



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

April 7, 2026

news@wischeesemakers.org



NEWS

Governor Evers Signs PFAS Liability and Remediation Bill



WCMA joined Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers Monday as he signed the [PFAS liability and remediation legislation](#) into law. Assembly Bills [130](#) & [131](#) create new programs and grant funding to help municipalities, airports, and certain industrial property owners address PFAS contamination, while modernizing the state's environmental remediation rules.

Thanks to WCMA's advocacy, commonsense exemptions protect dairy farmers, processors, and third-party vendors who handle wastewater or byproducts under state permits from being unfairly held liable for PFAS they didn't cause. This is a major win for Wisconsin's dairy community and is a sound and responsible environmental policy. [READ MORE...](#)

WCMA Cheers ARIP Awards to Members



WCMA applauds the award of \$49.9 million through the [Agricultural Roads Improvement Program](#) (ARIP), supporting 29 critical infrastructure projects across Wisconsin. Twenty of these projects directly benefit the state's dairy industry, highlighting the importance of safe, reliable roads in moving dairy products. WCMA strongly advocated for continued funding of this grant program which plays an essential role in maintaining the state's agricultural strength.

WCMA members benefiting from these grants include [BelGioioso Cheese](#), [Cedar Grove Cheese](#), [Eau Galle Cheese](#), [Foremost Farms USA](#), [Nasonville Dairy](#), [Prairie Farms Dairy](#), [Renard's Cheese](#), [Saputo Cheese](#), and [V&V Supremo Foods](#). [READ MORE...](#)

Tariff Refund Portal Promises Some Refunds in April



[U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)

[announced](#) last week it is moving forward with a new system to refund roughly \$166 billion in tariffs that the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled were illegally collected under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) – a decision that could benefit 330,000 importers across industries, including dairy processors that paid duties on imported equipment, ingredients, or packaging.

The [refund portal](#) is now reportedly 60–85 percent complete, with [more than 26,000 registrants](#) already signed up. The first phase of refund claims is expected to be processed in mid-April, though payments could take up to 45 days or more once submitted.

Register Now for WCMA Federal Advocacy Fly-in



[Register now for WCMA's Federal Advocacy Fly-In](#)

on May 12-13 and engage directly with the policymakers and regulators shaping dairy policy nationwide. Over [two structured days](#) in Washington, D.C., you'll engage in targeted meetings, briefings, and networking designed specifically for dairy processing leaders. No prior advocacy experience is required, WCMA will provide everything you need to have productive, confident conversations. **The WCMA room block expires April 13**, so register today and reserve your spot!

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin State Farmer: [Wisconsin dairy farmers take to buses and billboards in 'Born to Dairy' campaign](#)
- WPR: [Butterfat in milk is at historic levels. For some Wisconsin cheesemakers, that's a problem.](#) (Featuring WCMA members Nasonville Dairy and Grassland Dairy)

National & Global

- Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: [Midwest Dairy report shows demand growth](#)
- KLTV: [Hiland Dairy opens expanded Tyler facility](#)
- Reuters: [American Heart Association urges people to favor plant-based proteins, replace full fat dairy.](#)

- CNN: [Raw dairy farm recalls some cheese products as FDA investigates E. coli outbreak](#)
- People: [Cream cheese recalled from popular chain over potential 'life-threatening' allergen](#)
- Dairy Business: [Land O'Lakes donates 40,000 pounds of macaroni & cheese to Second Harvest Heartland in Minnesota](#) (Featuring WCMA member Land O'Lakes)
- NPR: [How high fuel prices are affecting dairy farmers in a key Wisconsin House district](#)
- Barron's: [Trump shifts tariffs on steel, other imported metals](#)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

CheeseExpo 2026 Is Almost Here; New Attendance Record!



CHEESE EXPO

April 14-16, 2026 | Baird Center | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On-Site Registration Hours: Tuesday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 16, 7:00 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

The countdown is on for [CheeseExpo 2026](#), returning to Milwaukee next week, bringing together thousands of dairy processing professionals in our global industry.

Pre-registration is complete, shattering previous attendance records with more than 4,500 attendees to date, and hundreds more expected to register onsite. 2026 CheeseExpo promises unmatched high energy and incredible networking and education. If you haven't registered yet, sign up onsite at CheeseExpo and join the largest dairy exposition in North America!



From [insightful seminars](#) to the [largest exhibit floor](#) in CheeseExpo history, this year's event is packed with opportunities to learn, connect, and grow your business.

Start mapping out your schedule now – browse the [online directory](#) and download the [free CheeseExpo mobile app](#), sponsored by WCMA member [Membrane Process & Controls](#), to access exhibitor listings, a floor map, and real-time updates before you arrive.

[APP STORE](#)

[GOOGLE PLAY](#)

April 14-16	May 12-13	May 27	June 3
CheeseExpo 2026	WCMA Federal Advocacy Fly-In	Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting (Hybrid)	WCMA Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (In-Person, WCMA)

FEATURED: EMPLOYEE HEALTH & SAFETY

Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's employee health and safety resources for dairy manufacturers and processors.

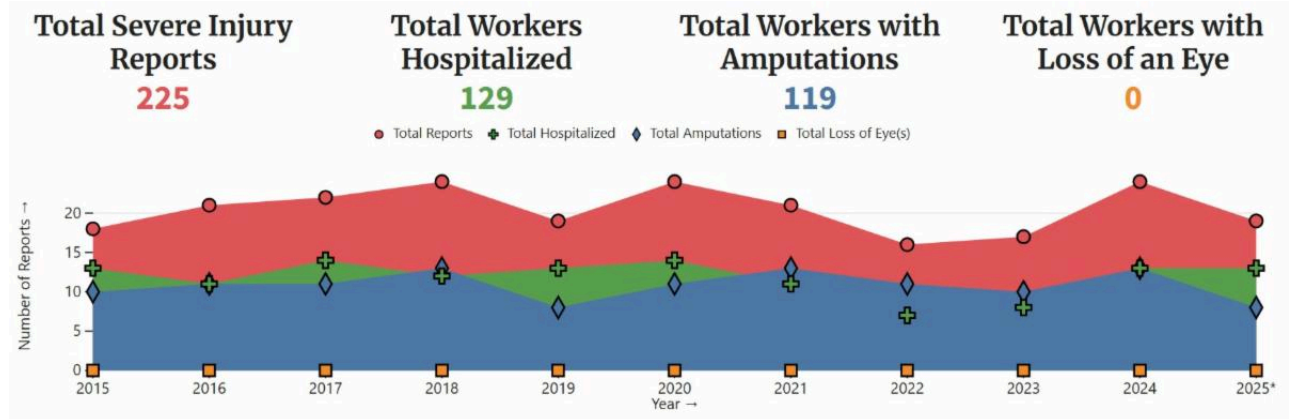
Trump Admin Launches “OSHA Cares”



Last week, the Trump Administration launched a new workplace safety initiative at the Occupational Safety & Health Administration called [OSHA Cares](#), signaling a shift by the Department of Labor toward a more collaborative, prevention-focused approach to compliance.

The program is designed to make OSHA more accessible to employers – particularly small and mid-sized operations – by expanding compliance assistance, education, and real-time guidance during inspections. Rather than emphasizing enforcement alone, OSHA Cares, including the new [Safety Champions](#) campaign, encourages employers to proactively identify and correct hazards before they result in violations or injuries. The initiative also increases access to compliance assistance specialists and standardizes how inspectors provide on-site guidance.

Severe Injury Reports Dip in 2025 for Dairy Processors



Reports of severe injuries on-the-job in dairy processing facilities dipped in 2025 by 21 percent, to a total of 19 incidents nationwide. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration's [Severe Injury Dashboard](#) provides data dating back ten years, searchable by NAICS codes and by state.

Health & Safety Resources Available on WisCheeseMakers.org



Check out a wealth of resources for your employee health and safety programs, learn about upcoming industry safety trainings, and get engaged in WCMA's active Health & Safety Group now at [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org).

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

EDUCATION

Register Now for WCMA Basic Safety Training



This summer, prioritize how to build a stronger safety culture at your facility. Register today for WCMA's June 3 [Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors](#)! This annual, in-person course offers valuable insights and practical tools for both new and seasoned employees. Participants also receive a packet of training materials and a certificate of completion from Chippewa Valley Technical College and WCMA, providing a record of high-quality safety instruction.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



For more educational opportunities from WCMA and our partners, visit:

WisCheeseMakers.org/Events

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