

WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



WCMA SIGNATURE EVENTS



CheeseCon Offers Flexible Registration Options

Start planning your [2023 CheeseCon](#) experience today with a variety of registration options at special early bird rates, available for a limited time at [CheeseCon.org!](#)

Choose a Full Registration pass for complete access to CheeseCon's expansive tabletop exhibit floor, insightful seminars, and valuable networking events. Short on time? Opt for a Single Day Registration to enjoy CheeseCon's best offerings on either Wednesday, April 5 or Thursday, April 6.

Attendees under 40 can also secure tickets to WCMA's popular Young Professionals Reception on Tuesday, April 4 - and all are welcome to join the exciting U.S. Champions Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 6. Both optional add-ons are available to attendees as part of the online registration process.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Have questions? Please email at events@wischeesemakers.org or (608) 286-1001.



WCMA Webinar

U.S. Championship Cheese Contest 101



Learn U.S. Championship Cheese Contest Basics at Free WCMA webinar

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 15 at 1:00 p.m. (CT) for WCMA's next **free, members-only webinar** focused on the **2023 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest**. Learn how your company or cooperative can enter the Contest, how products are evaluated, and how you can make the most of your participation - whether or not you come away with a medal.

This offering is the latest in WCMA's **monthly webinar series**. Webinar topics are driven by WCMA member feedback and cover a range of themes such as business development, communication strategies, and industry resources.

RSVP TODAY

INDUSTRY UPDATES



Kroger to Acquire Albertsons

WCMA member Kroger will acquire rival grocery business Albertsons in a \$24.6 billion deal, **the companies announced last week**. Kroger is the nation's second-largest grocer by market share, with Albertsons coming in fourth.

Join USDA Webinar on Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

Dairy companies interested in pursuing federal, state, and local government contracts can sign up now for a [free informational webinar](#) Wednesday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). The session will focus on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, offering personalized consulting and practical insights on navigating the procurement process. Questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

ADVOCACY



POLICY COMMITTEE

Attend WCMA Election Briefing November 10

All WCMA members are invited to join the WCMA Policy Committee for a free, virtual post-election briefing on Thursday, November 10 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT). Following the Tuesday, November 8 midterm elections, WCMA staff will offer analysis of the outcomes of federal and Wisconsin races, focusing on the impact of election outcomes on dairy processing industry policy priorities.

To RSVP for this exclusive member briefing, please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).



WCMA Members Connect with International

Buyers at SIAL Paris

WCMA members BelGioioso Cheese and Sartori Company this week connected with customers from around the world - and U.S. Dairy Export Council CEO Krysta Harden (pictured second from left) - at the SIAL Paris trade show.

The opportunity was funded by the [Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports \(WIAE\)](#), a program created in 2021 thanks to strong bipartisan legislative support and compelling testimony from WCMA members. WIAE monies support a variety of resources available to Wisconsin dairy processors through WCMA, including free export consultations; an online library of forms, documents, and contacts; and a new [Wisconsin Dairy Export Workshop](#).

EDUCATION



WCMA Front-Line Leadership Trainees Learn Creative Team Motivation Strategies

WCMA member employees from Grassland Dairy Products, Meister Cheese Company, and Schuman Cheese gathered in Sun Prairie last week for Part B of [WCMA's Front-Line Leadership Series](#). This session featured a deep dive into coaching techniques, listening styles, and other creative ways to boost staff performance. We sincerely appreciate their engagement - and their employers' commitment to their growth!



Dairy Food Safety Alliance Convenes Inspectors, Leading Experts, Industry Professionals

Many thanks to the food safety professionals who joined today's [Dairy Food Safety Alliance](#) meeting in-person and virtually. Participants enjoyed insights from Wisconsin food safety experts and dairy plant inspectors across the Midwest; inspection news from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; GMP updates and resources from trusted industry consultants Jim Mueller and Larry Bell; and group discussions on common issues and future Alliance topics.

The Dairy Food Safety Alliance is a partnership between WCMA, the Center for Dairy Research, and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. Through regular meetings featuring respected speakers in the field of food safety and quality assurance, the Alliance delivers the latest news and resources to dairy manufacturers, processors, and their suppliers. To get involved, please contact [WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

Wisconsin Dairy Export Workshop
November 3
10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (CT)
Join online or in-person

 WISCONSIN
CHEESE MAKERS
ASSOCIATION

REGISTER NOW:
WisCheeseMakers.org

RSVP for New Wisconsin Dairy Export

Workshop

Reserve your seat today in WCMA's new [Wisconsin Dairy Export Workshop](#), set for Tuesday, November 3 from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (CT). All Wisconsin dairy processors interested in launching or expanding their export endeavors are welcome to attend this hybrid session in-person in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin or online.



Megan Sheets

U.S. Dairy Export Council

First, U.S. Dairy Export Council's Senior Director of Strategic Development Megan Sheets will offer an insightful look at emerging dairy markets and product trends.

Next, learn practical tips to help you take advantage of these opportunities from Paul Weiss of Food Export Midwest; Lisa Stout of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; and Ryan Wucherer of MCT Dairies.

Finally, global supply chain logistics provider Hancock International joins the expert line-up for a panel discussion of audience questions.

After a networking lunch for in-person attendees, the meeting resumes with speakers from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and the Center for Dairy Research, detailing export resources available to Wisconsin dairy processors, including grant opportunities, marketing assistance, research & development support, and consulting services.

REGISTER NOW

This new workshop is funded by the [Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports \(WIAE\)](#). WIAE monies are also supporting additional export resources through WCMA, including free export consultations to Wisconsin dairy processors and an online library of export forms, guidance documents, and contacts.

Members with questions about the WIAE should contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Additional Industry Training Opportunities

WCMA is pleased to share opportunities for industry-specific training and enrichment. Here's a look at trainings hosted by WCMA members and partners:

- October 25-26: [Dairy Protein Beverage Applications \(In-Person\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
- October 31-November 1: [HACCP Training for Processors](#) - Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- November 1: [Dairy Basics: Fundamentals of Quality and Safety](#) - Penn State
- November 2-3: [Implementing SQF Systems](#) - Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- November 8-9: [Preventive Controls for Human Food](#) - Safe Food Resources
- November 9: [Cheesemaking Fundamentals \(Online, Self-Study\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
- November 16: [Dairy Ingredients Fundamentals \(Online, Self-Study\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
- Rolling Admission:
 - [Online HACCP Training](#) - North Carolina State University
 - [Environmental Monitoring in the Dairy Industry](#) - North Carolina State University
 - [Preventive Controls for Dairy Processors](#) - North Carolina State

- University
- [Food Safety Basics For Artisan Cheesemakers](#) - North Carolina State University

IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *Mashed*: [Why you shouldn't try aging cheese at home](#) (Featuring WCMA member Wisconsin Aging & Grading Cheese)
- *WDJT-TV*: [New cheese bar opens in Lake Geneva as long-time dairy farmer turns his passion into curds](#)
- *UpNorthNews*: [Four Wisconsin-made foods for the adventurous](#) (Featuring WCMA member Chalet Cheese Cooperative)
- *Go Valley Kids*: [Find goats, cheeses, and more at this farm in Malone, Wisconsin](#) (Featuring WCMA member LaClare Family Creamery)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [French dairy giant Lactalis to keep Russia business](#)
- *Bloomberg Government*: [Food labeling mandates floated from FDA draw industry ire](#)
- *Cheese Reporter*: [USDA Raises Milk Production, Price Forecasts](#)
- *Santa Barbara News-Press*: [Biden signs bill to boost baby formula production](#)
- *Agri-Pulse*: [Grocery prices up again in September, driving another gain in CPI](#)
- *Dairy Herd Management*: [Land O'Lakes CEO praises U.S. farmers for their role in food security](#) (Featuring WCMA member Land O'Lakes)

GRANTS



Dairy Business Builder Grant Applications Due November 10

Apply by 5:00 p.m. (CT) Thursday, November 10 for a new round of [Dairy Business Builder grants](#), administered by the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a collaborative partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research.

Reimbursement grants of up to \$100,000 each are available to small- to medium-sized dairy farmers, manufacturers, and processors in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, Kansas, and Wisconsin. The awards aim to support recipients in diversifying on-farm activity, creating value-added products, enhancing dairy byproducts, and creating or enhancing dairy export programs.

Application materials, including a free webinar with helpful tips to build a strong proposal, are now [available online](#). Successful applicants will be notified by December 15, 2022.

Have questions about DBIA? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

APPLY NOW



#DBIADelivers Highlights Landmark Creamery

Since the creation of the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance \(DBIA\)](#) in the 2018 Farm Bill, WCMA and CDR have partnered to administer over \$3.7 million in 79 grants across two programs to dairy farmers and processors in participating states.

WCMA's newest social media series, DBIA Delivers, highlights the successes of dairy entrepreneurs that have taken their businesses to the next level thanks to DBIA grants.

This week, we're pleased to introduce Landmark Creamery of Paoli, Wisconsin. Grant funding and support from DBIA have helped owners Anna Landmark and Anna Thomas Bates expand their infrastructure and explore new product offerings - all with a vision of strengthening southern Wisconsin's local dairy industry.

Follow along on WCMA's [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#) for more inspiring stories, and use the hashtag #DBIADelivers to share how DBIA has helped support your business!

MEMBERSHIP

**Save the Date for WCMA Young Professionals
Fall Outing**



All WCMA member employees under 40 are encouraged to mark their calendars for the next WCMA Young Professionals gathering on Thursday, November 10 beginning at 10:00 a.m. (CT).

Join your friends and colleagues in Weyauwega, Wisconsin for a plant tour, networking, and fun! More details, including a registration link, will be shared in the coming weeks. Members with interest in attending may contact [WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohmenger](#).



Dairy Industry Suppliers



New WCMA supplier member [City National Bank](#) offers commercial financial services with a dedicated Food & Beverage team.



New WCMA supplier member [Climate by Design International](#) designs and manufactures desiccant dehumidifiers and critical process air handlers for a variety of applications including food processing facilities.



New WCMA supplier member [Harrigan Solutions](#) offers preventative maintenance planning, implementation and execution for hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, control and coolant systems.



New WCMA supplier member [Zee Company, a division of the Vincit Group](#), is a supplier of food safety cleaning and sanitizing products and solutions for the fluid dairy, ice cream, cheese and value added dairy products manufacturers.

IN MEMORIAM

John Ludy

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of John Ludy, who [passed away](#) on October 10 at the age of 94.

The son of Swiss immigrants Fred and Rosa Ludy, John worked alongside his father and brothers at the family's



cheese factory from a young age. He eventually became owner and operator of Twin Town Cheese Factory in Almena, Wisconsin, leading the company for over 30 years.

John was known as a respected mentor to many who found success in the cheese industry, as well as a trusted resource to cheesemakers around the world.

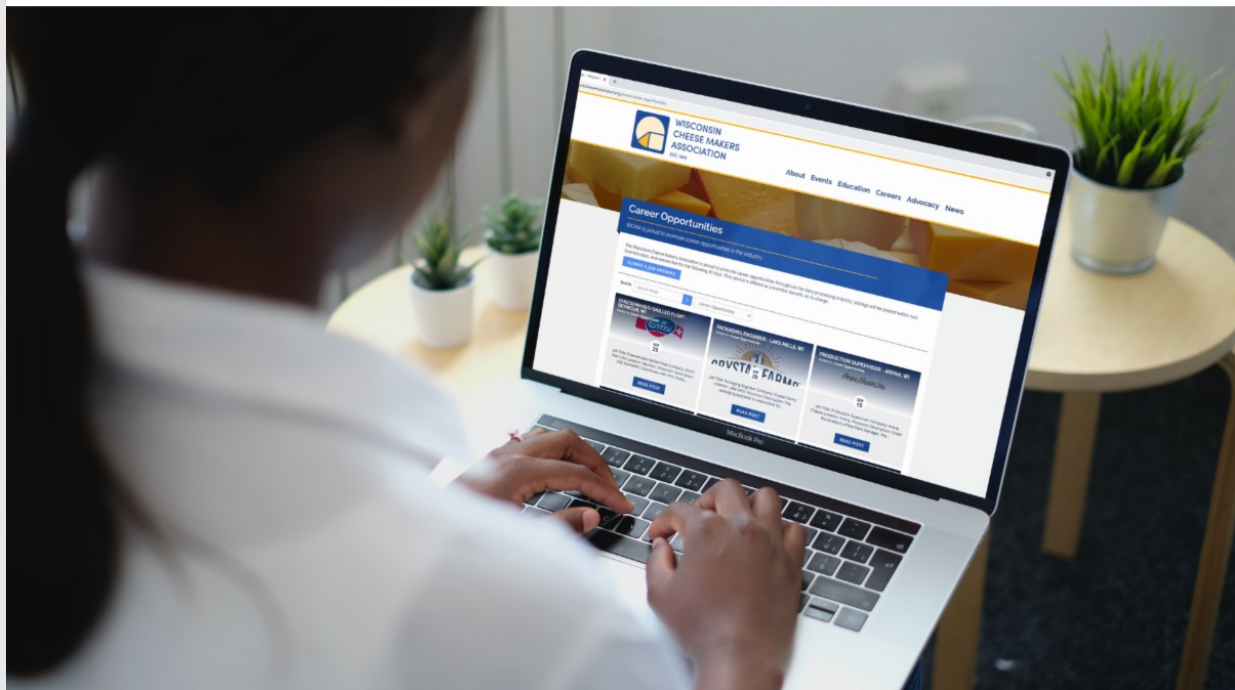
WORKFORCE



Join WCMA Workforce & Education Committee Meeting November 9

Plan ahead now to join the next meeting of WCMA's [Workforce & Education Committee](#), set for Tuesday, November 8 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). A full agenda for this virtual meeting will be provided in the coming weeks.

Have questions or suggestions? Please contact [WCMA Senior Directory of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#)



Build an Effective Team with WCMA Jobs Board

Recruiting a great team can be a challenge. Strengthen your hiring strategy with WCMA's free [online Jobs Board](#). Current postings include opportunities from WCMA and members BelGioioso Cheese, Burnett Dairy Cooperative, Caputo Cheese, Cedar Grove Cheese, Emmi Roth USA, Masters Gallery Foods, Nasonville Dairy, Nelson-Jameson, Tetra Pak, Wapsie Valley Creamery, and Wisconsin Aging & Grading Cheese.

Have an opportunity at your company or cooperative? WCMA members may [post up to 10 openings](#) per company, per month on the Jobs Board for free!

POST OPENINGS

WisCheeseMakers.org



Wisconsin Cheese Makers Assn. | 5117 West Terrace Drive, Suite 402, Madison, WI 53718

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