



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



INDUSTRY UPDATES



WCMA Launching Health & Safety Work Group

This August, WCMA will form a new group dedicated to developing resources to help members assess and improve their health and safety policies, prepare for future inspections, and connect with their peers in industry.

WCMA will offer two ways to participate in the group's first meeting on Wednesday, August 3: in-person in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin or online via Zoom. In-person attendees will enjoy a networking lunch at 12:00 p.m., with the full meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. (CT) for all participants. The meeting will focus on the recently announced U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration's [Local Emphasis Program \(LEP\)](#), and will conclude with a panel on best practices from industry health and safety experts.

Complete details and a registration link for this meeting will be shared next week. Members interested in participating in this group should contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

WDATCP, WEDC Award International Market Access Grants



WCMA members Associated Milk Producers, Inc. and Land O' Lakes **will receive \$10,000 each** in International Market Access Grants to help reach consumers in Asia and the Middle East, two Wisconsin agencies announced last week.

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, the funding comes from the [Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports](#), a five-year, \$5 million plan to boost the state's agricultural and dairy exports. Following advocacy by WCMA members and action by state lawmakers, the WIAE was signed into law by Governor Tony Evers in December 2021.

Biden Signs Keep Kids Fed Act

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will [provide \\$943 million](#) to help schools purchase more American-made foods for their meal programs. The news comes shortly after President Biden signed the bipartisan Keep Kids Fed Act into law June 25, extending summer school meal program waivers and boosting the federal reimbursement rate for school lunches from 15 to 40 cents for the 2022-2023 school year.

USDA Soliciting String Cheese Bids

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a solicitation for [string cheese](#) to be used in federal food assistance programs. Bids are due July 13 by 1:00 p.m. (CT). Please contact [USDA staff](#) with questions.

RSVP Now for Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Auction



Interested bidders should [RSVP by July 20](#) for the Wisconsin State Fair Blue Ribbon Dairy Products Auction. The event begins with a reception at 4:00 p.m. at Saz's Hospitality Village in Wisconsin State Fair Park. At 5:00 p.m., the auction of the first place entries from the State Fair Dairy Products Contest will begin, raising funds for dairy scholarships and education. Questions may be directed to the [Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Promotion Board](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Renew WCMA Membership Today

Your WCMA membership offers connections to key dairy industry suppliers, tailored resources, on-call services, and strong advocacy to help you grow your business. Renew your membership today to maintain all the valuable WCMA benefits you rely on! Dairy manufacturer and processor members, and suppliers eligible for renewal in 2022, will receive important renewal details from [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#).

Hear firsthand from WCMA members CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley, Dairy Connection, Eau Galle Cheese, Foremost Farms USA, and M3 Insurance about the value of WCMA membership:



Steve Bechel, WCMA President

Eau Galle Cheese

Complete WCMA Membership Satisfaction Survey by July 15

As a WCMA member, your engagement and ideas are vital in helping us better serve dairy processors and their supplier partners across the country. We invite you to share your feedback and help shape the Association's future by taking our [2022 WCMA Membership Satisfaction Survey](#) now through **Friday, July 15**. With only 12 questions, this brief survey should take no more than ten minutes to complete. All individual responses will remain confidential.

We look forward to your feedback, and we value your partnership. Thank you!

TAKE THE SURVEY

Have questions about WCMA membership? Please contact [WCMA Business & Membership Manager Sara Schmidt](#). Thank you for your continued support of WCMA!



Join WCMA Young Professionals in Milwaukee

Looking for a fun, casual way to connect with fellow dairy industry employees? All WCMA members 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.

[CLAIM YOUR SPOT](#)

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.



Together

WE GROW



This week, we're pleased to feature **Peng Moua** (pictured at left), production supervisor for **Great Lakes Cheese** in Plymouth, Wisconsin. Colin McCulley, plant manager for Great Lakes' Plymouth facility, says Peng is "an up-and-coming leader for our Plymouth team. He supervises around 55 to 60 employees and utilizes the skills he learned regarding people management from his WCMA courses to guide, educate and coordinate employee efforts day-to-day."

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

WELCOME



NEW WCMA MEMBERS!

Dairy Industry Suppliers

New WCMA supplier member **American Packaging Corporation** is a flexible packaging converter specializing in flexographic, rotogravure and digital printing, multi-ply extrusion and adhesive lamination of film, paper and foil, as well as pouch and bag fabrication.



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

IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *Dairy Reporter*: [Wisconsin dairy "well positioned" for worldwide growth](#) (Featuring WCMA)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Cheesemaking is a family affair at Hill Valley Dairy](#)
- *Deli Market News*: [Roth Cheese collects multiple awards at 2022 Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Contest](#) (Featuring WCMA member Emmi Roth)

National/International

- *Oregon Business*: [Rogue Creamery ranked #1 on Oregon Business' 2022 Best Green Workplaces in Oregon](#) (Featuring WCMA member Savencia Cheese - Rogue Creamery)
- *Red River Farm Network*: [AMPI announces leadership transition](#) (Featuring WCMA member Associated Milk Producers, Inc.)
- *Agri-Pulse*: [Bel Brands and Land O'Lakes report carbon sink in pilot project](#) (Featuring WCMA members Bel Brands and Land O'Lakes)
- *Dairy Processing*: [Saputo's U.S. dairy division leadership changing](#) (Featuring WCMA member Saputo Dairy USA)

Welcome Dairy, Gamay Food Ingredients, North Star Processing Merge to Form Revela Foods



WCMA members Welcome Dairy and Gamay Food Ingredients will merge with North Star Processing to form Revela Foods, [the companies said today](#). According to its [website](#), the business will offer ingredients, research and development, and manufacturing capabilities.

EDUCATION



Reserve Space Now in WCMA's Newly Added Fall Leadership Trainings

Take your leadership skills to the next level with a fresh lineup of WCMA's **Front-Line and Advanced Leadership trainings** this fall! Take advantage of these in-person and virtual offerings designed to help your employees refine their 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** *(one seat remaining)*
- **NEWLY ADDED: October 31: Part A - Essential Leadership Skills**
- **NEWLY ADDED: November 21: Part B - Boosting Staff Performance**
- **NEWLY ADDED: December 5: Part C - Cultivating a Team**

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

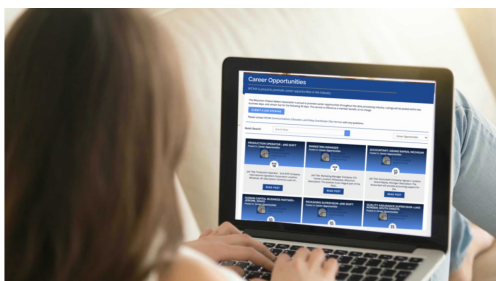
Additional Industry Training Opportunities

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

- 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

WORKFORCE

View, Share Career Opportunities on WCMA Jobs Board



Visit WCMA's [online jobs board](#) to view job openings from WCMA members Emmi Roth, Hilmar Cheese Company, Loos Machine & Automation, Masters Gallery Foods, 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

