



# WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



## ADVOCACY



## DBIA Eligible to Receive Another \$7M

The [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance \(DBIA\)](#), a program administered by WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research, is eligible to receive another \$7 million for grants and technical assistance through 2026.

The funding, [announced Thursday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), would help DBIA continue assisting Midwestern dairy farmers, manufacturers, and processors with business plan development, marketing and branding support, and access to capital for innovative projects.

With leadership from U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), WCMA championed the creation of the DBIA as part of the 2018 Farm Bill. Since its inception, the Alliance has now administered over \$9.4 million in grants to 103 dairy businesses in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The next DBIA grant application period will open on August 28.

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## WCMA Applauds Unanimous Senate Passage of Wisconsin Transportation Bill

Wisconsin senators last week voted unanimously to pass Senate Bill (SB) 147, creating the Agricultural Road Improvements Program (ARIP), providing grants to local governments to fix roads in disrepair.

Rebekah Sweeney, WCMA's Senior Director of Programs & Policy, joined other state agricultural groups in [praising the State Senate's action](#), saying in a statement, "Good roads are the lifeline that connect our farms to processing facilities, feed suppliers, distribution centers, and ultimately, the consumers' tables. Without reliable and efficient transportation routes, farmers risk delays, spoilage, and increased costs, all of which directly impact the quality and affordability of our beloved Wisconsin cheese."

WCMA is a strong voice at the state and federal levels in support of meaningful initiatives such as ARIP. To join our impactful advocacy efforts, please contact [Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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### WCMA NOTES



## A Broad Milk Price Hearing Approaches the Starting Line



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) deserves credit for taking steps to consider much-needed changes to federal milk marketing orders (FMMOs), writes WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer in [this month's WCMA Notes column](#).

The broad focus of the agency's planned hearing, scheduled to begin August 23, offers a welcome opportunity to continue the discussion led by WCMA, International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), and others on updating 16-year-old make allowance values.

Read the full column and see WCMA, IDFA, and NMPF's proposed make allowance updates at [WisCheeseMakers.org/News](https://www.wis cheesemakers.org/news).

### Milk Pricing Proposals Due to USDA June 14

USDA is accepting FMMO reform proposals from interested parties until 4:00 p.m. (CT) tomorrow, Wednesday, June 14. Here is the agency's planned timeline for the upcoming hearing and rulemaking process:

- June 1, 2023 – USDA issues Action Plan on proposals to amend FMMOs
- June 14, 2023 – Call for Additional Proposals closes
- June 16, 2023 – Pre-Hearing Information Session with USDA
- July TBD – Official Notice of National Hearing on FMMO proposals
- August 23, 2023 – USDA estimate of Hearing start date

Proposals should be emailed to [FMMOhearing@usda.gov](mailto:FMMOhearing@usda.gov). WCMA members with questions may contact [John Umhoefer](#).



## WCMA Members Invited to Tour Meister Cheese Wastewater Technology July 26

Join the WCMA Technology Committee for a [field day on Wednesday, July 26](#), visiting the wastewater treatment system at Meister Cheese, the award-winning, family cheese factory in Muscoda, Wisconsin. The land treatment system includes an anaerobic digester producing gas for electrical generation, an aerobic digester, clarifier and seepage cells.

The WCMA field day will begin with members gathering at 11:30 a.m., then enjoying lunch and an environmental issues update meeting. The facility tour will take place from 2:00-3:30 p.m. This seminar, lunch and tour costs just \$45 per person. Sign up today!

Have questions? Please contact [WCMA's John Umhoefer](#).

**REGISTER NOW**



# WCMA Industry Education

**Act Quickly for WCMA Fall Training Offerings**

Spaces are already filling in the new fall lineup of WCMA's popular Front-Line and Advanced Leadership classes! Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org/Trainings](https://www.WisCheeseMakers.org/Trainings) now to reserve

seats in these highly rated, affordable trainings tailored to the dairy processing industry.

## Front-Line Leadership

**Front-Line Leadership** is designed for new and seasoned supervisors in the dairy processing industry. This fall, the course will be offered in both virtual and in-person formats.

Front-Line Leadership classes are offered a la carte and may be taken in any order. These sessions are available at just \$135 per person, per part for virtual participants or \$159 per person, per part when completed in-person.

## Advanced Leadership Series

The three-part **Advanced Leadership Series** is designed for mid-level managers and employees transitioning to such positions. Enrollment is limited to a small cohort of 20 individuals, who will participate in the series together virtually.

The course features guest speakers from industry, group and partner discussions, and a project to demonstrate attendees' new knowledge. The series costs \$549 per person.

**RESERVE SPACE**

Have questions or additional training needs? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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## Additional Industry Educational Opportunities

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

- June 27: [Supplier Auditing Principles](#) - Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- Available On Demand:
  - [Introduction to Food Safety Principles \(English and Spanish\)](#) - Cornell University
  - [Artisan Dairy Food Safety Coaching](#) - Cornell University
  - [Online HACCP Training](#) - North Carolina State University
  - [Good Manufacturing Practices in Food Safety](#) - 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

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**INDUSTRY UPDATES**



## Register for WDATCP Webinar Focused on Cheese Exporting Opportunities in Thailand

WCMA members interested in exporting cheese to Thailand are invited to [register now for a free informational webinar](#) hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). On Thursday, July 27, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service will share an overview of the Thai market, opportunities for Wisconsin cheese, and how to get products registered in the country. Please contact [WDATCP staff](#) to reserve space.

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## USDA Seeks Kosher Cheese Bids

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting [kosher cheese products](#) to be used in domestic food distribution programs. Bids are due Friday, June 23 by 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

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## IN THE NEWS

### Wisconsin

- *WISC-TV*: [It's the sweet smell of success for one Wisconsin cheese factory](#) (Featuring WCMA member Chalet Cheese Cooperative)
- *CNN*: [Love dairy? The University of Wisconsin-Madison seeks a paid cheese taste tester](#)

### National/International

- *Dairy Herd Management*: [Ireland proposes culling 200,000 cows to help meet climate goals, farmers push back](#)
- *Dairy Foods*: [A wide cadre of choices spurs growth in cheese industry](#) (Featuring WCMA members Glanbia Nutritionals, Kerry Ingredients & Flavors, and Renard's Cheese)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Baldwin, lawmakers urge changes to Dairy Margin Coverage](#)
- *Wisconsin Examiner*: [Funding for 33 rural broadband projects unveiled by USDA](#)

- Dairy Processing: [Add Milk! program launches in Alabama](#)
- Only In Your State: [Four fantastic factory tours you can only take in northern California](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hilmar Cheese Company)

## WORKFORCE



### Experts Share Strategies for Safer Work Environments at WCMA Health & Safety Group Meeting



Many thanks to the 50+ members and partners who participated in last week's WCMA Health & Safety Group meeting! Special thanks go to Chuck Palmer of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, Zach Thayer of Emmi Roth, and Danica Harrier of WisCon for sharing their insights and expertise on the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's Local Emphasis Program for food processors, noise protection strategies, and management of regulatory inspections.

WCMA's [Health & Safety Group](#) meets regularly to help develop and share resources designed to help dairy processors assess and improve their health and safety policies, prepare for future inspections, and connect with their peers. Interested in joining? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

## GRANTS



## Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery

Ellsworth, WI

DBIA Grant Recipient  
2020

### DBIA Delivers: Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery

Since the creation of the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance](#) in the 2018 Farm Bill, WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research have partnered to administer over \$9.4 million million in grants to 103 dairy farms and processors. The Alliance now serves an 11-state region including Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

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

Today in DBIA Delivers, we're pleased to spotlight WCMA member [Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery](#)! The 120-year-old cooperative used funding from a Dairy Business Builder grant to research and develop a new shelf-stable dairy product to diversify its value-added offerings for export markets.

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

# WELCOME



## NEW WCMA MEMBERS!

### Dairy Industry Suppliers

New WCMA supplier member [Dean Snyder](#)





**Construction** is a general contractor, construction manager and design-build firm designing and constructing high-quality food processing plant facilities since 1986.



New WCMA supplier member **Clearwater Industries, Inc.** manufactures water clarification equipment and chemical preparation systems and sells water treatment chemicals, including polymers and coagulants.

Visit WCMA's [online member directory](#) for more information.

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## Share WCMA News with Colleagues

Thanks for subscribing to WCMA's weekly e-newsletter! This benefit is available to all WCMA member employees at no extra cost. [Let us know](#) if we should add your colleagues to our list, or if you'd like to share feedback on our communications.

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