



September 8, 2026
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NEWS

Canada Imposes Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Dairy Products



Canada's retaliatory tariffs on approximately \$20 billion in U.S. goods [took effect](#) today, September 8, including significant new duties on American dairy products. Under Canada's new tariff schedule, U.S. cheese will face a 25 percent tariff, while milk, cream, and whey products will be subject to tariffs of 50 percent.

The action escalates an ongoing trade dispute between the United States and Canada, as the Trump Administration continues to press Canada over concerns regarding its implementation of dairy market access commitments under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The new Canadian tariffs were first announced in August, following the breakdown of U.S.-Canada trade talks and the Trump Administration's imposition of a broad array of 50 percent tariffs on Canadian goods.

For more information, contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Apply by September 30 for \$1.7 Million in DBIA Grants



Midwest dairy businesses can [apply now for the next round of grants](#) through the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research (CDR).

Two grant programs are available to small- to mid-sized dairy farmers and processors in DBIA's 11-state service region. The [Dairy Business Builder](#) program supports those seeking to diversify on-farm activities, develop value-added products, enhance dairy by-products, or expand export programs. The [Dairy Industry Impact](#)

Why apply for a DBIA grant? [Click the "Play" button](#) to hear from awardee Cinnamon Ridge Farms about how DBIA funding helped boost their business.

program funds projects with a potential impact on the broader industry.

Applicants may apply to both grant programs. All applications are due by 5:00 p.m. (CT) on September 30. Questions may be directed to [DBIA staff](#).

USDA Announces Data Modernization Plan



Last week, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [Data Modernization Plan](#).

The plan aims to implement artificial intelligence and modernized technology to simplify data reporting, including for the National Agricultural Statistics Service which publishes reports including those on dairy product volume. USDA will begin implementing actions under the plan immediately. [READ MORE...](#)

USDA Seeks Butter Products



The USDA has [issued a solicitation](#) to purchase approximately 123,000 pounds of salted butter. All bids for all products are due September 11 by 1:00 p.m. (CT).

A list of [open USDA solicitations](#) and information on how to become an [approved vendor](#) is available online.

FEATURED: SIGNATURE EVENTS

Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's signature events, offering exceptional opportunities for member connection and growth.

WCMA Launches New Marketing Opportunities at CheeseCon, U.S. Championship Cheese Contest



Novel and creative marketing strategies are a must to make lasting impressions on potential customers. Cut through the noise and connect with new audiences by sponsoring [CheeseCon](#) and the [U.S. Championship Cheese Contest](#) (USCCC).

The offerings, available now at [WisCheeseMakers.org/Marketing](https://www.wis cheesemakers.org/Marketing), connect businesses with thousands of professionals and decision-makers in the dairy processing industry. More sponsorship information can be found below.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Headlines

Wisconsin

- WPR: [‘Natural’ American cheese? Wisconsin company says it’s made a low-ingredient alternative](#)
- WSAW-TV: [Local farm delivers milk pouches across central Wisconsin](#)

National & Global

- CBS News: [Congress passes funding bill to avoid October shutdown, pushing fight past midterms](#)
- WCAU-TV: [Chobani plans \\$1.2 billion investment in Pennsylvania, creating 900 jobs](#)
- American Ag Network: [Castaneda to retire from NMPF in December 2026, will continue supporting U.S. dairy trade efforts](#)

Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese Celebrates Burrata Launch, Grand Opening

Congratulations to WCMA member Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese on the launch of their new Burrata and the grand opening of their expanded production facility last Thursday! Senator Tammy Baldwin and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski joined WCMA staff and industry partners for a celebration.

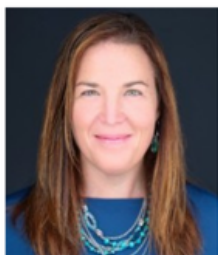


This new phase for the business was made possible in part by financial support from the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance](#) and Wisconsin's [Dairy Processor Grant](#) program - both championed by WCMA, and both open for applications now.

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Last Day to Register for Annual Member Meeting

If you haven't yet [registered for WCMA's Annual Member Meeting and Awards Ceremony](#) on September 23, you're in luck: [RSVP now](#) to enjoy valuable networking, a thought-provoking keynote panel, and a celebration of remarkable business achievements at the Marriott South in Madison, Wisconsin. The deadline to register is September 16 at noon.



Jenny Drake
Grande Cheese Company



Brianne Maier
Land O'Lakes



Derek Miller
Lifeway Foods



Dan O'Leary
V&V Supremo Foods

In "Value-Added Ventures: How Dairy Leaders Are Investing in Dairy's Strengths," a panel of industry executives will discuss the strategies behind their businesses' recent investments in higher-margin processing 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 Communications, [Lifeway Foods](#)
- Dan O'Leary, CEO, [V&V Supremo Food Products](#)

REGISTER TODAY

Afterwards, 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](#).



Thanks go to meeting sponsors [BluePrint Automation BPA](#), [Burnett Dairy Cooperative](#), [Compeer Financial](#), [Delta 3 Engineering, Inc.](#), [Grande Cheese Company](#), [M3 Insurance](#), and [Reiser](#) for their generous support. **September 16 is the final day to sponsor.** [Sponsorships](#) of this meeting include complimentary registration and recognition.

Attend WCMA Health & Safety Group Meeting at Masters Gallery Foods October 20



[Sign up for WCMA's Health & Safety Group meeting](#) on Tuesday, October 20, for a day of peer networking, the latest regulatory updates, and lessons on how to prepare for the unexpected. Held online and in-person at Masters Gallery Foods' facility in Oostburg, Wisconsin, attendees will hear from Masters Gallery - WCMA's 2025 Employer of the Year Award winner - about how it has created and sustained its exceptional safety culture.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to connect directly with representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), who will cover OSHA's Top Ten Most Frequent Citations, as well as regulatory updates from the agency.

This [meeting](#) will also feature an emergency preparedness panel, with WCMA dairy processor members discussing emergencies they've experienced firsthand, how their teams responded, and the changes they made to emergency plans and procedures afterwards.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT



Thanks go to meeting sponsor [Nelson-Jameson, Inc.](#) Act now to [sponsor this meeting](#)! Connect with safety personnel and show your company's support for dairy processors' efforts to improve their health and safety policies.

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)



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