy. A Thursday meeting held on that issue [ended without consensus](#).

WCMA is monitoring the dynamic situation in Washington, D.C., and partnering with federal organizations to advocate for member interests. WCMA will send member alerts as warranted and provide updates via this e-newsletter. For more frequent updates, contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) or [Communications, Education and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).



### In the News...

*Wisconsin Public Radio:* [Wisconsin dairy task force to look for ways to boost industry](#)

*Wisconsin State Journal:* [Scott Walker says crisis team needed to help state's crippled dairy industry](#)

*WLUK-TV:* [Local dairy farmers struggle to find new milk processors to buy their supply](#)

*Times-Union:* [Schumer, Gillibrand defend generic cheese names in fight with EU](#)

*Wisconsin Ag Connection:* [State cheese production climb finally snaps short of four years](#)

*Reuters:* [France extends cheese recall after more E.coli cases, one suspected death](#)

*Wall Street Journal:* [American job openings now outnumber the jobless](#)

*Argus Leader:* [Cheese plant wants OK to dump 2M gallons of waste water into Big Sioux each day \(Featuring Agropur\)](#)

*Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal:* [Land O'Lakes CEO Chris Policinski to retire](#)

*USA Today Network:* [State Supreme Court rules in favor of proposed Saratoga dairy](#)

*Associated Press:* [State Supreme Court rules in favor of massive dairy](#)

*Central Coast Public Radio:* [Wisconsin Master Cheese Maker Terry Lensmire's passion for the art and craft \(Featuring Agropur\)](#)

*Ag Country Farm Credit Services Podcast:* [Episode17 - Wisconsin Cheese \(Featuring Nasonville Dairy\)](#)

**WCMA Notes: Feeling Positively June**

Milk for cheesemaking continues to slosh about the Upper Midwest, but milk production eased in April and cheese prices are on an upward track. The dairy industry takes a bow each June, and it's time to unearth some positives for an industry that keeps delivering naturally wonderful foods.

In June's edition of *WCMA Notes*, [Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) focuses on the positives for the U.S. dairy industry, in the midst of challenging developments. [Read more here.](#)



*Wisconsin Cheese Day 2017 with Gov. Walker at Klondike Cheese*

## WCMA Partnering with State to Celebrate Wisconsin Cheese Day

In partnership with Governor Scott Walker's Administration, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, WCMA is coordinating a series of cheese facility tours in celebration of Wisconsin Cheese Day.

On Monday, June 25, elected and appointed officials are slated to visit Great Lakes Cheese in Wausau, the Center for Dairy Research in Madison, Emmi Roth USA in Platteville, Schreiber Foods in Green Bay, Chalet Cheese Co-op in Monroe, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery in Ellsworth, Eau Galle Cheese in Durand, Nordic Creamery in Westby, and Clock Shadow Creamery in Milwaukee. Members of the WCMA Board of Directors and staff will represent our association. Exact tour times are still being determined; if you have interest, please contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

## #SayCheese with WCMA for National Dairy Month

June is National Dairy Month, and WCMA is celebrating with shout-outs to members all month long on social media.

The fun kicked off with the introduction of our [#SayCheese frame](#) on Facebook. Just click the "Try It" button to add it to your profile pic!



So far, WCMA has highlighted Dairy Connection, Hook's Cheese, LaGrander's Hillside Dairy, Landmark Creamery (as pictured upper right), Pine River Pre-Pack, Springside Cheese Corporation, V&V Supremo, and Watertech USA. If you'd like a turn in the spotlight, get in touch with [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).





## Certificate in Dairy Processing Course Earns Seal of Approval for Cheesemaker Licensing

At WCMA's urging, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection has approved the Certificate in Dairy Processing course at the Center for Dairy Research as a replacement for two of the courses needed to take the Wisconsin cheesemakers license exam: Production of Safe Dairy Foods and HACCP process control.

This dairy industry training program, designed with input from WCMA members, provides promising plant workers and operators with a clear understanding of the basic aspects of dairy processing. This hybrid course features a ten-week series of modules covering key aspects of dairy processing through short, online learning sessions as well as hands-on activities.

The next offering of the Certificate in Dairy Processing course begins Wednesday, September 5. [Reserve space and register now!](#)

## Register Now for WCMA Supervisor and Manager Training Courses



WCMA is now registering students for fall classes, include Front-Line Supervisor Training-Parts A, B, and C, as well as the new Learning to Lead series, designed for mid-level managers and employees who are transitioning to such positions.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the curriculum and to reserve space, or contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Manager Rebekah Sweeney](#).

## WCMA Golf Outing Sold Out Send Participant Names Now

All golfing spaces have now been reserved for the [2018 WCMA Golf Outing and Trap Shoot](#) set for Wednesday, July 18 in Central Wisconsin. Very limited opportunities remain for those who wish to participate in the [trap shooting event](#).

If you have not already done so, please submit all participant names by Thursday, June 14. If you have questions, contact [WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohenger](#).



## In Memoriam...

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Tim Ault, who passed away on May 13. Ault worked as Director of Quality Assurance at Great Lakes Cheese. More information on his life and impact is found [here](#).

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## In Brief...

Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Contest (which now includes classes for sour cream and yogurt) has opened online registration [here](#). Note that entries will only be accepted online through close of business today. Please also consider volunteering your time to support this event on Thursday, June 21; learn more by contacting Dairy Promotion Board Coordinator [Katy Katzman](#).

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The National Historic Cheesemaking Center in Monroe, Wisconsin invites you to participate in its annual "Cheesemaking Day" on Saturday, June 9. More information is [available here](#).

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Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese invites WCMA members to its Green Energy Showcase, set for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13 at Crave Brothers Farm (W11550 Torpy Road, Waterloo, Wisconsin). Learn more about sustainable agriculture and green energy production at this special event, held in partnership with the Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum. RSVP to [Debbie Crave](#).

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The Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute Golf Outing is set for Thursday, June 14. [Learn more](#).

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The Wisconsin Office of Skills Development is now accepting applications for Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training grants. Grant applications submitted by June 30 will be awarded in late August. [Click here to apply](#).

For more information about eligibility and program guidelines, [click here](#). Grant specialists are available to answer questions [via email](#) through June 22 or contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Manager Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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Land O'Lakes invites WCMA members to apply for its Dairy Accelerator Program, which provides support and mentorship to product pioneers that want to drive innovation in the dairy industry.

Successful applicants will get hands-on experience in finance, brand building, manufacturing, sales, distribution, and leadership development - along with a \$25,000 stipend to offset any costs associated with participation. [Learn more here](#), and [apply by Friday, June 29](#).

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STAY CONNECTED:

