



COVID-19 UPDATES

Vaccination Order Details for Federal Contractors Coming This Week

Federal contractors can expect complete details on [new COVID-19 vaccination requirements](#) for their employees by this Friday, September 24. The Biden administration's [Safer Federal Workforce Task Force](#) is expected to release definitions, explanations of vaccination protocols and deadlines, as well as a list of possible exceptions and exemptions to the orders.

WCMA will keep members informed of relevant developments for members with federal contracts via this e-newsletter and alerts.



Watch WCMA Webinar to Prepare for OSHA COVID-19 Inspections

WCMA is pleased to share a [recorded version of a popular webinar](#) held last week, focused on updated COVID-19 guidance for employers from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and what to expect if you are inspected by OSHA.

The webinar also references the following resources:

- [OSHA Revised National Emphasis Program for Coronavirus](#)

- [OSHA Updated Guidance to Employers on COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies](#)
- [CDC Antigen Testing Guidance and Resources](#)
- [CDC Workplace Vaccination Toolkit](#)
- [WisCon COVID-19 Consultative Services](#) (free and confidential!)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 Resources](#)

Have questions, concerns, or needs? Please [contact WCMA staff](#) anytime.

Apply Beginning Sept. 23 for USDA Pandemic Response and Safety Grants

Prepare now to apply for [Pandemic Safety and Response Grants](#) through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) beginning Thursday, September 23. The program aims to help food processors, manufacturers, distributors, and others in the food supply chain recover costs incurred by responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including for measures to protect workers. The minimum funding request amount is \$1,500. The maximum funding request amount is \$20,000. No cost sharing or matching funds are required.

Grants will cover activities associated with:

- Workplace Safety: Implementing workplace safety measures to protect against COVID-19
- Market Pivots: Implementing market pivots to protect against COVID-19
- Retrofitting Facilities: Retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19
- Transportation: Providing additional transportation options to maintain social distancing and worker and consumer safety to protect against COVID-19
- Worker Housing: Providing worker housing that protects against COVID-19
- Medical: Providing health services to protect workers against COVID-19

Visit USDA's [Pandemic Response and Safety portal](#) today to view eligibility requirements.

FDA Panel Recommends COVID-19 Booster Shots for Older Adults, At-Risk Individuals

On Friday, a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) committee [recommended a booster dose](#) for recipients of the Pfizer vaccine who are 65 or older and people who are at high risk of severe COVID-19. Before booster doses can begin, approval must be granted by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. That committee is expected to meet this week.

Coronavirus Headline News

Wisconsin

- [WMTV-TV: Wis. could pay over \\$14 million in COVID-19 vaccine incentives](#)
- [WISC-TV: Wisconsin hits 700,000 total COVID cases as 7-day average increases again](#)

National/International

- [CNBC: COVID is officially America's deadliest pandemic as U.S. fatalities surpass 1918 flu estimates](#)
- [The Daily Yonder: Rural COVID death rate twice as high as urban one](#)
- [WSAW-TV: Pfizer says COVID-19 vaccine works in children ages 5 to 11](#)
- [CNN: Two-dose version of Johnson & Johnson shot 94 percent effective against COVID-19, study finds](#)
- [CBS News: A third of U.S. small businesses have reinstated COVID-19](#)

ADVOCACY



Dr. Robert Wills

President, Cedar Grove Cheese Inc. and Clock Shadow Creamery LLC

WCMA Member Testifies on Milk Pricing Before Senate Committee

Dr. Bob Wills, president of WCMA member companies Cedar Grove Cheese and Clock Shadow Creamery, [spoke to members](#) of the U.S. Senate last week about the impacts of the current milk pricing system and potential opportunities for improvement. WCMA applauds our members' steadfast dedication to sharing their ideas and perspectives with their lawmakers.

For more information, see related news coverage of the hearing:

- *WISN-TV*: [Wisconsin cheesemaker testifies before Congress for pricing system changes](#)
- *Minnesota Reformer*: [Dairy farmer: Fix 'broken' milk pricing system](#)
- *Progressive Dairy*: [Senate subcommittee hearing focuses on FMMOs, reforms](#)

WCMA Partners with State Lawmakers on Ag Export Funding

WCMA thanks Wisconsin State Representative Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), State Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), pictured here, and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection leadership, including Deputy Secretary Angela James, for their collaboration and continued commitment to increasing state support for a [new agricultural exports initiative](#).

In a meeting this week at the State Capitol, the group discussed ways to advance a plan to provide \$5 million over the next five years for

this effort, which has already secured \$1 million in start-up funding via the newly-approved state budget. Half of all funds allocated will support efforts to boost dairy exports from Wisconsin.



WCMA will continue to advocate for this policy priority, and to support the coming launch of the Wisconsin Agricultural Exports Initiative.

INDUSTRY UPDATES



WCMA Board Tours Center for Dairy Research Building Project

On Thursday, WCMA's Board of Directors participated in a tour of the [Center for Dairy Research \(CDR\) building project](#) on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Phase one of the project—constructing the three-story Center for Dairy Research (CDR) addition—is nearing the “substantial completion” stage, where

the space can be occupied and used for its intended function. The addition will be ready for CDR occupancy later this year, after which the second phase of the project will begin.



The complete remodel of the Babcock Hall dairy plant, which includes the addition of a new raw room on the south end and new flooring and equipment, and the remodeled office space for CDR are scheduled to be complete in September 2022.

The \$72.6 million project, made possible by support from WCMA members, UW-Madison, and the State of Wisconsin, features new equipment, training space, and research tools that will help CDR support innovation and global competitiveness in the dairy industry.

Center for Dairy Research Building Tour - 2021



USDA Soliciting Process Cheese Bids

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting bids for [process cheese](#) for use in the National School Lunch Program and other federal food assistance programs. Bids are due Tuesday, September 28 by 1:00 p.m. (CT). Please contact [USDA staff](#) with any questions or concerns.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DBIA

Dairy Business Innovation Alliance

Sign Up 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.



Visit WCMA at World Dairy Expo Next Week

Make plans today to join WCMA at [World Dairy Expo](#) in Madison, Wisconsin next week. Visit booth EH4423 to learn more about the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance, a collaborative effort between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research to support innovation and success in the dairy industry in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and South Dakota. World Dairy Expo 2021 runs from September 28-October 2.

Wisconsin

- *The Daily Gazette*: [BelGioioso to acquire Polly-O; no indication whether Glenville plant will expand](#) (Featuring WCMA member BelGioioso Cheese)
- *BizTimes*: [On the job with: Sartori Cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA member Sartori Company)

National/International

- *Brownfield Ag News*: [Iowa cooperative victim of ransomware attack](#)
- *Olean Times Herald*: [Great Lakes Cheese: Franklinville is site of \\$505 million plant](#) (Featuring WCMA member Great Lakes Cheese)

Baker Cheese Celebrates National String Cheese Day



Monday, September 20 was National String Cheese Day, and in celebration, WCMA board member Brian Baker [showed reporters](#) how WCMA member company Baker Cheese uses local milk and all-natural ingredients to produce their award-winning string cheese.

Bravo to the Baker family for representing the dairy processing community in such a positive way!

EDUCATION



WCMA Webinar

Cybersecurity Threats & Strategies to Safeguard Your Business

WCMA Launches Monthly Webinar Series; Offers Cybersecurity Focus in October

Learn advanced strategies to grow your dairy processing business, protect your assets, and strengthen your workforce via Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association's [new monthly webinar series](#). Offered exclusively to WCMA members at no cost, these concise, one-hour webinars offer both expert insight and a chance to connect with your industry colleagues on a regular basis.

In October, WCMA kicks off this new offering with a look at online threats to your business and profitability, and practical strategies to increase your cybersecurity.

[Join WCMA](#) on Tuesday, October 12 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (CT) for presentations from:

- Michael Hemberger, Wisconsin Department of Justice Intelligence Analyst
- Emily Selck, M3 Insurance Director of Cyber Liability
- Jen Pino-Gallagher, M3 Insurance Director of Food and Agribusiness Practice Group



WCMA Advanced Leadership Participants Learn to Initiate Positive Change

WCMA thanks the enthusiastic participants of our fall [Advanced Leadership Series](#) who began their training last week. In this first session, the group discussed ways they can initiate change and drive positive results in their companies.

Kudos also go to Cybertrol Engineering, Dairy Connection, Emmi Roth USA, Grande Cheese Company, Henning Cheese, Meister Cheese Company, Organic Valley, Sartori Company, Valley Queen Cheese, Wapsie Valley Creamery, and Wisconsin Dairy State Cheese for investing in employee education and growth.

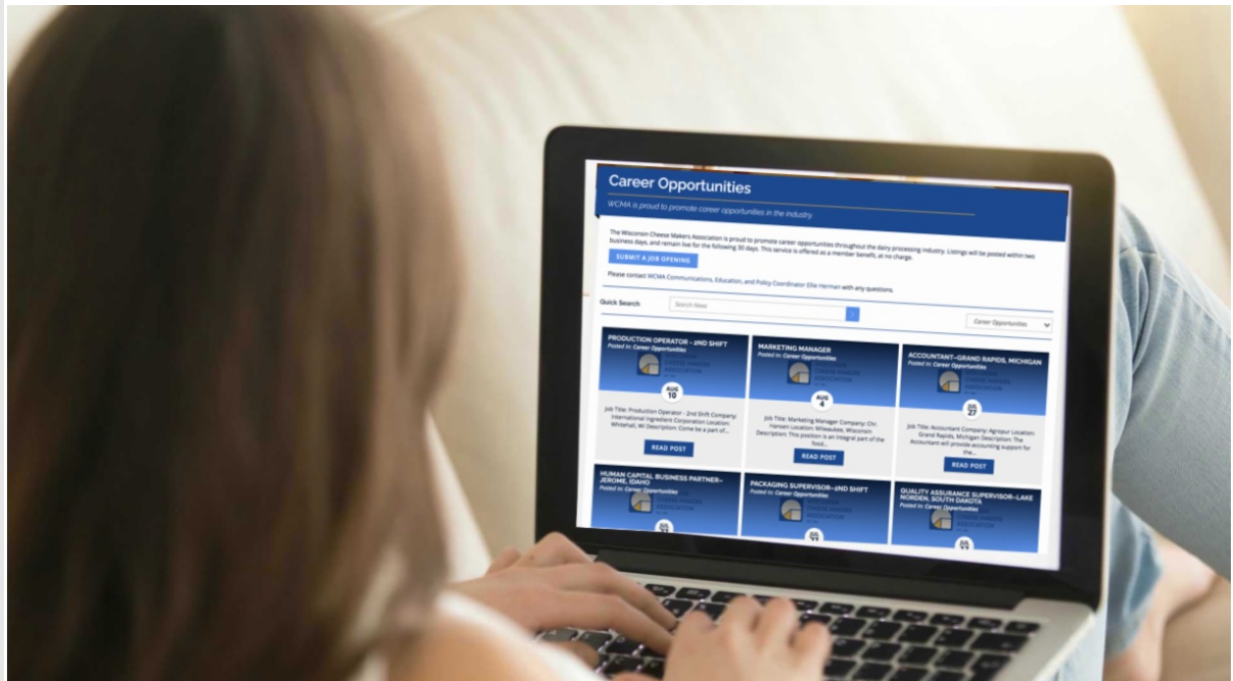
Additional Industry Training Opportunities

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 22: [Unlocking Dairy Ingredients Webinar](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- **REGISTRATION CLOSED** 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 19-21: [Food Defense & FSPCA Intentional Adulteration Short Course](#) | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin
- 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
- November 15-18: [Advanced Cheese Technology](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- November 16: [Cheesemaking 101: What a Licensed Cheesemaker Should Know](#) | Center for Dairy Research
- January 20, 2022: [Certificate in Dairy Processing - Online](#) | Center for Dairy Research

WORKFORCE



View, Share Career Opportunities on WCMA Jobs Board

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

[ADD CAREER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

WCMA SIGNATURE EVENTS

CHEESE EXPO

Global Technology for Dairy Processors

April 12-14, 2022 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin
CheeseExpo.org

Booth Sales Begin Today for New Exhibitors

New booth sales begin today at CheeseExpo.org for industry supplier partners interested in exhibiting at CheeseExpo 2022. With over 200 exhibitors already confirmed, remaining space on the 200,000-square-foot trade show floor is limited. Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your company to thousands of cheese industry leaders at this exceptional event, hosted by the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) and the Center for Dairy Research (CDR).

Exhibitors who previously secured booth space for the postponed CheeseExpo 2020 and continued their commitments were given priority in securing exhibit space for 2022. All remaining industry suppliers who are WCMA members have been placed in a "Priority Point" list in ranked order based on over ten years of participation in Association events. Each company has been assigned a time slot and will be provided with login information to purchase their booth space. Companies may select a space anytime after their assigned time slot, but only 65 booths remain available, so be prepared to reserve your space promptly.

Questions? Please contact [WCMA Events Manager Caitlin Peirick](#).

PLAN YOUR EXHIBIT

MEMBERSHIP

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 Tim Omer of Emmi Roth USA.



Tim Omer Emmi Roth

WCMA Board Member

Favorite Cheese
Roth Grand Cru

Proudest Achievement
Winning Best of Class at the 2016 World Championship Cheese Contest, and growing my cheese business by more than 10% annually (CAGR) average my entire career.

Why I Support WCMA
"I trust WCMA to be a reliable source of news, advocacy and education. As a board member, I like contributing to our industry on a broader level, and the networking is invaluable."



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.

WisCheeseMakers.org

