



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



ADVOCACY

Join WCMA in Advocating Against Retail Sales of Raw Milk in Wisconsin



Join WCMA staff at the Wisconsin State Capitol tomorrow, August 9 to advocate against pending legislation legalizing the advertisement and retail sale of raw milk in Wisconsin. WCMA has long opposed such legislation, given the risk raw milk consumption poses to public health and the potential negative industry impact of a raw milk-related illness outbreak or death.

For complete details or to engage in this effort, please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

USDA to Begin Hearing Make Allowance Testimony August 30 or Later

As WCMA reported to you last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will begin a national hearing on milk pricing formulas in Federal Milk Marketing Orders on August 23 in Carmel, Indiana. 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 for the long-term strength and stability of the dairy industry.

USDA recently announced that testimony on make allowance adjustments is due August 30, helping us to narrow the window of when WCMA members may speak on this topic. (Exact dates aren't known yet as the list of testifiers and the length of cross examination is not limited.) **WCMA is actively seeking members to testify regarding their increased make costs – including but not limited to labor, utilities, packaging, raw materials, and transportation.** If you have any interest, please let [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) know as soon as possible. Note that WCMA has secured experienced attorneys who will fully prepare members to testify.

RSVP by Friday to in Join Farm Bill Listening Session with House Ag Chair

WCMA members are invited to make their



**Congressman
Derrick Van Orden**



**Congressman
G.T. Thompson**

voices heard on the 2023 Farm Bill, alongside WCMA staff, at a Congressional listening session set for Wednesday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m. (CT) at the Radisson Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Congressman Derrick Van Orden (R-WI 03) will host House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn “G.T.” Thompson (R-PA 15) for this special event. WCMA will speak in favor of Dairy Business Innovation Initiative funding and our federal policy priorities.

To join in this advocacy effort, please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#) by close of business Friday, August 11. All members are welcome, and those with operations in [Wisconsin’s third Congressional](#) district are especially encouraged to attend.

Wisconsin Governor Calls Special Session on \$1B Workforce Development Package



Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers this morning [called a special session](#) of the Legislature, beginning September 20, to take up a \$1 billion workforce development package, including \$365 million to support child care providers. The plan also includes a paid family and medical leave program for private employers, as well as \$66 million for the UW System and \$40 million for Wisconsin technical colleges. Appearing at a news conference in Milwaukee, Evers said funding for the plan is available via the state’s projected \$4 billion surplus in this biennium.

WCMA [members champion](#) programs supported by state dollars to provide affordable housing, childcare and eldercare, and workforce training, particularly in rural communities, and will continue to advocate for those shared industry priorities.



WCMA Applauds Signing of Farm CDL Extension

Wisconsin's dairy industry is stronger when it advocates together, and WCMA was proud to join with fellow industry advocates to [advance legislation](#) to expand seasonal farm service endorsements for restricted CDLs, given ongoing labor challenges. Our thanks go to Governor Tony Evers, who on Friday signed the bill into law, and to the bipartisan coalition of lawmakers, led by Senator Cory Tomczyk (R-Mosinee) and Representative Jon Plumer (R-Lodi), who brought the concept forward.

WCMA NOTES

Milk Price Innovation is Inevitable

Even as the U.S. Department of Agriculture prepares to hear testimony from industry on changes to milk pricing formulas in federal milk marketing orders, industry leaders are effecting change to their costs via innovation, discover, development and implementation.

From nanotechnology to packaging and supply chain synergies, WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer writes in [this month's edition of WCMA Notes](#), dairy manufacturers and processors can - and are doing - much to ensure their operations can grow now and in the future. Read the full column on [WisCheeseMakers.org](#).



IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *ProPublica*: [Wisconsin's dairy industry relies on undocumented immigrants, but the state won't let them legally drive](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Wisconsin State Fair: Showcase of dairy farming and delicious treats](#)

National/International

- *USA Today*: [How a bitter battle for SNAP benefits in the Farm Bill affects you](#)
- *KTVO-TV*: [Lawmakers say 2023 Farm Bill will not be finalized until 2024](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [The U.S. has a beef with Europe - over cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA member Klondike Cheese)
- *Politico*: [Businesses brace for new regs from Biden Administration](#)
- *St. Louis Dispatch*: [The real deal: 5 things to know about organic dairy](#) (Featuring WCMA member Organic Valley)
- *WWNY-TV*: [Hundreds "Cheese the Day" at the annual Adams Cheddar Cheese Festival](#) (Featuring WCMA member Great Lakes Cheese Company)

INDUSTRY UPDATES

DFW's Vincent Elected Chair of Wisconsin

WCMA extends congratulations and thanks to Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin CEO Chad Vincent, who was [recently elected](#) to serve as Chair of the Wisconsin

Agricultural Export Advisory Council. This council, created through the WCMA-backed [Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports](#), guides collaboration between state agencies to promote the export of Wisconsin's agricultural products, including value-added dairy.



Enter Now to Compete in NCCIA Cheese Contest

WCMA reminds members that also belong to the North Central Cheese Industries Association (NCCIA) to enter its [cheese competition](#). Open now through September 15, NCCIA's contest evaluates four categories: cheddar barrel, cheddar block, miscellaneous cheese, and miscellaneous flavored cheese. The contest and its auction support dairy-related scholarships at South Dakota State University, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and Iowa State University.

WORKFORCE



Sign Up by Friday to Join WCMA Young Professionals in Milwaukee



WCMA member employees, friends, and significant others are invited to [join the WCMA Young Professionals on Wednesday, August 23](#) at American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for an afternoon of fun and networking!

Our group will gather at the Miller Lite Landing as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Minnesota Twins, at 1:10 p.m. Registration is just \$35 and includes an admission ticket. Members may also purchase tickets for guests.

The deadline to sign up is this coming Friday, August 11, so don't wait! Contact [WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmeinger](#) with questions.

REGISTER NOW



Register Now to WCMA Workforce & Education Committee Meeting August 15

Register now to network and learn at the [next meeting of WCMA's Workforce & Education Committee meeting](#) on Tuesday, August 15 from 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CT).

Network and engage with industry peers in-person at the offices of WCMA member M3 Insurance in Madison, Wisconsin, or online via Zoom. In-person attendees will enjoy a networking lunch. The meeting will feature engaging presentations on:

- Proper Use (and Preventing Abuse) of FMLA
 - Speaker: Alex O'Connor, Compliance Attorney, M3 Insurance
- Peer Perspectives: Strategies for Successful Hybrid Workforce Management
 - Panelists include Tammy Flora, Vice President-Human Resources, Masters Gallery Foods; and Shawn Neri, Director-IT Sourcing, Land O'Lakes
- Methods to Measure HR Effectiveness
 - Speaker: Marla Rybowskiak, Director of Operations, The Employer Group



Alex O'Connor
M3 Insurance

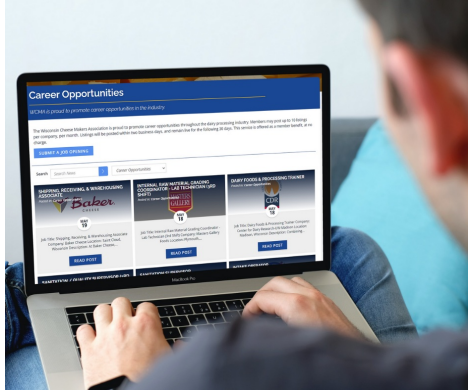


Marla Rybowskiak
The Employer Group

REGISTER NOW

RSVP today to join this opportunity to grow your network and your knowledge base! Please contact **WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney** with questions or suggestions.

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 Associated Milk Producers Inc., Bassett Mechanical, BelGioioso Cheese, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, Foremost Farms USA, Grassland Dairy Products, Great Lakes Cheese, KDI Cheese Co., Kelley Supply, Klondike Cheese Co., Lactalis American Group, Leprino Foods, Masters Gallery Foods, Saputo Cheese USA, Wapsie Valley Creamery, and Westby Cooperative Creamery.

Have questions about the Jobs Board? Please contact **WCMA Manager of Business Operations Ryan Dunn**.

EDUCATION



**WISCONSIN
CHEESE MAKERS
ASSOCIATION**

**Supplier Inroads Roundtable:
Plant Automation**

August 1, 2023

View Free WCMA Member Webinar Focused on

Dairy Plant Automation Innovation

A recording of WCMA's latest free webinar, focused on innovations in dairy plant automation, is [now available for viewing online](#). In addition, WCMA is pleased to share contact information for our presenters:

- Todd Stertz, Cheese & Powder Services Sales Support Manager, Tetra Pak: todd.stertz@tetrapak.com
- Brady Hoes, Vice President, Loos Machine & Automation: bhoes@loosmachine.com
- Greg Alberts, President, Kelley Supply: greg@kelleysupply.com

WCMA sincerely thanks each of these supplier partners for their time and insights.

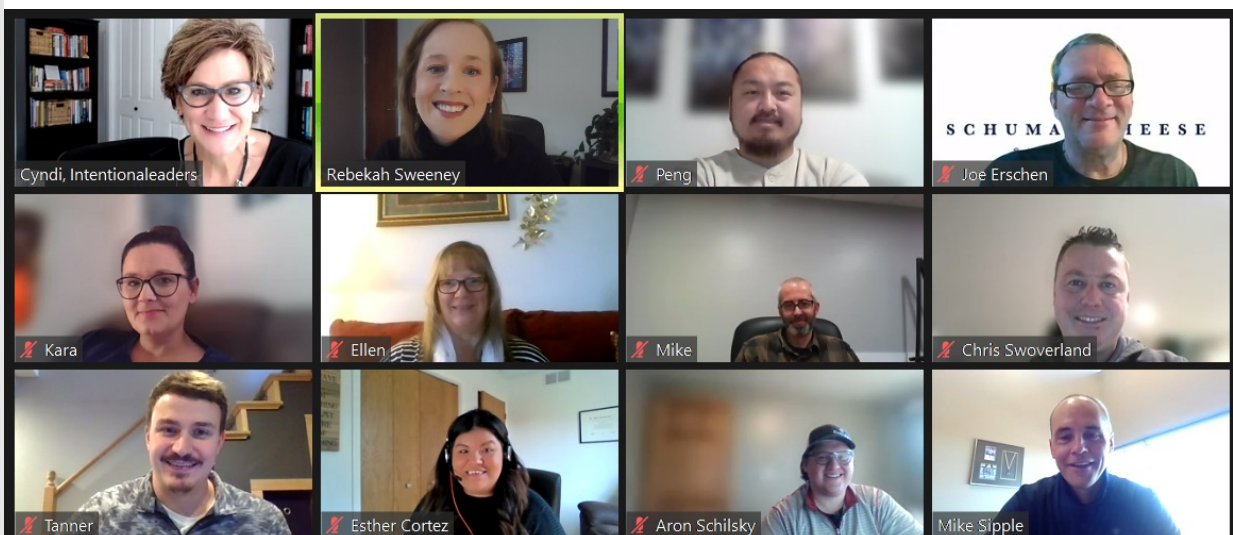
As a reminder, recordings and information on all of WCMA's past webinars is available to logged-in members anytime at WisCheeseMakers.org/Webinars. Suggestions for future webinars are always welcome! Please send your ideas to [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Announces Food Safety Course Offerings

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) this week announced its upcoming [food safety course offerings](#), and is encouraging dairy manufacturers to register now or save the date to take part in:

- [FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food PCQI Training](#), September 19-21 in Madison, Wisconsin (Registration live now)
- Food Defense & FSPCA Intentional Adulteration/Vulnerability Assessment Training, October 10-11 in Cashton, Wisconsin
- HACCP for Processors, November 13-14 in Wausau, Wisconsin
- Implementing SQF Systems, November 15-16 in Wausau, Wisconsin
- SQF Internal Auditor, November 17 in Wausau, Wisconsin

Members with questions may contact [DFW staff](#).



Register Now, WCMA Advanced Leadership Series Spaces Filling Quickly

Looking for an opportunity to help your dairy processing employees build their management skills and broaden their professional networks? Register now for the next installment of [WCMA's Advanced Leadership Series](#), beginning September 19.

This highly-rated training is designed for mid-level managers in dairy processing and employees transitioning into these roles. A cohort of just 22 individuals participate in the series together to facilitate better networking.

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 year's three-part series:

- **Part 1 on Tuesday, September 19** pushes participants to take initiative in driving change and generating positive results for their company.
- **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 your employees to join from anywhere in the world and fosters robust small group and partner discussions. Registration is \$549 per person, and a computer with webcam capabilities is required.

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

REGISTER NOW

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:

- August 15-16: [Basic Milk Pasteurization and Dairy Plant Sanitation Workshop](#) - North Central Cheese Industries Association
- August 22-23: [Cheesemaking Fundamentals \(In-Person\)](#) - Center for Dairy Research
- 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: [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

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](https://www.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](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Nominate Industry Leaders by August 18 for WCMA Recognition Awards



Join WCMA in honoring leaders in the dairy processing industry! Visit [WisCheeseMakers.org/Recognition](https://www.WisCheeseMakers.org/Recognition) today to submit your nominations now for the 2024 WCMA Recognition Awards. All nominations must be submitted by close of business on Friday, August 18.

[SUBMIT NOMINATIONS](#)

WELCOME



NEW WCMA MEMBERS!

Dairy Industry Suppliers



New WCMA supplier [Cornerstone Business Services](#) is a mergers and acquisitions firm located in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

New WCMA supplier member [SupHerb Farms](#) offers



IQF herbs, frozen specialty vegetables and cold-processed, globally inspired culinary blends, pastes, and sauces to foodservice operations, grocery retailers and food brands.

GRANTS

DBIA Delivers

Success Stories from the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance



McCluskey Brothers

Hillpoint, WI

DBIA Grant Recipient
2020

DBIA Delivers: McCluskey Brothers

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.

Today in #DBIADelivers, WCMA is featuring McCluskey Brothers, a small, certified organic family farm in southern Wisconsin offering beef, cheese, and maple syrup. The business received a Dairy Business Innovation Alliance grant to purchase and install equipment for a new value-added dairy product – shredded cheese from their grass-fed herd. Visit McCluskeyBros.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!

WisCheeseMakers.org
(608) 286-1001





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