



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



COVID-19 UPDATES



Join WCMA Webinar Today on OSHA's Revised COVID-19 Employer Guidance

Register now to take part in a free COVID-19 webinar available exclusively to WCMA members **today, Tuesday, September 14 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. (CT)**. The webinar will focus on newly-revised COVID-19 guidance for employers issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) Industrial Hygiene Consultant-Engineer George Gruetzmacher, PhD, CIH, CSP, PE and Environmental Health Specialist Kelli Rush will join WCMA staff for this presentation, detailing what dairy processors can expect if they are inspected by OSHA in relation to their COVID-19 protocols. Rush will also detail the free services offered to Wisconsin employers by the WSLH WisCon COVID-19 Consultations program.

WCMA will reserve time at the end of the webinar for WSLH staff to answer member questions on any COVID-19 related topic, with WCMA staff presenting pre-submitted questions anonymously.

Members with questions about today's webinar may contact **WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney**.

REGISTER NOW

Biden Orders OSHA Rule Mandating Employers of 100+ Require COVID-19 Vaccination or Testing

As COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to rise due to the Delta variant, [President Joe Biden last Thursday ordered](#) the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) to immediately draft a rule mandating that all American employers with more than 100 workers require their workforce to be fully vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 on at least a weekly basis. These employers will also be required to give workers paid time off to get vaccinated. The measure is expected to impact 80 million Americans, or two thirds of the U.S. workforce, though complete details of the plan have not yet been released.

President Biden on Thursday also announced:

- All federal employees, federal contractors, and workers at health facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid dollars must be fully vaccinated. These mandates are expected to impact an additional 20 million American workers.
- The federal government will work to increase the supply of COVID-19 testing supplies, and has secured concessions from retailers, including Walmart, Amazon and Kroger, to sell testing kits at cost beginning this week.
- Federal fines for those who refuse to wear masks on flights and on federal property will be doubled.
- Additional federal support will be sent to schools to support safe operations and increased COVID-19 testing.

WCMA will continue to keep members informed of relevant developments and resources via e-newsletters and webinars. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions or to request additional support.

USDA Opens Additional Meeting Slots for Participants in New Pandemic Aid Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has opened [additional time slots](#) to meet one-on-one with cooperatives and handlers that are eligible for the agency's Pandemic Market Volatility Assistance Program (PMVAP). When selecting a meeting slot, please enter your company or cooperative name and associated milk marketing order in the Postal Address field.

[BOOK YOUR MEETING](#)

Announced on August 19, the [PMVAP will provide](#) more than \$350 million in payments to dairy farms nationwide that have been impacted by pandemic-related market disruptions. USDA will work with milk buyers to determine the amount owed to producers and distribute the payments. Additionally, WCMA will work with University of Wisconsin-Madison Director of Dairy Policy Dr. Mark Stephenson to supply content for the producer education component of the program.

Have questions about the PMVAP or need assistance signing up for your meeting? Please contact [USDA staff](#).

Wisconsin Vaccine Incentive Ends Sunday

Wisconsinites ages 12 and older who received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose after August 20 have until **this Sunday, September 19** to receive their \$100 reward from the Department of Health Services (WDHS). To receive the reward, Wisconsinites must fill out an [online form](#) or call 844-684-1064 to register.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin

- *BizTimes*: [How many Wisconsin workers could be impacted by Biden's new vaccine mandate?](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin business groups say Biden vaccine mandate would be a burden](#)
- *WBAY*: [Two in three Wisconsin adults get COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- *Chippewa Herald*: ['It is very sad': Chippewa County begins to see COVID-19 deaths in their 30s and 40s](#)

National/International

- *CNBC*: [Data shows COVID booster shots are 'not appropriate' at this time, U.S. and international scientists conclude](#)
 - *Politico*: [COVID-19 testing system struggles to keep up with Delta demand](#)
 - *Associated Press*: [COVID-19 surge in the US: The summer of hope ends in gloom](#)
 - *Politico*: [Could COVID-19 finally end hunger in America?](#)
 - *U.S. News & World Report*: [Internet funding rule could favor rural areas over cities](#)
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INDUSTRY UPDATES

USDA Accepting Mozzarella Bids

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting bids for [mozzarella cheese](#) for use in the National School Lunch Program and other federal food assistance programs. Bids are due Tuesday, September 21 by 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions? Please contact [USDA staff](#).

Submit Comments by September 30 for National Organic Standards Board Virtual Meeting

Members of the public who are interested in submitting written comments or speaking at the [virtual meeting](#) of the National Organic Standards Board in October must register by 11:59 p.m. on September 30. The meeting will be held over five virtual sessions from October 13-21. For more information or to register, please visit the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's website](#).



WCMA, CDR, DFW Host Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting

During its meeting last Thursday, the Dairy Food Safety Alliance discussed the new federal Food Safety Blueprint, state regulatory updates, the latest in dairy food safety research, and more. WCMA thanks our presenters and participants for an effective meeting.

The **Dairy Food Safety Alliance** is led by WCMA, the Center for Dairy Research (CDR), and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW). Participation is open to all dairy manufacturers, processors, and suppliers - no membership required.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sign Up to Attend WDNR, UW-Extension & CALS Nitrate Webinar This Thursday

WCMA members are invited to join in the **final online webinar session** of a series focused on nitrates in groundwater, hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Division of Extension (UW-Extension) and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (UW-CALS). The webinar, set for Thursday, September 16, will offer a preliminary assessment of economic impacts on Wisconsin farms reducing nitrogen losses.



DBIA

Dairy Business Innovation Alliance

Register Today for Free DBIA Business Webinars

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research (CDR) and WCMA, is hosting a [series of free webinars](#) titled "Let's Keep Your Business Going," designed to help dairy processors strengthen their businesses.

Here's a complete listing of upcoming webinars in the series:

- Setting Up/Improving Manufacturing Processes: September 28, 1:30 p.m. (CT)
- Fine Tuning Your Marketing Strategy to Fit Consumer's Buying Preferences: October 12, 1:30 p.m. (CT)
- Social Media Marketing: October 26, 1:30 pm. (CT)
- Developing E-Commerce Functionality for Your Small Business: November 9, 1:30 p.m. (CT)
- Developing an Export Program: November 23, 1:30 p.m. (CT)

To register or request a recording of a prior webinar, visit the [DBIA website](#). These webinars are open to all dairy processors, manufacturers, farmers, and suppliers.

IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin

- *Fox News*: [Wisconsin fans get cheesy before college football kickoff](#)
- *TMJ-4*: ['It's in my blood': How the smaller dairy businesses in Wisconsin compete](#) (Featuring WCMA member Union Star Cheese)
- *Tri-County News*: [Pine River earns ribbons at State Fair](#) (Featuring WCMA member Pine River Pre-Pack, Inc.)

National/International

- *The Daily Yonder*: [Nearly 80 percent of rural farming-dependent counties lost population in last decade](#)
- *Feedstuffs*: [FBI warns ag sector of cyber-criminal attacks](#)
- *WSKG*: [Gillibrand conducts hearings this week on dairy pricing](#)
- *Olean Times Herald*: [Cattaraugus County lawmakers pledge \\$5.8M for cheese plant infrastructure](#) (Featuring WCMA member Great Lakes Cheese Company)
- *Boston Globe*: [Thinking inside the box, Cabot launches a mac & cheese line](#) (Featuring WCMA member Cabot Creamery)



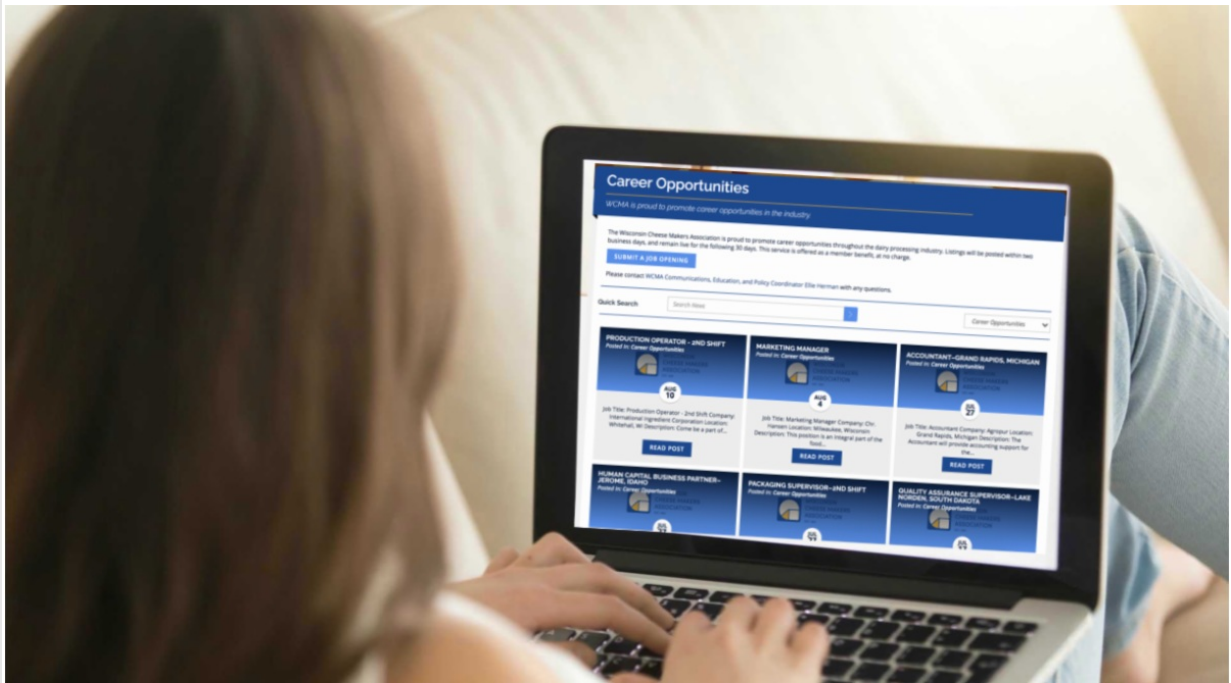
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Training Spotlight: SQF Quality Systems for Manufacturing

WCMA partner Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) is accepting registrations for its [SQF Quality Systems for Manufacturing](#) course, to be held Wednesday, September 29 in Green Bay, Wisconsin. This course provides foundational knowledge of quality management principles, demonstrates the cost benefits of implementing a quality management system, and describes specific measures for how to implement the SQF Quality Code using quality tools. A full list of course requirements and registration information is available on [DFW's website](#).

Additional Industry Training Opportunities

WCMA is proud to share opportunities for industry-specific training and enrichment. Here's a look at some upcoming trainings hosted by our partners:

- September 15: [Food Fraud Workshop Online](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- **SOLD OUT** September 16-17: [Pasteurization Short Course](#) | UW-River Falls
- September 22: [Unlocking Dairy Ingredients Webinar](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- **One seat remaining!** September 27-28: [HACCP for Processors Short Course](#) | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- September 28: [Buttermaking Fundamentals Online - On Demand](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- September 27-October 1: [Cheesemaker's Short Course](#) | UW-River Falls
- September 29: [SQF Quality Systems for Manufacturing](#) | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- September 30: [SQF Internal Auditor Training](#) | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- October 12: [Cheesemaking 101: What a Licensed Cheesemaker Should Know - On-Demand](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- October 12: [Food Safety Workshop \(HACCP\) Online - On Demand](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- October 19: [Process Cheese Course - On Demand](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- October 20: [Dairy Ingredients Fundamentals](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- October 27-29: [Master Short Course Series: Understanding and Controlling Defects in Cheese](#) | Center for Dairy Research



Share Career Opportunities at No Cost on WCMA Jobs Board

WCMA's [online jobs board](#) currently features industry career opportunities from member companies Arena Cheese, Baker Cheese, and Agropur. All WCMA members are invited to [post openings](#). It's free and easy!

[ADD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

MEMBERSHIP

WCMA Welcomes New Supplier Members

WCMA warmly welcomes two new supplier members this week: [AVID Risk Solutions](#) and [Bepex International](#). Primary contacts for both companies can be found in WCMA's [online member directory](#).

For 130 years, WCMA has served as the voice of cheese and dairy manufacturers, processors, marketers, and suppliers to the industry. Today, WCMA represents 110 dairy processing companies and cooperatives operating across the United States and around the world, and more than 575 supplier companies. We appreciate your engagement and support.

WCMA Social Media Campaign Spotlights Dairy Processing Industry Leaders

WCMA invites you to get to know the 21 industry leaders who serve on our Board of

Directors and guide our work each day. We'll profile the Board on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and in this newsletter on a weekly basis. This week, we're featuring Doug Wilke of Valley Queen Cheese!

Doug Wilke Valley Queen Cheese

WCMA Board First Vice President

Favorite Cheese

Aged Cheddar

Proudest Achievement

Leading the Valley Queen team and growing the company over the past five years

Why I Support WCMA

"WCMA provides the resources and team-oriented support we need to respond to changes in the dairy industry while positioning Valley Queen for future success."



WISCONSIN
CHEESE MAKERS
ASSOCIATION
EST. 1891



To share ideas regarding WCMA social media campaigns or other communications, please contact [WCMA Communications Director Grace Atherton](#).

Sign Up Colleagues for WCMA E-Newsletters

Thanks for subscribing to WCMA's weekly e-newsletter! This benefit is available to all WCMA member employees. Let us know if we should [add your colleagues](#) to our mailing list, or if you'd like to share feedback on our communications.

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