



WCMA Dairy Facts

An Exclusive Newsletter of the WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

August 2, 2019



Cheesemaker's License Exam Course Now Available

WCMA is pleased to announce the launch of brand-new training offered by world-class instructors from the Center for Dairy Research: **Preparing for the Wisconsin Cheesemakers License Exam.**

This low-cost, one-day class prepares your staff to take the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection licensing exam for cheesemakers. It provides an overview of exam topics, including basic cheese manufacturing science, principles of moisture and pH, basic mathematical calculations commonly used by cheesemakers, and state regulations. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Sign up now to participate in any of these upcoming trainings:

- [Eau Claire - Chippewa Valley Tech College](#) | August 29
- [Barneveld - Deer Valley Lodge](#) | September 10
- [Appleton - Fox Valley Tech College](#) | September 12

WCMA thanks CDR staff for their work in developing this training, and members of the WCMA Education Committee for identifying this training need and encouraging its development. To get involved in this committee, please contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney.](#)



More Training Opportunities from CDR, DFW & WCMA

A host of training opportunities is available to WCMA members, both via our Association and through our partners in industry education. Registration is open for all of the following training courses being offered now through the end of the year.

Center for Dairy Research:

- [Milk Pasteurization](#) | August 6-7
- [Certificate in Dairy Processing](#) | September 4-November 27
- [Cultured Dairy Products Short Course](#) | September 10-11
- [Master Course: Cheesemaking Cultures and Enzymes - The Flavor Creators](#) | September 17-18
- [Cheese Tech Short Course](#) | October 7-11
- [Dairy Protein Beverage Applications](#) | October 22-23
- [Cheese Grading Short Course](#) | November 6-8
- [Membrane Filtered Milk for Cheesemaking](#) | December 10-12

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin:

- [FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food \(PCQI\) Training](#) | September 4-6
- [Wisconsin Food Defense Training](#) | October 24-25
- [Wisconsin HACCP Training for Processors](#) | November 11-12
- [Wisconsin BRC Global Standard for Food Safety Training](#) | November 13-14
- [Wisconsin Principles of Internal Auditing](#) | November 15

Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association:

- [Learning to Lead Management Training Series](#) | September-January
- [Front-Line Supervisor Training-Part A](#) | October 22
- [Front-Line Supervisor Training-Part B](#) | November 12

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

UW-River Falls Sets 2020 Training Dates as Renovation Project Continues

While renovations on the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Pilot Plant progress, instructors this week shared plans for training offerings in 2020.

WCMA members are invited to save the date for these educational opportunities:

- Cheese Makers' Short Course | February 24-28
- Pasteurization Short Course | March 5-6
- HACCP Workshop | March 18-20
- Pasteurization Short Course | September 10-11
- Cheese Makers' Short Course | September 28-October 2

WCMA will alert members via this electronic newsletter when online registration for trainings is available.



Industry Considers Production Facility, Farm Improvements at UW-Platteville

On Tuesday, July 23, 20 dairy processing company representatives from Southwestern Wisconsin participated in a tour and discussion of UW-Platteville's Pioneer Dairy Farm Complex. School officials are gathering input on the possibility of building a new cheese production facility and making improvements to the campus dairy farm. For more information, contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#).



Register Now for Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting August 27

Food safety professionals can [register now](#) for a meeting of the Dairy Food Safety Alliance set for Tuesday,

August 27 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Madison. The Alliance, a partnership between Center for Dairy Research, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and WCMA, delivers the latest in food safety news to dairy product manufacturers, processors, and their suppliers.

The upcoming Dairy Food Safety Alliance meeting will feature dynamic speakers, both from the regulatory world and from industry. A complete agenda is available [here](#).

All registrants are asked to pay a \$35 fee which includes the cost of a catered lunch. [Please click here to register to attend](#). Questions may be directed to [WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

WCMA Notes: Assistance Abounds for Artisans

Artisan and specialty cheesemakers returning home fired up by the American Cheese Society annual meeting in early August have a wealth of assistance waiting to boost their business.

In this month's edition of *WCMA Notes*, Executive Director John Umhoefer details nine current opportunities to grow, market and protect your cheese venture.

[Click here to read more.](#)



IN THE NEWS...

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin dairy farms: a portrait of loss](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [DATCP Secretary, GOP leader at odds over funding for mental health services for farmers](#)
- *Appleton Post Crescent*: [Wisconsin needs to find new places to sell dairy products](#)
- *FoodDive*: [Dean Foods replaces CEO with Eric Beringause amid continued struggles](#)
- *Dairy Herd Management*: [Foremost Farms president, CEO to retire](#)
- *ABC-7 Eyewitness News Chicago*: [Kroger to stop buying milk from Natural Prairie Dairy Farms after animal abuse allegations](#)
- *Capital Press*: [Idaho dairy research center advances](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Feeding the masses at Jefferson County Farm Technology Days](#) (Featuring Kraemer Wisconsin Cheese)
- *Herald Palladium*: [Say cheese with Kristine Hansen](#) (Featuring Clock Shadow Creamery, Marieke Gouda, Carr Valley Cheese)
- *Juneau County Star-Times*: [Wisconsin cheese tradition continues in many ways](#) (Featuring Carr Valley Cheese)
- *ESPN*: [Rodgers and cheese the only things relevant in Green Bay](#)
- *Mashable*: [The 'Michelangelo of Cheese' carved a 1900-pound astronaut, John Mayer, and a baby named Colby](#)
- *Mashable*: [We're stuffing our faces with cheese more than ever before](#)

Trump Announces New Tariffs on Chinese Imports

On Thursday, August 1, President Donald Trump announced new 10 percent tariffs on \$300 billion in Chinese imports including smartphones, laptops, toys, and clothing, building on the tariffs currently in place on \$250 billion in other Chinese products. New tariffs are set to take effect on September 1.

Trump's announcement noted concern that China had not followed-through on more U.S. agricultural product purchases.

For more on recent trade developments and reactions from elected officials on both the federal and state level, review these news articles.

- *Bloomberg*: [Trump ratchets up trade war with new China tariffs](#)
- *CNN Business*: [Trump says he will go ahead with new Chinese tariffs on iPhones, toys](#)
- *CNBC*: [Additional rate cut may be necessary if U.S.-China trade war persists](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [U.S., Japan edge closer to limited trade pact](#)
- *Reuters*: [Trump says he will seek trade accord with Brazil](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Ron Johnson says Donald Trump is wrong about struggling Wisconsin dairy farmers being 'over the hump'](#)
- *The Cap Times*: [In speech to tech execs, Tony Evers rips Trump trade wars, immigration rhetoric](#)

Second Round of Trade Aid Totals \$16B, Including \$68M in Dairy Purchases



On Thursday, July 25, the Trump Administration shared details on a second round of trade aid, including \$14.5 billion in direct payments to farmers through the Market Facilitation Program, and \$68 million in purchases of dairy products, including fluid milk through the Food Purchase and Distribution Program. These purchases, made via the Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS), are then directed to benefit Americans in need.

AMS will buy products in four phases, beginning October 1, with deliveries to start in January 2020. AMS will ramp up its vendor outreach and registration efforts and will host a series of free webinars describing the steps required to become a vendor. Watch for more information on these opportunities in upcoming WCMA electronic newsletters.

Evers Calls for New Nitrate Runoff Standards for Water Quality

On Wednesday, July 31, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers called on the Department of Natural Resources to begin the process of reexamining NR 151, state rules for nitrate runoff standards.

Citing concern over public health challenges posed by well contamination, Evers said, "We need to do better and fortunately our farmers are showing us that we can take steps to change the way we farm and take a great big step towards clean water."



A well study in Iowa, Grant, and Lafayette Counties recently showed that 27 percent of 539 private wells tested exceeded standards for bacteria or nitrates. A similar study in November revealed that 42 percent of a group of 301 private wells exceeded standards. [A study released this week offered even more troubling results.](#)

The standard rule-making process takes more than two years, and WDNR Secretary Preston Cole noted at the Governor's announcement it was unlikely that his agency would pursue an emergency rule, which has a shorter timeline.

WCMA staff will advocate for the industry throughout this process, and keep members informed of developments via this electronic newsletter. For more information at this time, contact [WCMA staff](#) and review these news articles:

- *WBAY-TV*: [Evers targets nitrate contamination in Wisconsin water](#)
- *La Crosse Tribune*: [Evers orders new farm rules to limit nitrate pollution in drinking water](#)

- [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Evers targets polluted wells by pushing farmers to change their spreading practices](#)



WCMA Meets with WHEDA to Advocate for Expanded Capital Access

WCMA staff and members met with Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) Executive Director Joaquin Altoro and Chief Operating Officer Kim Plache on Tuesday, July 23 to discuss ways to expand capital access to rural businesses. We're pleased to share that WHEDA formally supports [Senate Bill 219](#), legislation which would create a loan guarantee program for manufacturing expansion projects in more rural parts of Wisconsin.

Pictured above (left-right) are Altoro, WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney, Bob Wills of Cedar Grove Cheese Inc. and Clock Shadow Creamery, Plache, and Paul Scharfman of Specialty Cheese Company. WCMA extends its thanks to members for their time and dedication to public policy campaigns. To get involved, please contact [WCMA's Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Wisconsin Worker's Comp Premiums to Drop, Saving Employers \$173M

Wisconsin employers will see an 8.84 percent decrease in worker's comp premiums beginning this October, according to the state's Department of Workforce Development.

The Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance approved the rate decrease last month, citing a downward trend in the frequency of workplace injuries. Rates have decreased for four straight years, and this latest cut is set to save employers statewide \$173 million per year.





International Cheese Technology Expo Now CheeseExpo

WCMA this week announced that the world's largest gathering of dairy processors, manufacturers and suppliers, formerly known as the International Cheese Technology Expo, will now be called CheeseExpo.

"CheeseExpo concisely captures this industry gathering," said John Umhoefer, WCMA Executive Director. "A crisp new name, logo and website will reflect the fresh approach to education and networking CheeseExpo has offered attendees in recent years."

Set for April 14-16 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, CheeseExpo features a vast variety of educational seminars, reflecting the expertise of host entities WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research, as well as resources now available through partnerships with the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, U.S. Dairy Export Council, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and more.



Once again, the exhibit hall for Cheese Expo will expand to record size in 2020. More than 300 companies showcased technology, equipment and services in 2018 and booths have been added to accommodate even more supplier partners in 2020. Networking opportunities abound at CheeseExpo, with special events for young professionals, industry leadership recognition, the Auction of Championship Cheeses, the World Championship Cheese Contest Awards Banquet, and numerous receptions.

For an early look at CheeseExpo's schedule of events, visit the all-new CheeseExpo.org.

Join WCMA for Wastewater Treatment Field Day August 14

You're invited to join in the WCMA Technology Committee Field Day, set for Wednesday, August 14.

Held in conjunction with Midwest Food Products Association, this event offers insight on state-of-the-art wastewater treatment systems. The field day includes tours of new treatment systems at Bush Brothers Cannery in Augusta, Wisconsin and at AMPI's cheese plant in Jim Falls. A complete agenda is available [here](#).



Fewer than five spaces remain available. [Click here to register](#), and contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) with any questions. Please note, members are asked to pay a \$25 fee per person to offset meeting and lunch costs.



Act Fast to Reserve Few Remaining Tickets for Miller Park Outing

[Reserve your tickets now](#) to join in the WCMA Young Professionals' outing to Miller Park on Friday, August 9. Only a few spaces remain open for this networking event.

Before the Milwaukee Brewers face-off against the Texas Rangers at 7:10 p.m., take part in our two-hour tailgate party, featuring a full meal, beverages, and games. The whole package costs just \$70 per person. For complete details, [click here](#) or contact [WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

Save the Date: 2020 WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Set for July 22

Mark your calendars and make plans now to join us for the 2020 WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot, set for July 22, 2020 in Central Wisconsin.

Take a look at all the fun that took place at this year's sold-out event.

[2019 Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Photo Gallery](#)



Nominate Industry Leaders for WCMA Recognition

You're invited to nominate industry leaders to be considered for formal recognition by WCMA in 2020 for their outstanding contributions to the dairy processing industry. Members have through Friday, August 16 to make nominations for the following awards:

The [WCMA Cheese Industry Champion](#) award is given to industry leaders who, through their everyday business decisions, have created tremendous opportunity for others and spurred industry growth, such as CEOs, Directors, Presidents, and Vice Presidents.

The [WCMA Distinguished Service Award](#) recognizes supplier partner members who have played a significant role in building the success of the United States dairy industry, contributing innovations in dairy

manufacturing.

The [WCMA Vanguard Award](#) is reserved for cheesemakers or cheese manufacturing employees who are considered groundbreakers for their innovations in day-to-day dairy operations.

The [WCMA Babcock Award](#) recognizes the contributions of those in education or affiliate organizations to partner with cheesemakers in the pursuit of dairy industry innovation and excellence.

All nominations will be considered by the members of the WCMA Recognition Committee in September with final awards determinations made by the WCMA Board of Directors in December. Awards will be presented at 2020 CheeseExpo, set for April 14-16 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Questions may be directed to [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Complete WCMA Member Survey by Friday, August 30



To best serve you, WCMA invites you to take part in the [2019 WCMA Member Survey](#). Responses will help determine your Association's endeavors for the year ahead - and beyond!

We ask members to [return survey responses](#) by Friday, August 30, though we welcome your feedback at any time.

Questions? Please contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

WCMA Welcomes New Members

WCMA warmly welcomes two new supplier members this week: [Control Concepts, Inc.](#) and [Safe Food Resources](#).

For more than 128 years, WCMA has served as the voice of cheese and dairy manufacturers, processors, and marketers. Today, our organization serves more than 100 dairy companies and cooperatives, and more than 575 of their suppliers, operating around the world.

Thank you for your support of WCMA. For information your membership, please contact [WCMA Office and Member Services Manager Sara Schmidt](#).

In Memoriam: Raymond Dyke

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Raymond Dyke, who passed away on July 29. Dyke worked a combined total of 34 years for WCMA member company Cabot Cooperative Creamery and Agri-Mark. In 2018, WCMA awarded him with the WCMA Vanguard Award, honoring his pioneering work in the industry.



For more information, [click here](#).

In Brief...

Saturday, August 2 is the deadline to register for the [Southwestern Cheese Makers Association's Golf Outing](#) at the Edelweiss Chalet Country Club set for August 15.

Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Contest awards will be presented on August 8 during the [Blue Ribbon Dairy Products Auction](#) at Saz's Hospitality Village in Wisconsin State Fair Park beginning at 4 p.m. WCMA is proud to support this event.

STAY CONNECTED:

