



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

Senate Ag Committee Releases Revised Farm Bill Draft Ahead of Planned Thursday Markup



On Friday night, the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry released a [revised draft of the Agricultural Act of 2026](#), or Farm Bill, setting the stage for committee consideration this coming Thursday, August 6, at 9:30 a.m. (ET). The updated proposal reflects Chairman John Boozman's (R-AR) effort to build support across the aisle, though questions remain about whether the legislation has sufficient bipartisan backing to advance.

Among the most significant changes are revisions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The [Senate proposal](#) would delay implementation of new state cost-sharing requirements by one year while also increasing the maximum state cost-share for states with SNAP payment error rates of 10 percent or higher. The bill also includes a long-sought provision allowing year-round sales of E15 gasoline.

For dairy, the [revised Senate proposal](#) includes several key provisions. Most notably, the legislation would increase authorization for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBII) to \$36 million annually, matching the funding level WCMA has urged Congress to adopt. This represents a substantial increase from the \$20 million authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill and far exceeds the \$13.75 million included in the House-passed proposal. Thank you to the many WCMA members who have contacted Congress in support of this priority; your advocacy is making a difference.

The Senate draft would also:

- Permanently authorize Mandatory Cost Surveys, helping ensure Federal Milk Marketing Order manufacturing cost assumptions more accurately reflect current production costs.
- Permanently authorize the Dairy Forward Pricing Program, providing an important risk management tool for processors and producers.
- Expand SNAP dairy nutrition incentives beyond fluid milk to include cheese, yogurt, and cultured dairy products, while increasing funding authorization.
- More than double funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) Program, while directing the protection of common food names in trade

- agreements, strengthening export opportunities for U.S. dairy.
- Committee approval would mark an important milestone, but significant political hurdles remain before a final Farm Bill can be considered by the full Senate and, ultimately, reconciled with the House version. House Ag Committee Chair G.T. Thompson (R-PA 05) said yesterday that he was [“pleased” with the Senate proposal](#).

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Want to Help Advance the Farm Bill? Take Action!

WCMA members are encouraged to advocate directly for Senate action by participating in our [easy e-advocacy campaign](#). In less than a minute, you can send a message to your U.S. Senators urging support for the dairy priorities. Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

SEND YOUR MESSAGE

Apply Now for \$1.7 Million in DBIA Grants



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.

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](#) 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](#).

Before Applying...

Applicants are encouraged to [sign up to receive a link to DBIA's "Helpful Hints" video](#) for eligibility details, step-by-step application instructions, and tips for a strong proposal.

GET THE RECORDING



Headlines

Wisconsin

- WSAW-TV: [State gives new grants for dairy processors](#)
- Milwaukee Business Journal: [New Berlin council approves Rockwell Automation's \\$200M plant](#) (Featuring WCMA member Rockwell Automation)

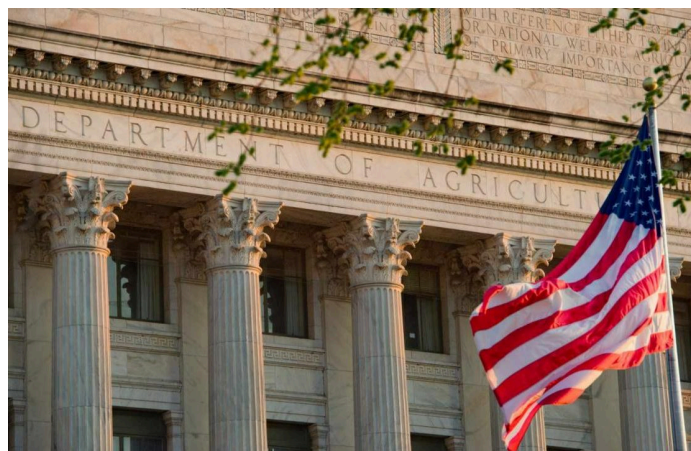
National & Global

- Brownfield Ag News: [U.S. dairy herd growth boosts June milk production](#)
- Ohio Country Journal: [Ohio's top cheesemakers recognized at the 2026 Ohio State Fair Cheese Contest](#) (Featuring WCMA member Pearl Valley Cheese)
- Supermarket Perimeter: [Sargento buys La Terra Fina](#) (Featuring WCMA member Sargento Foods)
- WWNY-TV: [Cheddar Cheese Festival held in Adams Saturday](#) (Featuring WCMA member Great Lakes Cheese)

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.

Costs Rising While USDA Builds Its Mandatory Surveys



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is moving forward to construct mandatory surveys of dairy product manufacturing costs, but manufacturing costs are moving forward as well. But how will this welcome - and overdue - effort trickle down to dairy processors?

Read more from [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) in this month's [WCMA Notes column](#) about USDA's plans for distilling complex cost data into an online survey process. [READ MORE...](#)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Join WCMA Technology Committee for September 15 Field Day



Join the WCMA Technology Committee for its [next educational field day](#) on Tuesday, September 15 in Chilton, Wisconsin. WCMA member Grande Cheese Company has generously offered to open its fully renovated wastewater treatment plant at the expanded Chilton cheesemaking operation for this special opportunity. [Registration](#) costs \$40 and includes lunch, an educational session, and the tour. Just 40 spaces are available, so don't delay!

REGISTER NOW

Limited Space Remaining in Fall WCMA Front-Line Leadership



[Click the "Play" button](#) to hear from WCMA Front-Line Leadership graduates Jason Dondlinger of Koss Industrial and Kayla Workman of Schuman Cheese - Lake Country Dairy about how the course helped them level-up their leadership skills.

Less than ten spaces remain available in this fall's in-person sessions of WCMA's popular [Front-Line Leadership](#) course! Join us in Madison, Wisconsin for this three-part series, designed for supervisors who want to communicate better, resolve conflicts, manage their time and stress, and cultivate a team mentality. All parts are offered a la carte and may be taken in any order. Complete all three to receive a free, full registration to CheeseCon 2027 - a savings of approximately \$600!

- September 17: [Part A - Essential Leadership Skills](#)
- October 14: [Part B - Boosting Staff Performance](#)
- November 19: [Part C - Cultivating a Team](#)



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