



WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

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CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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WCMA distributes member bulletins focused on coronavirus information on Thursdays and as breaking news warrants. WCMA delivers electronic newsletters with broader content on Tuesdays. Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

USDA Announces \$92M in LAMP Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Wednesday announced the availability of **\$92.2 million in competitive grants** under the 2018 Farm Bill's Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP), with support coming from the USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers Initiative.

These grants support the development, coordination and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and value-added agriculture. USDA is encouraging applications focused on projects to assist underserved local and regional agricultural businesses, producer networks and associations responding to COVID-19 disruptions and impacts.

Awards of between \$25,000 and \$750,000 are available for **Local Food Promotion Programs**, with applications due June 21. Awards of between \$100,000 and \$1 million are available for projects that develop or enhance **Regional Food System Partnerships**, with applications due July 6.

SBA Announces PPP Funds Depleted

Officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced Wednesday that all funds allocated to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) **have been claimed**.

As of Sunday, SBA had distributed nearly 10.8 million PPP loans worth more than \$780 billion since April of last year. The program, which has been refunded by Congress twice before, was scheduled to expire May 31.

SBA officials note that PPP applications which have already been approved will still be funded.

Feds Direct Resources, Launch New Programs to Raise Rural Vaccination Rates

Federal officials announced this week they are directing **additional resources** to boost vaccination rates in rural parts of the country, as President Biden laid out a new, national vaccination goal of **70 percent of American adults** with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by July 4.

As of May 1, approximately 95 million Americans, or 45 percent of the 18 and older population, were fully vaccinated, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) noting that the rate of vaccination in urban areas is 3.7 points higher than that in rural communities.

In an effort to raise the rural vaccination rate, the federal government will begin to send vaccines directly to rural health clinics, and provide \$100 million to support vaccine outreach efforts in rural communities, including campaigns to boost vaccine confidence, help individuals schedule appointments and provide transportation to and from appointments. The Biden Administration is further directing rural vaccinators to offer walk-in appointments and mobile clinics.

[Click Here to Find a Vaccine Appointment Now](#)

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Experts say cheese markets have permanently changed, for better or worse, due to pandemic](#)

Wisconsin

- *WBAY-TV*: [Wisconsin: 4.5 million “shots in the arm”; 1 in 3 young adults getting vaccine](#)
- *NBC Chicago*: [Wisconsin reaches ‘grim milestone’ of 600K COVID cases as vaccinations slow](#)
- *WKBT-TV*: [COVID cases rising by the dozens for La Crosse County K-12 students](#)

National/International

- *Associated Press*: [U.S. unemployment claims fall to a pandemic low of 498,000](#)
 - *New York Times*: [New studies suggest that vaccines can protect against some variants and severe COVID cases](#)
 - *USA Today*: [U.S. supports lifting patent protections for vaccines](#)
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[Visit WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) for More Resources

WCMA's coronavirus resources page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) is updated daily, featuring information on employee safety, regulatory flexibility, operations guidance, federal and state support, and salutes to your critical, essential staff.

WCMA Key Contacts

Members with pandemic-related questions or concerns should feel encouraged to contact WCMA staff at any time. Here are ways to get in touch.

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