



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

September 1, 2026

news@wischeesemakers.org



FEATURED: WCMA NOTES

Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's monthly column, WCMA Notes, sharing insights and ideas for the dairy processing industry.

Cheese Prominent in Canadian Trade Dispute



On August 25, Canada announced that as of September 8, U.S. cheese entering Canada will face a 25 percent tariff, while milk products, cream, and whey products will see a 50 percent tariff. Canada's decision comes at a time of rising American exports of dairy - in fact, U.S. cheese exports to Canada have tripled since 2018. A fair outcome that allows Canadian consumers more access to great U.S. cheeses is a must in these negotiations. Read more in the latest [WCMA Notes column](#) by WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer.

NEWS

Federal Court Upholds Oregon EPR Law



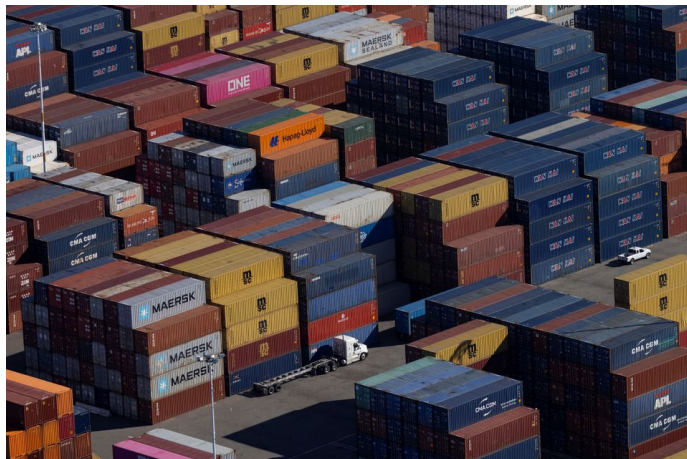
For the first time, a federal judge [ruled late Thursday](#) that a state law creating Oregon's extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging program is constitutional, despite arguments made by a coalition of plaintiffs led by the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW). The plaintiffs alleged that requiring businesses' participation in the Circular Action Alliance (CAA) violated the U.S. Constitution. The decision may have broader effects, as CAA is the state-approved producer responsibility organization for [six of the seven states](#) that have enacted packaging EPR laws. NAW said it is evaluating an appeal in Oregon, while moving forward with similar litigation in California and Colorado. [READ MORE...](#)

Food Security & Wisconsin Products Grants Now Open



A new, \$5 million round of [Food Security & Wisconsin Products Grants](#) is open now, following [successful advocacy](#) by WCMA and members last year to increase program funds. The reimbursement grants are designed to help Wisconsin food banks and pantries buy and distribute local products in their communities. Though applications are only open to nonprofit food assistance organizations in the state, applicants must demonstrate their connections with Wisconsin food producers and processors. [READ MORE...](#)

Apply by September 8 for USDA Singapore Trade Mission



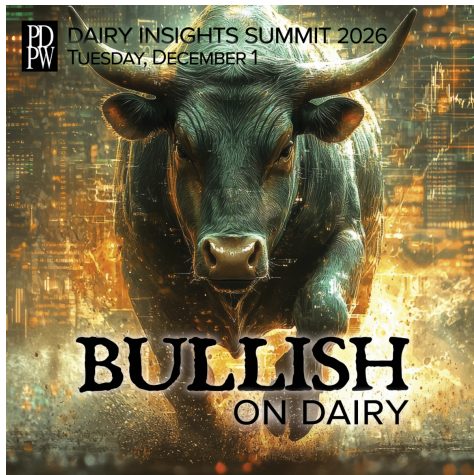
WCMA members interested in exporting their products can apply now for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) [upcoming trade mission to Singapore](#), set for December 7-9. This trade mission is an opportunity to connect directly with buyers overseas. In 2025, U.S. dairy exports to Singapore topped \$95 million, an increase of 32 percent over 2024. The December trade mission will allow producers to cultivate long-term relationships in this rapidly developing market. Applications must be submitted by September 8 at 10:59 PM (CT). [READ MORE...](#)

Wisconsin Pasteurizer Operator Training Set for September 30



Registration is open now for a [Pasteurizer Operator Certification Training and Exam](#) on September 30 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) and the Wisconsin Association for Food Protection, the training and exam helps dairy plants meet the state requirement to have at least one Certified Pasteurizer Operator on-site anytime the pasteurizer is in production. Questions may be directed to [WDATCP staff](#). [READ MORE...](#)

Register for Professional Dairy Producers Summit



Engage with dairy producers and experts in the fields of dairy nutrition, dairy-ingredient procurement, dairy genetics, brand marketing and more at the upcoming [Dairy Insights Summit](#), hosted by Professional Dairy Producers on December 1 in Madison, Wisconsin. The [summit](#), sponsored in part by WCMA, will explore the topics of consumer trends, securing strategic partnerships and capitalizing on dairy's protein advantage. WCMA members can receive an exclusive 50 percent discount on registration by using code WISCHEESE at checkout. [READ MORE...](#)

USDA Updates Master Invitation for Domestic Commodity Bids



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued an [updated Master Invitation for Bids for Domestic Commodity Procurement](#), effective August 28. A list of [open USDA solicitations](#) and information on how to become an [approved vendor](#) is available [online](#). Questions about the updated invitation may be directed to [USDA staff](#). [READ MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Dairy Foods: [Carr Valley Cheese celebrates 40th anniversary of Sid Cook ownership](#)
- VolumeOne: [Thorp's Marieke Gouda hits the streaming stage with America's Test Kitchen](#)

National & Global

- Politico: [Why Trump's trade war with Canada is poised to drag past the midterms](#)
- eDairyNews: [Dispute over cheese names causes stumbling block in U.S.-Mexico trade negotiations](#)
- CBS News: [SNAP restrictions cut soda purchases but raise stigma concerns, study finds](#)

- The Lawrence Times: [The Kansas dairy industry is growing, and it's on the shoulders of immigrant workers](#)
- Yahoo! Finance: [U.S. dairy: Foremost Farms to close cheese plant](#)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

REMINDER: Registration Deadline Quickly Approaching for WCMA Annual Member Meeting

As summer comes to a close, and with just **one week remaining until the registration deadline**, now's the time to make plans to reconnect with your friends, colleagues, and peers in dairy processing at WCMA's [Annual Member Meeting and Awards Ceremony](#) on Wednesday, September 23 at the Marriott South in Madison, Wisconsin.



Jenny Drake
Grande Cheese Company



Brianne Maier
Land O'Lakes



Derek Miller
Lifeway Foods



Dan O'Leary
V&V Supremo Foods

In a thought-provoking keynote panel, attendees will hear from a diverse group of industry executives, discussing their businesses' recent investments in value-added opportunities. This keynote panel features:

- Jenny Drake, VP of Operations, Grande Cheese Company
- Brianne Maier, VP of Dairy Foods R&D, Land O'Lakes
- Derek Miller, VP of Communication, Lifeway Foods
- Dan O'Leary, CEO, V&V Supremo Food Products

Then, join fellow members in celebrating the outstanding business achievements of [WCMA's 2026 Member Impact Award](#) winners: [Kerry](#), [Sigma Foods - Darlington Plant](#), [Nelson-Jameson Inc.](#), and [Lifeway Foods](#).



RSVP TODAY

Thanks go to meeting sponsors [Burnett Dairy Cooperative](#), [Compeer Financial](#), and [Grande Cheese Company](#) for their generous support. [Additional sponsorships](#) are available through September 8 and include complimentary registration and recognition before and during the meeting.

Upcoming WCMA Events

September 17	September 23	October 14	October 20	October 21-22
--------------	--------------	------------	------------	---------------

[Front-Line Leadership Part A](#) (In-Person)

[Annual Member Meeting and Awards Ceremony](#) (In-Person)

[Front-Line Leadership Part B](#) (In-Person)

[Health & Safety Group Meeting](#) (Hybrid)

["Good Data, Better Decisions" Sustainability Workshop](#) (In-Person)

EDUCATION

Learn Tips for Stronger Sustainability Data at WCMA Workshop



Join us for ["Good Data, Better Decisions: Building a Stronger Sustainability Data Strategy"](#), WCMA's third annual in-person sustainability workshop on October 21 to 22 in Madison, WI.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Led by industry experts from Harbor Environmental, a Terracon company, and dairy processing industry leaders, participants of this two-day program will explore a variety of topics, including which data they should collect and why, the importance of data integrity, why sustainability data matters, and how to turn data requests into strategic conversations. After the first day of the workshop wraps up on Wednesday, October 21, attendees are invited to a WCMA-hosted dinner.

Don't miss this chance to stay up-to-date on recommended sustainability practices and connect with peers and colleagues. [Register today!](#)



news@wischeesemakers.org
(608) 286-1001



All content contained in this newsletter is protected by U.S. copyright law and may not be forwarded, reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published, or broadcast without the prior written permission of Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association.



Try email marketing for free today!