



ADVOCACY

FMMO Hearing Now Underway; WCMA Submits Testimony to Support Make Allowance Change

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials convened a [national hearing on Federal Milk Marketing Orders](#) last week Wednesday in Carmel, Indiana, with the process expected to last up to seven weeks. Thus far, all testimony has focused on proposals related to milk composition - changing the milk component factors in the Class 3 and 4 skim milk price formulas.

Next in the queue is testimony related to Surveyed Commodity Products and then Class III and IV Formula Factors, including make allowance adjustments, for which WCMA is advocating. As required by USDA, WCMA has submit its testimony by August 30. Depending on the pacing of the hearing, WCMA staff and members will likely testify in person in early September in favor of updated make allowances.

Members may recall WCMA first [called for this hearing](#) in March, [detailing in June](#) a plan to adjust make allowances for cheddar cheese, dry whey, butter, and nonfat dry milk. The Association's proposal recommends using recent, accurate data to implement new make allowances that reflect dramatic increases in the costs to produce dairy products.

WCMA will keep members informed of FMMO hearing developments via this weekly communication.

WCMA Advocacy Alert: Contact Your Lawmaker Now to Support Dairy Hauling Bill in Wisconsin

Wisconsin-based WCMA members are invited to take one minute today to support a [state proposal](#) designed to boost dairy hauling capacity in the state.

**CONTACT YOUR
LAWMAKER NOW**

Current permits allow haulers to move 98,000 pounds of raw milk over six axles, and this proposal would extend those higher weight limits to all liquid dairy products, including liquid whey. This bill offers myriad benefits, including:

Increased Sustainability

- Hauling full tanks, processors can reduce the dairy industry's carbon footprint via fuel savings and decreased emissions.

Labor Shortage Solution

- The American Trucking Associations (ATA) reported a shortage of 80,000 drivers in

2022, an all-time high projected to double by 2030. This poses challenges for the dairy industry, which must operate fleets continuously. In maximizing the use of liquid hauling vehicles, this bill can alleviate some of the strain caused by the ongoing labor shortage.

Competitiveness

- Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah have opted to accommodate heavier liquid truck shipment limited to dairy product transportation, reducing freight and labor costs and thereby offering a competitive advantage for dairy processors operating in those states. Following suit will help to ensure the long-term strength of Wisconsin processors and provide opportunities for their growth in Wisconsin.

Public Safety

- While milk haulers always make safety their top priority, fewer trips would mean less truck traffic, reducing the risk of accidents. Studies have revealed the superior safety of hauling full liquid tanks over partial tanks.



Taking action is simple! Using WCMA's [online contact form](#), all you have to do is enter your home or business address and click a button to ask lawmakers to co-sponsor LRB 4167 and LRB 3220. Don't delay; the deadline for co-sponsorship is tomorrow, August 30!

Have questions about the bill, or want to talk with your elected leaders about it? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Bipartisan House Ag Working Group Seeks Dairy Processor Input on Labor Issues

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA 15) and Ranking Member David Scott (D-GA 13) have launched a bipartisan [Agricultural Labor Working Group](#) to focus on the workforce issues faced by the nation's agricultural producers. Now, this group, which includes Congressman Derrick Van Orden (R-WI 3) is welcoming input from dairy processors via [an online form](#). Dairy processors may share any workforce-related concern or priority. All answers will remain anonymous and will be aggregated for the internal use of the working group. WCMA will submit, on behalf of its membership, comments related to our Association's [immigration policy platform](#).

INDUSTRY UPDATES

DFA, MCT, DFW Named to Trade Group

Congratulations and thanks go to WCMA members Michael Lichte of Dairy Farmers of America and Ken Meyers of MCT Dairies, and to Chad Vincent of Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, who were last week appointed to the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Trade in Animals and Animal Products, a group which advises both the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Read [more here](#).

USDA Hosting Subcontracting 101 Webinar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture invites all businesses interested in or engaged in fulfilling large government contracts, meaning those at or over \$750,000 in value, to a live, interactive webinar on the "how-tos" of commercial subcontracting plans. This special event is set for Wednesday, August 30, and registration is [open now online](#).

USDA Finalizes Dairy Donation Program Rules

On Thursday, August 25, the U.S. Department of Agriculture published [final rules establishing to the Dairy Donation Program](#), as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. These rules allow dairy organizations that account to Federal Milk Marketing Orders to be reimbursed for the donation of dairy products.



UWRF Invites Industry to Grand Opening

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is inviting industry leaders to save the date for the grand opening of its dairy plant and the new Wuethrich Family-Grassland Dairy Center of Excellence on Friday, October 20 at 11 a.m. (CT). More information will be shared soon, and questions can be directed to [UW-River Falls staff](#). WCMA has proudly supported this project via direct donations, made possible by WCMA members, and advocacy for state and federal funding.

IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *Pioneer Press*: [Minnesota, Wisconsin dairy farmers forced to pivot after closing of Hastings Creamery](#)

National/International

- *Roll Call*: [McConnell concedes Farm Bill will be late; Stabenow eyes year-end](#)
- *The Hill*: [FDA taps new leader for human foods in the wake of baby formula crisis](#)
- *NBC News*: [Biden immigration policy giving temporary legal status to thousands faces court challenge](#)

- Dairy Herd: [Milk powder prices sink](#)
- Food Business News: [Glanbia appoints new CEO](#) (Featuring WCMA member Glanbia Nutritionals)
- Natural Products Insider: [Glanbia acquires Watson for \\$89 million, expands global ingredient sector](#) (Featuring WCMA member Glanbia Nutritionals)
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: [Raw milk is now legal in Georgia. Is it safe?](#)
- The Today Show: [Trying to lose weight? Why full-fat dairy may help you hit your goal](#)

MEMBERSHIP



WCMA Young Professionals Build Their Network and Knowledge with Milwaukee Outing

Over 70 members of WCMA's Young Professionals group met up in Milwaukee last week to build their network - and cheer on the Brewers.

Thanks go to their employers for supporting participants' efforts to connect with and learn from their industry peers!



WCMA's Young Professionals meet up quarterly, with most events involving a plant tour and industry presentations. For more information on upcoming events and to get involved, contact [WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmenger](#).



WCMA Webinar

Making the Most of Your WCMA Membership

Join in Free, Engaging Webinar September 12

Learn how WCMA membership can support you, your team, and the growth of your business! [Register now](#) to join in an engaging, free webinar on Tuesday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Together, we'll explore:

- Ways to leverage your membership to expand your network and forge valuable connections;
- New food and employee safety resources;
- Industry communications;
- Workforce attraction and retention tools;
- Educational opportunities for WCMA members only;
- Advocacy efforts WCMA is leading to create a favorable environment for your business; and
- Grant opportunities available through WCMA that support industry innovation and profitability.

Be sure to share this invitation with new members of your team, so they can take advantage of all WCMA has to offer!

REGISTER NOW

This one-hour program will include time for your questions. If you'd like to pose a question in advance, please email [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#) by Monday, September 11.



Dairy Processor

GDC | and Associates Inc.

New WCMA dairy processor member [GDC & Associates Inc.](#), based in Darlington, Wisconsin, provides a variety of cut and packaged natural and processed cheese for the retail, foodservice, and food manufacturing industries.



Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association **Health & Safety Group**

Register Now for September 27 Meeting Focused on OSHA LEP, Emergency Preparedness

Register now for WCMA's Health & Safety Group meeting on Wednesday, September 27 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (CT).

This meeting will focus on workplace emergency preparedness and product solutions to the most common employee safety challenges, and provide the latest updates on OSHA's Local Emphasis Program for Food Processors.



Here's a look at our agenda:

- 10:30 a.m.: Registration Begins for In-Person Attendees
- 11:00 a.m.: Meeting Call to Order
 - Agenda & Introductions
 - Emergency Preparedness Practices for Dairy Processors, presented by Kelli Humber of WisCon
- 12:15 p.m.: Networking Lunch for In-Person Attendees
- 1:00 p.m.: Meeting Resumes
 - OSHA Local Emphasis for Food Processors Update, presented by David Schott, OSHA Region 5
 - Product Solutions to Employee Safety Challenges in Dairy Processing Plants, presented by trusted industry suppliers with live Q & A to follow
 - Group Business, including updates on upcoming WCMA employee safety trainings and upcoming meetings
- 3:00 p.m.: Adjournment

WCMA is offering two ways to participate: in-person at WCMA's offices in Madison, Wisconsin or online via Zoom. In-person attendees will enjoy a networking lunch.

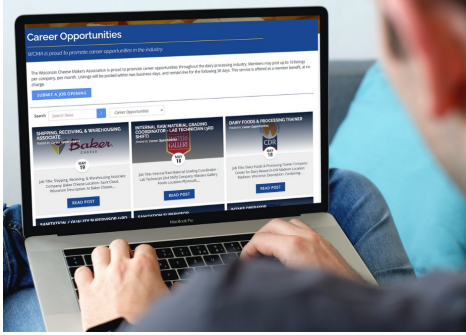
REGISTER NOW

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

Post Job Openings on Free WCMA Jobs Board

Visit WisCheeseMakers.org today to share your career openings on WCMA's online jobs board,

available to members only - for free!



Members can post up to 10 job openings per month. Each posting is published within two business days and remains live on our website for 30 days after submission.

POST OPENINGS

This week, the **Jobs Board** features opportunities from members Chr. Hansen, Foremost Farms, KDI Cheese Co., Masters Gallery Foods, Mohawk Technology, Organic Valley, Saputo Cheese USA, and Widmer's Cheese Cellars.

Have questions about the Jobs Board? Please contact [WCMA Manager of Business Operations Ryan Dunn](#).

EDUCATION



Two Spaces Available in WCMA Advanced Leadership Series, Beginning in September

Help your team leaders build management skills and broaden their network via [WCMA's Advanced Leadership Series](#), beginning September 19! Just **two spaces remain open** in this highly-rated series, designed for mid-level managers and those transitioning into such roles with dairy processors or industry suppliers.

REGISTER NOW

The series requires participants to complete an implementation project showcasing their new knowledge, and features special guest speakers from industry. Here's a look at what's in store for this three-part series:

- **Part 1 on Tuesday, September 19** pushes participants to take initiative in driving change and generating positive results for their company.
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- **Part 2 on Wednesday, November 1** focuses on the development and application of a creative and collaborative problem-solving process. Guest speaker **Mike**

Sipple of Agropur will share insights from his successful career as a leader in the dairy processing industry.

- **Part 3 on Wednesday, January 10, 2024** details the tools and strategies leaders can use to foster collaboration and resolve workplace conflict. **Tim Omer of Emmi Roth** will join students to share his leadership story and lessons learned over decades of management experience.



Mike Sipple
Agropur



Tim Omer
Emmi Roth

The virtual format of **Advanced Leadership** allows participants to join from anywhere in the world and fosters robust small group and partner discussions. A cohort of just 22 individuals also encourages meaningful connection. Registration is \$549 per person for the entire series, and a computer with webcam capabilities is required.



BONUS: Successful completion of Advanced Leadership earns participants **complimentary full registration to CheeseExpo** in April 2024, a savings of at least \$480, where they will be recognized, along with your organization, for their commitment to lifelong learning and career excellence.

Have questions? Please contact **WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney** for assistance.

Additional Industry Training 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:

- September 6: **Cheesemaking Fundamentals (Online Self-Study)** - Center for Dairy Research
- September 7: **Dairy Ingredient Fundamentals (In-Person)** - Center for Dairy Research
- September 12-13: **Cheesemaking Fundamentals (In-Person)** - Center for Dairy Research
- September 14: **Cultured Dairy Products (In-Person)** - Center for Dairy Research
- September 14-15: **Pasteurization Short Course (In-Person)** - UW-River Falls

- September 19: [HACCP Training \(In-Person\)](#) - M3 Insurance & WMEP Manufacturing Solutions
- September 19-21: [FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food PCQI Training \(In-Person\)](#), Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- September 19-21: [Advanced Cheesemaking: Italian Varieties \(In-Person\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
- September 19-21: [FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food \(PCQI\) \(In-Person\)](#) - Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- September 25-29: [Cheesemaker's Short Course](#) - UW-River Falls
- September 26-27: [Cheesemaking Fundamentals \(Spanish, In-Person\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
- 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

GRANTS



DBIA Now Offering \$100,000 Grants

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research (CDR) has reopened the application period for two grant opportunities: the Dairy Business Builder Grant Program and the Dairy Industry Impact Grant Program. Both offerings feature awards of up to \$100,000, following a competitive review process.

The [Dairy Business Builder Grant Program](#) aims to encourage small- to medium-sized dairy farmers, entrepreneurs, and processors in the Midwest to pursue innovative projects such as dairy farm diversification, on-farm processing, value-added product creation, and efforts to market dairy products for export. An informational webinar on this opportunity is [available now online](#).

[VIEW THE WEBINAR](#)

The [Dairy Industry Impact Grant Program](#) welcomes applications in targeted topic areas that have the potential to positively impact the dairy industry. In the upcoming grant cycle, applications will be accepted for projects related to new or expanded dairy export endeavors. An informational webinar on this opportunity was held this morning, and a recording will be shared in this newsletter next week.

Applicants may apply for both the Dairy Business Builder Grant and the Dairy Industry Impact Grant, if they have two separate projects related to DBIA goals. Companies are eligible to receive awards from both offerings in the same grant cycle. Online application forms are posted to www.cdr.wisc.edu/dbia. The deadline for submissions is October 18 at 5 p.m. (CT), and applicants will be notified of results in early December.

The DBIA is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Including the awards listed above, since its inception as part of the 2018 Farm Bill, the DBIA has 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 program also offers technical assistance and education to dairy farmers and processors in the region.

Members with questions may contact [WCMA Grants & Business Programs Director Danica Nilsestuen](#).

DBIA Delivers

Success Stories from the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance



Kasemeister Creamery

Frankfort, SD

DBIA Grant Recipient
2021

DBIA Delivers: Kasemeister 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 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. Next in our weekly #DBIADelivers series is [Kasemeister Creamery](#), a farmstead cheesemaking business in Frankfort, South Dakota. Kasemeister produces a variety of flavored cheeses and cheese curds, using about 50 percent of their milk supply. With a grant from the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance, the Kasemeister team plans to pursue production of mozzarella and provolone cheeses to utilize more of their milk. Visit Kasemeister.com to learn more.

Follow along on WCMA's [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for more inspiring stories, and use the hashtag #DBIADelivers to share how DBIA has helped support your business!

Minnesota AGRI Awards Now Available

Minnesota's Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program is now accepting applications for grant awards supporting the advancement of Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. A host of grant opportunities are available to dairy processors, including awards for sustainability projects, endeavors in new markets, and food safety efforts. Learn [more online](#).

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam: Bob Streeter

WCMA joins with the family and friends of Bob Streeter, who passed away on July 8, 2023. Bob was born in 1939 in his parents' home above Liberty Pole Cheese, and was known for his dedication to his family business. He served as WCMA President from 1971 to 1974, and was awarded the WCMA Life Member Award in 2011. Services will be held later this summer, and more information is available in his [online obituary](#).



SIGNATURE EVENTS



Register Now for CheeseExpo 2024

Register now and enjoy best-value rates for CheeseExpo 2024, the industry's premier cheese, butter, and whey processing event, set for April 16-18, 2024 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

WCMA, together with co-host the Center for Dairy Research, will welcome over 4,000 dairy processing industry leaders to enjoy CheeseExpo's educational seminars, networking events, and expansion trade show.



Companies interested in exhibiting will find useful information at [CheeseExpo.org](#) on WCMA's ranked order Priority Points reservation system and the sign-up process, which begins September 20. The site also offers lodging details, as hotel bookings at exclusive CheeseExpo prices are available now.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER NOW

WisCheeseMakers.org
(608) 286-1001



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