

WCMA News

Your source for the latest in dairy processing

October 27, 2026
news@wischeesemakers.org

NEWS

Congressional Members Urge USDA to Reverse DBI Cost-Share Requirement



Momentum continues to build in the **effort to protect** the Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives program from a new 25 percent cost-share requirement. U.S. Representative Mark Pocan (D-WI 02) and U.S. Senator Peter Welch (D-VT) led a bipartisan group of 16 Congressional members in urging U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins to reissue USDA's FY2026 DBI funding opportunity without the **new cost-share mandate**.

Their letter underscores the critical role DBI centers play in helping dairy businesses innovate, diversify, grow, and strengthen markets across the country.

Congressional action adds to growing pressure on USDA, following **Gov. Tony Evers' call to reverse the requirement**, a **strong message** from industry advocates and more than 500 contacts from WCMA members to Washington, D.C. WCMA and its partners continue working with Congressional offices, USDA, OMB, DBI center leaders, and industry stakeholders to ensure this important program remains accessible and effective for dairy farmers and processors.

Here's a look at ongoing coverage of this advocacy campaign:

- WKOW: **Sauk County cheesemaker warns USDA funding change could hurt small producers**
- VermontBiz: **Welch urges USDA to reverse course on new cost-sharing requirement**

Members with questions, or who wish to get involved in WCMA's advocacy efforts, should contact **WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney**.

Exercise Your Right to Vote Next Tuesday



Election Day is next Tuesday, November 3. Before then, make sure to educate yourself about what's on your ballot and check if you're registered to vote. Not sure how? You can find instructions on how to register to vote and take a look at what's on your ballot at **Vote.Gov**.

Governor Evers, WisDOT Announce Grant Awards for Rural Road Improvement Projects



Last week, Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) announced that **$69.5 million was awarded through the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP)**, supporting 39 projects across 32 Wisconsin counties and strengthening rural roads, bridges, and culverts critical to the state's agricultural economy. For Wisconsin's dairy industry, these investments are about much more than roads alone.

Safe, reliable infrastructure is essential to moving milk from farms to processing facilities, transporting ingredients and supplies, delivering finished dairy products to customers, and keeping rural communities connected to the businesses that support them. This latest round of awards brings ARIP's total impact to 161 projects across 60 Wisconsin counties — WCMA holds a seat on the grant review selection committee. Together, roads receiving ARIP support carry more than 30 million tons of agricultural products valued at $14.8 billion each year. WCMA strongly advocated for continued ARIP funding during development of the 2025–27 State Budget. That budget provided another $150 million for the program, building on the $150 million investment secured when ARIP was created in 2023. **READ MORE...**

FDA Seeking Comments on FMMO by November 23



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is **seeking comments** from the public, including dairy industry stakeholders, on market conditions related to monthly milk sales limits within the exempt plant definition in its regulations. AMS oversees parts of the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) system, which governs how milk is marketed and how dairy farmers are paid. Currently, fluid milk plants can qualify for this exemption if they sell 150,000 pounds or less of milk per month through route sales.

AMS will consider how fluid milk market conditions have changed since the exempt plant definition was implemented in 1999, as well as current fluid milk marketing conditions. Comments must be received by November 23. **READ MORE…**

FDA Seeking Comments on Hazard Analysis

Draft Guidance by January 21



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released an additional draft chapter of its multichapter guidance, *Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food*, and is seeking comments by January 21, 2027. The new guidance, Chapter 12, outlines FDA's direction on controlling known or reasonably foreseeable chemical hazards, including radiological hazards, pesticide and drug residues, natural toxins, decomposition, and unapproved color additives. **READ MORE...**

Wisconsin Dairy Processor Grant Applications Due November 3



The application period for Round 2 of the 2027 Dairy Processor Grants closes at 12:00 p.m. (CT) on Tuesday, November 3. Dairy processors operating in Wisconsin can apply now for the state's **Dairy Processor Grants**. Applicants may receive grants of up to $50,000 per project, and a 20 percent match is required. Thanks in part to WCMA advocacy, a total of $600,000 is available through the program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). **READ MORE...**

Headlines

Wisconsin

- eDairy News: **Wisconsin dairy farmers face harvest squeeze as diesel costs surge**

National & Global

- BBC: **Trump sued over Canadian tariffs in latest legal challenge**
- USA Today: **Trump removes 50 percent tariffs on Canadian goods to help GOP in midterms**
- eDairy News: **USDA unveils $8 billion harvest fuel relief as dairy sector urges broader coverage**
- Reuters: **Trump administration's $8 billion diesel aid for farmers will arrive after election, official says**
- Dairy Foods: **California Dairy Innovation Center executive director to retire**
- Agri Pulse: **Dairy groups sue to block California waste discharge order**
- KING-TV: **Bird flu detected in Washington dairy cattle for first time, with 1 human case reported**
- VermontBiz: **Dairy farm improvement grants open October 29**
- Dairy Herd Management: **'We're not done until dairy farms can keep a legal, stable workforce'**
- Brownfield Ag News: **$15 billion in dairy investments expected by 2030 to support growing consumer demand, milk production**

Sartori Cheese Begins Exporting Products to South Korea



WCMA member **Sartori Cheese Company** has boosted its export capabilities in recent years, thanks in part to DBIA grants it has received and to new relationships with international distributors. Learn more about Sartori Cheese Company and Coupang's partnership, yielding results in South Korea, in **this video**, which also features WCMA staff.

FEATURED: MEMBERSHIP

Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's membership services and new Association members.

WCMA Welcomes New Members

Join WCMA in welcoming new supplier members **AgResource Company**, **ARCO DB Companies**, **Glacier Technology, Inc**, **Hollow Rock Manufacturing LLC**, **Industrial Info Resources**, **Mespack**, **PCM USA INC**, **Tolomatic**, **Videojet Technologies Inc.**, and **Shingle Belting**. View these and hundreds of other WCMA members now in our **searchable online directory**. Have questions about WCMA membership? Contact **WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt**.

Vote and Submit Nominations for 2027 WCMA Recognition Awards by Friday



The deadline to vote and submit nominations for the **2027 WCMA Recognition Awards** is Friday, October 30!

As a reminder, WCMA is looking for members to select the finalists for the **2027 WCMA Distinguished Service Award** and is also seeking nominations for the **Babcock**, **Cheese Industry Champion**, **Luminary**, and **Vanguard Awards**. Cast your **vote and submit nominations** today!

Get More from Your WCMA Membership



From the plant floor to the front office, your entire organization is part of WCMA. We encourage you to add colleagues through **Member Compass** so more of your team members can receive WCMA communications, learn about opportunities, and take advantage of membership benefits. Need a refresher on how to use WCMA's Member Compass? **Click the "Play" button** to hear from WCMA's Membership Director on how to use this tool.

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Join Virtual Train the Safety Trainer Course December 1



Designed with input from WCMA's Health & Safety Group, **Train the Safety Trainer**, set to be held online on Tuesday, December 1 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT), is designed to equip the dairy processing industry's safety trainers with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively communicate safety expectations and protocols for maximum compliance. Sign up now to build your skills as a trainer and enhance your organization's safety culture.

Sponsorships of this meeting are **available now**. Don't miss this opportunity to reach new audiences and show your support for the dairy processing industry's next generation of leaders.

WCMA Members Join Sustainability Workshop



Never been to a WCMA Sustainability Workshop? Click the "Play" button to hear from

Kaitlyn Harbort and Troy Pfaff (Saputo, Inc.) on why they value these trainings.

Last week, WCMA held a two-day sustainability workshop, “Good Data, Better Decisions: Building a Stronger Sustainability Data Strategy,” at its Madison offices. Attendees learned how to strengthen data integrity, develop clear SOPs, and prepare for audits. WCMA was happy to have a great group of engaged participants join us from **Burnett Dairy Cooperative**, **Cedar Grove Cheese, Inc.**, **Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery**, **Foremost Farms USA**, **Grande Cheese Company**, **Masters Gallery Foods, Inc.**, **Saputo Cheese USA Inc.**, and **Schreiber Foods Inc.**

Upcoming WCMA Events

October 29	November 12	November 19	December 1	December 2
Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting (Hybrid)	Front-Line Leadership Part C (Virtual)	Front-Line Leadership Part C (In-Person)	Train the Safety Trainer Course (Virtual)	Dairy Export Group Meeting (Virtual)



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