

WCMA News

Your source for the latest in dairy processing

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news@wischeesemakers.org

NEWS

FDA Proposes Updates to Infant Formula Nutrient Requirements



Yesterday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a proposed rule that, if finalized, would update specifications for eight of the 30 nutrients required in infant formula. **Comments on the rule** are due by March 2, 2027. The proposed rule would limit permitted forms of vitamin A, adjust the minimum and/or maximum levels of four required nutrients, and update the minimum and/or maximum levels of four mandatory nutrients—iodine, vitamin A, vitamin D, and manganese.

The rule would also amend the content of required labeling. Additionally, the rule includes a comprehensive assessment of our additional nutrients—chloride, selenium, potassium, and sodium. FDA intends to address the remaining infant formula nutrients in subsequent proposed rules. **READ MORE...**

USDA Announces $472.5 Million Food Purchase, Including Dairy



On October 29, USDA announced it would be purchasing up to $472.5 million in agricultural commodities, including $165.5 million in dairy, to distribute to the charitable food network. This purchase is being made under USDA's Section 32 authority, which supports commodity markets during periods of economic hardship. **READ MORE...**

USDA Confirms Avian Influenza in an Indiana Dairy Herd



The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced yesterday that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was detected in a dairy cattle herd in Indiana. This is the first reported case of HPAI in cattle in Indiana. APHIS is working closely with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health to conduct on-farm investigations, diagnostic testing, and to collect epidemiological data to better understand the detection and prevention of further spread of disease. **READ MORE...**

Exercise Your Right to Vote Today



Today is Election Day. WCMA reminds you this is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Find out what's on your ballot and how you can participate at **Vote.Gov**.

Wisconsin CDL Training Grants Now Available with Expanded Eligibility



The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has opened **applications for $250,000 in Commercial Driver Training grants**, offering awards of $10,000 to $30,000 to help Wisconsin employers address Commercial Driver's License (CDL) workforce needs. The program's eligibility was expanded following WCMA advocacy to allow Wisconsin employers to receive grant funding when they pay for CDL training provided by a third-party training provider. Applications are due December 9, 2026.

Join Dairy Foods Webinar November 18 for Dairy Industry Updates



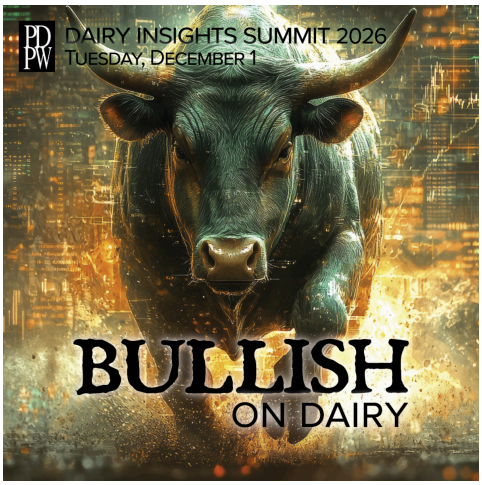
On November 18 at 2:00 p.m. (CT), Dairy Foods will be hosting a webinar, "State of the Dairy Industry." Six panelists, including WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer, will focus in on what's driving dairy forward in 2026, and what could shape the industry next. **READ MORE...**

Join MITA on November 11 for International Trade: Managing Risks and Reaping Rewards



Join Madison International Trade Association on November 11 from 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (CT) at WCMA Member M3 Insurance's office in Madison, Wisconsin for "Managing Risks and Reaping Rewards". This innovative session will bring together experienced risk managers, industry experts, and global trade leaders to learn best practices and compare notes. **READ MORE...**

Register for Professional Dairy Producers Summit



Engage with dairy producers and experts in the fields of dairy nutrition, dairy-ingredient procurement, dairy genetics, brand marketing, and more at the upcoming **Dairy Insights Summit**, hosted by Professional Dairy Producers on December 1 in Madison, Wisconsin. The **summit**, sponsored in part by WCMA, will explore the topics of consumer trends, securing strategic partnerships, and capitalizing on dairy's protein advantage. WCMA members can receive an exclusive 50 percent discount on registration by using code WISCHEESE at checkout. **READ MORE...**

Headlines

Wisconsin

- WGBA: **Northeast Wisconsin dairy farmers look for savings as fuel costs rise**
- Milling Middle East & Africa: **GEA invests $25 million to expand Wisconsin campus**

National & Global

- AGDaily: **Washington dairy bird flu cases triple to 27 in just a week's time**
- Tri-City Herald: **Bird flu found in tri-cities area dairy for 1st time. Raw milk declared unsafe**
- Food & Wine: **A livestock virus has infected a human for the first time. Here's what experts say about meat and dairy**
- eDairyNews: **U.S. milk production growth tests regional dairy hauling and logistics networks**
- FoodNavigator: **Dairy Farmers of America closes in on Nestle in global dairy rankings**
- KMZU: **Dairy industry pushes for fewer trade barriers as exports top $9.5 billion**
- Farm Progress: **Southwest farmers share how they're cutting back on diesel**
- Actus Nutrition: **Actus acquires Erie Foods International**

Bongards Breaks Ground on $135 Million Expansion



Last week, WCMA member **Bongards Creameries** broke ground on its $135 million Minnesota plant expansion — adding 120,000 square feet of manufacturing and automated warehouse space, with production targeted to begin in 2028. This addition will provide an additional 180 million pounds of process cheese capacity.

FEATURED: WCMA NOTES

Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's monthly column, WCMA Notes, sharing insights and ideas for the dairy processing industry.

The Dairy Industry's Best Idea

The best collaboration of dairy farmer and dairy processor support, and federal government funds, in the U.S. dairy industry is the Center for Dairy Research (CDR) at the University of Wisconsin. CDR is celebrating its 40th year, and that's reason to call out one of the great examples of dairy industry vision. In this month's edition of WCMA Notes, Executive Director John Umhoefer calls out how early CDR research laid the foundation for dairy's hottest product -- whey protein, assisted in accelerating the state's advancement in production of value-added cheese, partnered with Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin to create the Wisconsin Cheesemaker Program, and has provided methods to preserve high-quality cheese while extending shelf life for export and sale abroad. **READ MORE...**

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Get the Latest on Dairy Export with WCMA Webinar, December 2



Build your network, get updates on the latest dairy export trends, and learn strategies to start or grow your exporting business at the next **virtual meeting of WCMA's Dairy Export Group** on December 2, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (CT). The meeting will begin with an update on dairy and cheese exporting, followed by the latest developments in federal trade policy.

The rest of the meeting will be spent on practical guidance on the paperwork and certifications needed to successfully export dairy products to international markets. Sponsorships of this meeting are **available now**. Don't miss this opportunity to show your support for the dairy processing industry's

efforts to stay updated on export trends and grow export knowledge and networks. Questions about this event can be directed to Director, Sustainability & Grants, **Danica Nilsestuen**.

Upcoming WCMA Events

November 12	November 19	December 1	December 2	December 10
Front-Line Leadership Part C (Virtual)	**Front-Line Leadership Part C** (In-Person)	**Train the Safety Trainer Course** (Virtual)	**Dairy Export Group Meeting** (Virtual)	**WCMA Webinar: 2027 Dairy Market Forecast** (Virtual)



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