



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



ADVOCACY



WCMA, CDR Host USDA, Sen. Baldwin at Crave Brothers to Announce \$20M in DBIA Funding



USDA Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt (left) with Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese President George Crave (center) and U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin).

WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research [applauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture's \(USDA\) decision](#) to direct \$20 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance \(DBIA\)](#).

During a visit to WCMA member Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese on Monday, USDA officials said they also plan to make \$22.9 million in agency appropriations available to DBIA and three other innovation centers operating nationwide in Fiscal Year 2022.

The additional \$20 million in DBIA funding will support an expansion of the program's service area to include Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio. Currently, the program covers Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Dairy businesses in the broadened service area will also see a boost in [direct-to-business grant funding](#) available through DBIA. Successful grant applicants for the Dairy Business Builder grant will now be eligible to receive up to \$100,000 each to support

business-boosting projects. The Dairy Industry Impact grant will offer up to \$500,000 per award to fund innovative projects with a broad impact.

For more on yesterday's announcement, view the related news coverage:

- *WISC-TV*: [Wisconsin's Dairy Business Innovation Alliance gets \\$20M in funding](#)
- *Watertown Daily Times*: [Investment funds announced for Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives](#)
- *MSN*: [Sen. Baldwin announces \\$80 million USDA investment to support Wisconsin dairy industry](#)
- *Wisconsin Examiner*: [Federal dairy innovation program gets a boost from pandemic relief funds](#)
- *Dairy Reporter*: [USDA directs funding to support "key investments in critical research and emerging opportunities" for U.S. dairy](#)

Attend Global Symposium at World Dairy Expo

WCMA members are invited to attend a free Global Dairy Symposium hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) on October 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the 2022 World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

In this program funded by the [Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports](#), a panel of leading global dairy experts will share trends in production and the impact of economic fluctuations, trends, and predictions. Speakers include:

- Krysta Harden - CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council
- Torsten Hemme - President of International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN)
- Ad Van Velde - President of Global Dairy Farmers
- Sheryl Meshke - Co-President and CEO of Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Though this event is available at no cost, space is limited and registration is required by September 30, 2022. Members with questions may contact [WDATCP staff](#).

WCMA BOARD UPDATES



WCMA Directors Connect with Ohio Members

With June Dairy Month in full swing, members of WCMA's staff and Board of Directors traveled to Ohio last week for an in-person networking



WCMA Director Randy LaGrander of LaGrander's Hillside Dairy (left) and WCMA President Steve Bechel of Eau Galle Cheese (center) talk with Chuck Ellis, president of Pearl Valley Cheese.

and learning opportunity with members based in the state.

The informative visit kicked off with a presentation and tour of [Pearl Valley Cheese](#), followed by a detailed look inside nearby [Guggisberg Cheese](#).

The two-day excursion also brought attendees to [Great Lakes Cheese](#) for a tour of the company's headquarters and recent plant expansion in Hiram, OH, as well as the June meeting of the WCMA Board.

WCMA is pleased to offer unique learning opportunities for members, leadership, and staff. Many thanks to our hosts for generously opening their doors to the group!

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Northeast FMMO Allows Milk Disposal

The [Northeast Federal Milk Marketing Order \(FMMO\)](#) has temporarily authorized the disposal of surplus milk at the farm or other non-plant locations through July 8, 2022. Northeast FMMO Administrator Shawn Boockoff [said in a memo](#) that pool handler Lowville Dairy requested the temporary authorization, citing a rise in COVID-19 cases, labor shortages, capacity losses at processing plants, equipment issues, and driver shortages. Pool handlers Agri-Mark, Dairy Farmers of America, Land O'Lakes, Upstate Niagara Cooperative, and Cayuga Marketing LLC either submitted remarks in support of, or did not oppose, Lowville's request.

Sign Up for USDA Subcontracting 101 Webinar

Large dairy manufacturers and processors, participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Commodity Procurement Program can [register now](#) to attend a free webinar June 30 at 1:00 p.m. (CT), titled "Subcontracting 101". The live, interactive session will focus on developing and submitting a commercial subcontracting plan, which is required for all large businesses awarded USDA contracts valued at or over \$750,000. Members with questions about the webinar may contact [USDA staff](#).

REGISTER TODAY

USDA Dairy Inspection, Grading Fees to Increase Starting October 1

According to a [notice published in last week's Federal Register](#), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will raise fees for its dairy inspection and grading services in Fiscal Year 2023. The rate increase will take effect October 1, 2022. For more information, please contact [USDA staff](#).

Save the Date for November 16 Dairy Summit



Make plans now to attend the Dairy Innovation Hub's [third annual Dairy Summit](#), November 16 at UW-River Falls. This free, in-person event will feature the newest research and outreach funded by the Hub, along with a farmer conservation round table and a dairy processing panel discussion. Livestream and on-demand options will be available for those who are unable to attend the event on campus. Visit the [Hub's website](#) for a tentative schedule and more information.

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

EDUCATION



WCMA Webinar

*OSHA Local Emphasis Program
for Food Processors*

OSHA Reviews WI LEP in WCMA Webinar

Many thanks to presenter Kristopher Schleis of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the WCMA members who joined our latest free, members-only webinar last week, focused on OSHA's new [Local Emphasis Program](#) for food processors in Wisconsin.

As noted during the webinar, inspections and enforcement action in Wisconsin under this program will begin July 19, 2022. In October, the effort will expand to cover OSHA's Region 5, which includes Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Ohio.

While OSHA's internal policies do not allow for webinar recording, or for agency personnel to share their slide deck, WCMA is pleased to share the following resources for members:

- [OSHA Local Emphasis Program Notice](#)
- [OSHA Office Contacts \(By State\)](#)
- Webinar Presenter: [Kristopher Schleis](#), Compliance Safety & Health Officer, U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA Appleton Office
 - Email: Schleis.kristopher@dol.gov
 - Office: 920-843-6743
 - Cell: 920-404-1327
- Additional OSHA Webinars (Unlike WCMA's program, these presentations are not specific to dairy manufacturers, but they will offer an overview of the LEP.)
 - Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. [via Microsoft Teams](#)
 - Tuesday, June 23, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. [via Microsoft Teams](#)

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. Ideas for future webinar topics can be submitted to [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).



Explore New Skills with WCMA Fall Trainings

Limited spaces are still available in this fall's lineup of WCMA's popular [Front-Line and Advanced Leadership trainings](#)! Take advantage of new in-person and virtual offerings designed to help dairy manufacturing and processing employees refine existing leadership skills, learn new strategies, and build relationships in the industry.

Front-Line Leadership

New this year, Front-Line Leadership participants may choose between an in-person or virtual track. Participate in all sessions in Madison, Wisconsin - or choose the virtual option to join live online from anywhere in the world.

Front-Line Leadership: In-Person Track:

- [September 27: Part A - Essential Leadership Skills](#) (sold out)
- [October 13: Part B - Boosting Staff Performance](#)
- [November 15: Part C - Cultivating a Team](#)

Front-Line Leadership: Virtual Track:

- [September 19: Part A - Essential Leadership Skills](#) (sold out)
- [October 10: Part B - Boosting Staff Performance](#) (sold out)
- [November 14: Part C - Cultivating a Team](#) (two spaces remaining)

WCMA may add additional Front-Line Leadership offerings based on member interest. If you have specific employee training needs or would like to join the waitlist for a training, please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Advanced Leadership Series

By member request, the [Advanced Leadership Series](#) will again be held in a hybrid format, allowing participants to join each session in-person in Madison or live online.

- Part 1 on Thursday, September 29 pushes attendees to take initiative in driving change and generating positive results for their company.
- Part 2 on Wednesday, November 2 focuses on the development and application of a creative and collaborative problem-solving process.
- Part 3 on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 will detail the tools and strategies leaders can use to foster collaboration and resolve workplace conflict.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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:

- June 28: [Frozen Desserts Innovation Course](#) - California Polytechnic State University
 - August 15-17: [Introduction to Food Microbiology \(Virtual\)](#) - Mérieux NutriSciences
 - August 16-17: [Preventive Controls for Human Food](#) - Safe Food Resources
 - August 17-18: [HACCP Certification \(In-Person\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
 - August 30-31: [Practical HACCP for Food Processors \(In-Person\)](#) - Mérieux NutriSciences
 - August 31-September 2: [FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food \(PCQI\) Training](#) - Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
 - Rolling Admission: [Online HACCP Training](#) - North Carolina State University
 - Rolling Admission: [Environmental Monitoring in the Dairy Industry](#) - North Carolina State University
 - Rolling Admission: [Preventive Controls for Dairy Processors](#) - North Carolina State University
 - Rolling Admission: [Food Safety Basics For Artisan Cheesemakers](#) - North Carolina State University
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IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *Yahoo! Life*: [How Wisconsin became the blue cheese capital of America](#) (Featuring WCMA member Carr Valley Cheese)
- *The Travel*: [Best 10 creameries where you can try authentic Wisconsin cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA members Carr Valley Cheese, Clock Shadow Creamery, Emmi Roth, Henning's Cheese, and Widmer's Cheese Cellars)

National/International

- *Dairy Reporter*: [Agropur invests in ice cream production capabilities](#) (Featuring WCMA member Agropur)
 - *U.S. News & World Report*: [Danone trims product range as shoppers balk at high prices](#)
 - *The Des Moines Register*: [Ames company AgCertain Industries purchases iconic Iowa blue cheese maker Maytag Dairy Farms](#) (Featuring WCMA member Maytag Dairy Farms)
 - *Agri-Pulse*: [USDA funding bill maintains broadband expansion](#)
 - *Dairy Herd Management*: [Will a recession impact milk prices?](#)
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MEMBERSHIP



Join WCMA Young Professionals for Networking and Fun in Milwaukee August 31

All WCMA member employees are invited to [join the WCMA Young Professionals](#) at American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for an afternoon of fun and networking as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday, August 31.

Our group will gather at 1:10 p.m. at the Miller Lite Landing. Located in the left-center field Loge Level, the spacious viewing deck includes three rows of seating with tables, various charging stations, high-definition TVs, a drink rail with chilled cup holders, and a great panoramic view of the stadium.

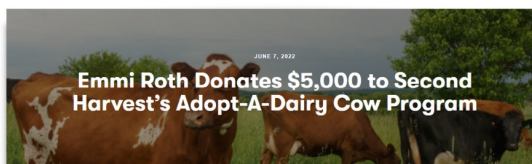
Registration is \$35 and includes admission and \$15 to the Miller Lite Landing concessions booth. Members may also purchase tickets for guests - significant others and friends are welcome! Please contact [WCMA Events Manager Kirsten Strohmenger](#) with questions.

SIGN UP TODAY

WCMA Highlights Members' Community Involvement for June Dairy Month



In honor of June Dairy Month, WCMA is sharing the many ways our members and partners give back to their communities through a new social media campaign: Dairy Makes a Difference.



One example from this week (pictured here) featured WCMA member Emmi Roth, which donated \$5,000 this month to Second Harvest Foodbank's Adopt-A-Dairy Cow campaign. The funds will help provide fresh, nutritious milk to families in need across southern Wisconsin.



#JuneDairyMonth

Through the end of June, WCMA will continue to share inspiring member outreach efforts on our social media pages. Be sure to follow along on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) and use the hashtag #DairyMakesADifference to join the celebration!

Have a story of community involvement you'd like WCMA to share? Please send images and brief descriptions to [WCMA Communications Director Grace Atherton](#).

Together We Grow: WCMA Celebrates Member Employee Growth and Advancement

WCMA members know that growth involves more than product sales. A focus on the potential, satisfaction, and development of team members - from valued front-line personnel to seasoned professionals - helps build a foundation for long-term success.

That's why WCMA is celebrating the many opportunities for collaborative employee advancement in dairy processing through our social media campaign: Together We Grow.



This week, we're pleased to feature **Kerry Henning**, president of WCMA member **Henning's Cheese**. "As cheesemakers, we devote time, energy, and care into delivering great products," Kerry says. "WCMA's staff apply that same dedication to helping us navigate the complex world of state and federal regulations and policies as we work to grow our business."

Follow along on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) each week for more inspiring stories of growth from WCMA member employees!

WORKFORCE



Post Career Opportunities on WCMA Jobs Board

Visit WCMA's [online jobs board](#) to view job openings from WCMA members Crystal Farms Cheese, Emmi Roth, Hilmar Cheese Company, Loos Machine & Automation, and Valley Queen 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. It's free and easy!

[SUBMIT OPENINGS](#)

WisCheeseMakers.org

