



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



SIGNATURE EVENTS



WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Nearly Sold Out

Act now to join your friends in the dairy processing industry at the WCMA Golf Outing and Trap Shoot on July 21 in Central Wisconsin. Registration opened this morning at [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wis cheesemakers.org), and more than 90 percent of individual reservations are sold.

Complete [event details](#) are available online, and members should feel encouraged to contact [WCMA staff](#) for additional assistance.

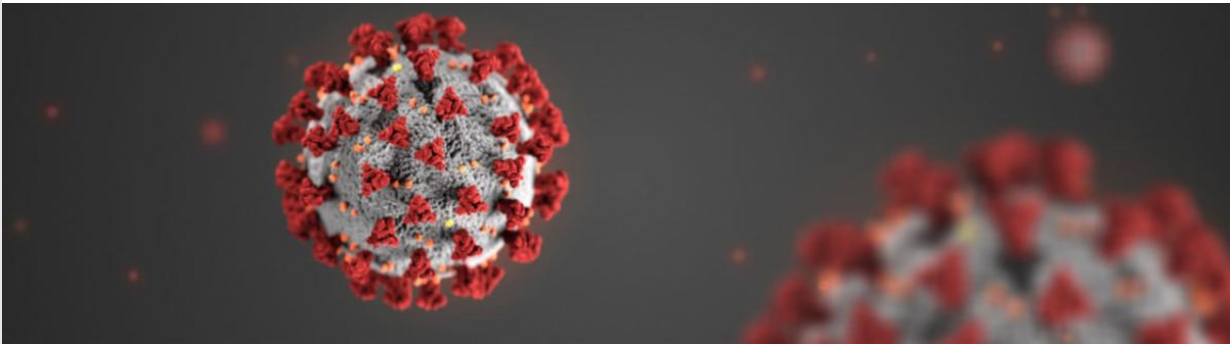


Event Sponsorships Available Now Through June 8



Make an impact at the WCMA Golf Outing and Trap Shoot with affordable [sponsorship opportunities](#), available now through June 8 at WisCheeseMakers.org. This year, WCMA is offering three new options for business promotions: Golf Cart Sponsorship, Tee Box Sponsorship and Driving Range Sponsorship. Email [WCMA Events Manager Caitlin Peirick](mailto:WCMA.Events@wischeesemakers.org) to secure your sponsorship.

COVID-19 UPDATES



CDC Says Fully Vaccinated Can Drop Masks

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released [new COVID-19 guidance](#) on Thursday, saying that individuals who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing (except where otherwise required by local orders or workplace guidance). Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (WDHS) [aligned state guidance](#) on Friday.

WCMA Face Mask Survey Responses Due Today

Many WCMA members have expressed interest in how their colleagues in dairy processing are reacting to the new CDC mask guidance for fully vaccinated individuals, and WCMA has launched this [one-minute survey](#) to gauge industry workplace policies. Please consider responding to these quick questions by close of business today (Tuesday, May 18). Information collected will be blinded and aggregated for release to participating WCMA members only. Data from each participating member will be held in the strictest confidence.

Wisconsin Now Matching Employers and Vaccinators for On-Site Clinics

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) is now matching employers who wish to hold an on-site COVID-19 vaccination clinic with health care providers. To request a clinic, communicate your interest via the [WDHS COVID-19 Vaccine Partner Resources webpage](#), or simply contact [WCMA Communications, Education and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Register Now for WCMA Webinar on May 27 Offering Strategies to Build Vaccine Confidence



Register now to join in a free WCMA webinar on Thursday, May 27 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. (CT), focused on successful strategies to build vaccine confidence – and participation rates – among your employees. Our featured guest presenter is Elise Balzer, Center for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

WCMA will reserve time for questions at the end of the webinar. To pose inquiries anonymously, please email **[WCMA Communications, Education and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#)** by 12 noon on Tuesday, May 25.

WCMA Salutes Critical and Essential Employees

WCMA continues to salute its members' essential and critical workforce, people who daily demonstrate their dedication to the mission of feeding the world delicious, nutritious dairy products.

This week, WCMA is highlighting Lindsey Mendes, Creamery Manager at WCMA member Central Coast Creamery. Central Coast Creamery credits Lindsey as the glue that has held their team together during the pandemic, leading with positivity and dedication. Thank you, Lindsey!



Watch for WCMA salutes in Tuesday e-newsletters, our printed **[membership directory](#)**, and on our Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages. Have an employee or team you'd like us to celebrate? Just contact **[WCMA staff](#)**.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *WISN-TV*: **[Returning from pandemic: Workplaces balance employee health, public guidance](#)** (Featuring WCMA member Sargento Foods)
- *CT Post*: **[How UConn's creamery turned to cheese during the pandemic](#)**

Wisconsin

- *WTMJ-TV*: **[Local businesses hesitant to ditch mask requirements, despite CDC guidance](#)**
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: **[Workforce shortage challenges reemerge as Wisconsin businesses dig out of the pandemic](#)**
- *Associated Press*: **[Wisconsin's governor praises new CDC mask guidelines](#)**
- *WMTV-TV*: **[39 percent of Wisconsinites fully vaccinated](#)**

National/International

- *MarketWatch*: **[Almost half U.S. population is partially vaccinated against](#)**

[COVID-19 — while Asia remains a virus hot spot](#)

- *Politico*: [America's vanishing workforce](#)
- *Reuters*: [Households including most U.S. children to get monthly stimulus payment](#)

Other Coronavirus Resources

WCMA will continue to provide links to both new and essential coronavirus resources for members in bulletins. We have also created a page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](#) with links to materials detailing employee safety best practices, operations guidance, federal and state support programs, and state orders impacting the dairy industry.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact WCMA staff. We are here for you.

Key Contacts

- 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

ADVOCACY



WCMA Applauds Evers' Direction of \$100M to Expand Wisconsin Broadband Access

Wisconsin Governor Tony [Evers today announced](#) that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) will launch a round of broadband expansion grants on June 1 with \$100 million directed from federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. WCMA has strongly advocated for broadband expansion, both through the use of ARPA aid and via the Wisconsin state budget, and today released [this statement](#) applauding Evers' announcement.

According to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2021 Broadband Deployment Report, approximately 394,000 Wisconsinites have no access to broadband, with 98 percent of them living in rural communities.

WDATCP Announces Processor Grant Winners,

As WCMA Advocates for More Support

The [Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection \(WDATCP\)](#) today announced the 15 Wisconsin companies that will receive 2021 Dairy Processor Grants, which are designed to foster innovation, improve profitability, and sustain the long-term viability of Wisconsin's dairy processing facilities. Grant winners include WCMA members: Carr Valley Cheese Company, Chalet Cheese Cooperative, Clock Shadow Creamery, Decatur Dairy, Foremost Farms USA, Henning Cheese, K&K Cheese, Maple Leaf Cheese, Nasonville Dairy, Uplands Cheese, Widmer's Cheese, and Zimmerman Cheese.

A total of \$200,000 was available for this year's Dairy Processor Grants, with a maximum \$50,000 allowed for each project. WDATCP received 18 grant requests totaling more than \$630,000. As part of the 2021-2023 biennial budget, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has proposed increasing the available funding for Dairy Processor Grants by \$600,000 per year to a total of \$800,000 to better support the dairy industry. WCMA is actively advocating for that increased investment.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

USDA Seeks Bids for Cheddar, Swiss Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting bids to fulfill contracts for the delivery of [swiss and cheddar cheese products](#) nationwide. Bids are due Thursday, May 27 at 1 p.m. (CT), and questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

USDA Extends Deadline for Public Comment on Stability of Agricultural Supply Chains

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending its deadline to submit comments on the notice for [Supply Chains for the Production of Agricultural Commodities and Food Products](#). Comments are now due by June 21, 2021. Written comments should be posted online at www.regulations.gov or submitted to USDA [via email](#).

IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *Hoard's Dairyman*: [Wisconsin is giving away 180 cheese prizes to celebrate their 180th cheesemaking anniversary](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Center for Dairy Research partners with dairy sports drink entrepreneur](#)

National/International

- *Food Business News*: [Great Lakes Cheese breaks ground on new Texas plant](#)
- *Las Cruces Bulletin*: [Saputo Dairy USA to expand manufacturing in Las Cruces](#)
- *Reuters*: [USTR says Tai presses Canadian counterpart on dairy access, e-commerce shipments](#)
- *Progressive Dairy*: [USDA forecasts more milk, raises price projections for 2021](#)
- *Bloomberg*: [U.S. exporters face more strains as bridge crisis halts barges](#)
- *Food Safety News*: [CDC declares deadly Listeria outbreak over; soft cheese to blame](#)



Register Now for WCMA Leadership Courses

WCMA this week opened registration for its Fall/Winter 2021 leadership trainings, including the popular WCMA Front-Line Leadership Training courses designed for those supervising small teams and the highly rated WCMA Advanced Leadership Series for mid-level managers.

WCMA [Front-Line Leadership Training](#) returns with hybrid offerings, allowing students to join classes in person in Madison, Wisconsin or online from anywhere in the world. The courses in this training track can be taken à la carte and in any order.

- Part A, focused on exploring the essential skills to own your role as a supervisor, will be held September 7.
- Part B centers on positively impacting staff performance, and will be held on October 4.
- Part C breaks down the key ingredients for cultivating a team, and will be held on November 8.

Tuition is \$135 and includes materials and instruction, as well as lunch for those attending in person. Enrollment is limited to 22 individuals per class.

The [WCMA Advanced Leadership Series](#) will also be offered to students in a hybrid format, allowing them to join in three sessions either in Madison, Wisconsin or online. Those enrolling participate in the entire series as a cohort to better facilitate relationships.

- Session 1 is set for September 16 and will encourage participants to take initiative in driving change and generating positive results for their company.
- Session 2 will be held November 15 and focuses on the application of a creative and collaborative problem-solving process.
- Session 3 wraps the series on January 18, 2022, detailing the tools and strategies leaders can use to foster collaboration and resolve workplace conflict.

This series also features guest speakers from industry detailing their leadership successes and challenges, and requires participants to complete real-world projects that implement their new knowledge. The cost for the entire series, including materials, instruction, and meals, is \$495 per participant. Enrollment is limited to 20 individuals.

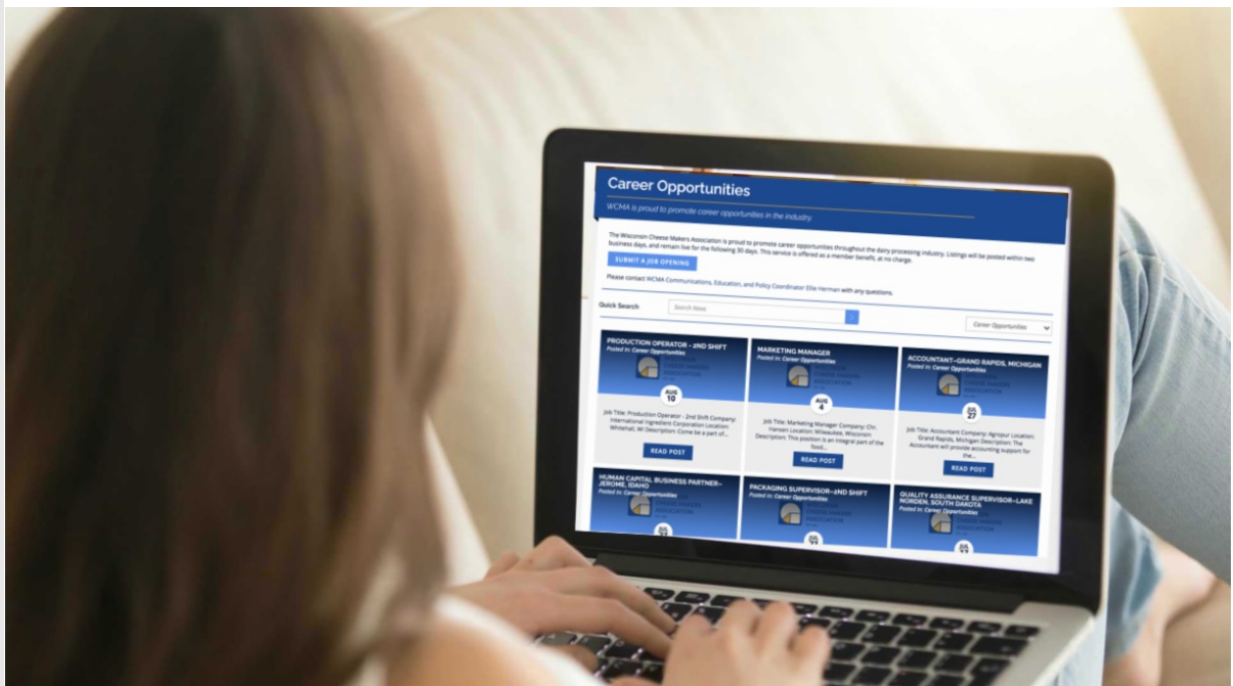
For more information – including reviews and testimonials from past participants – and to register now, visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org).

Register Now for Industry Trainings, Events

WCMA is proud to host and promote opportunities for industry-specific training and enrichment. Here's a look at some of those upcoming events:

- May 25: [Cheesemaking 101: What a Licensed Cheesemaker Should Know \(Virtual, On Demand\) | Center for Dairy Research](#)
- May 26: [Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair \(Virtual\) | USDA](#)
- June 7-10: [World of Cheese from Pasture to Plate Online | Center for Dairy Research](#)
- June 22: [Cheesemaking 101: What a Licensed Cheesemaker Should Know \(Virtual, On Demand\) | Center for Dairy Research](#)
- June 29-30: [Cheese Grading Fundamentals Course Online | Center for Dairy Research](#)

WORKFORCE



View Career Opportunities on WCMA Jobs Board

WCMA's [online jobs board](#) is now featuring 44 industry career opportunities from member companies Agropur, Inc., Alpine Slicing and Cheese Conversion, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Baker Cheese, Emmi Roth, Sartori Company, Springside Cheese, and Wisconsin Whey Protein. Check out listings for cheesemakers, quality assurance supervisors, controls engineers, forklift operators, sanitation technicians and more!

All WCMA members are invited to [post openings](#). It's free and easy! Have questions? Please contact [WCMA staff](#).

[ADD JOB OPPORTUNITIES](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Save the Date: WCMA Annual Meeting June 17

Mark your calendars! WCMA will host its Annual Meeting for members on Thursday, June 17 from 1-2 p.m. (CT). This event will be held virtually, and a complete agenda will be shared in the coming weeks.

Sign Up Colleagues for WCMA E-Newsletters

Thanks for subscribing to WCMA's weekly electronic newsletter! Please note, WCMA extends this benefit to all member employees. Let us know if we should [add your colleagues](#) to our mailing list, or if you'd like to share feedback on our communications.

WisCheeseMakers.org

