



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Since March 13, WCMA has been distributing special bulletins alerting members to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). We will continue sharing these bulletins as often news and needs warrant. Today's bulletin comes as part of WCMA's regularly scheduled Tuesday e-newsletter, so that we may also bring you other relevant industry information.

Dairy Food Safety Alliance Shares Updated SOP for COVID-Positive Employee

Members of the Dairy Food Safety Alliance, including staff experts from the Center for Dairy Research, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and WCMA, have issued an [updated standard operating procedure](#) (SOP) for dairy manufacturers and processors, in the event one of their employees tests positive for COVID-19.

This SOP incorporated new directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and [FDA-reviewed protocol issued by International Dairy Foods Association](#) late last week.

Please contact [WCMA staff](#) with any questions.

Senators Urge USDA Commodity Purchase

U.S. Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), along with 23 of their colleagues, on Monday sent a [letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue](#) urging immediate action to support the nation's dairy farmers in the wake of the COVID-19 dairy crisis. The lawmakers call for an "immediate and substantial purchase of dairy products" and a reopening of the Dairy Margin Coverage program. USDA has signaled it will share a plan for coronavirus relief within one week.

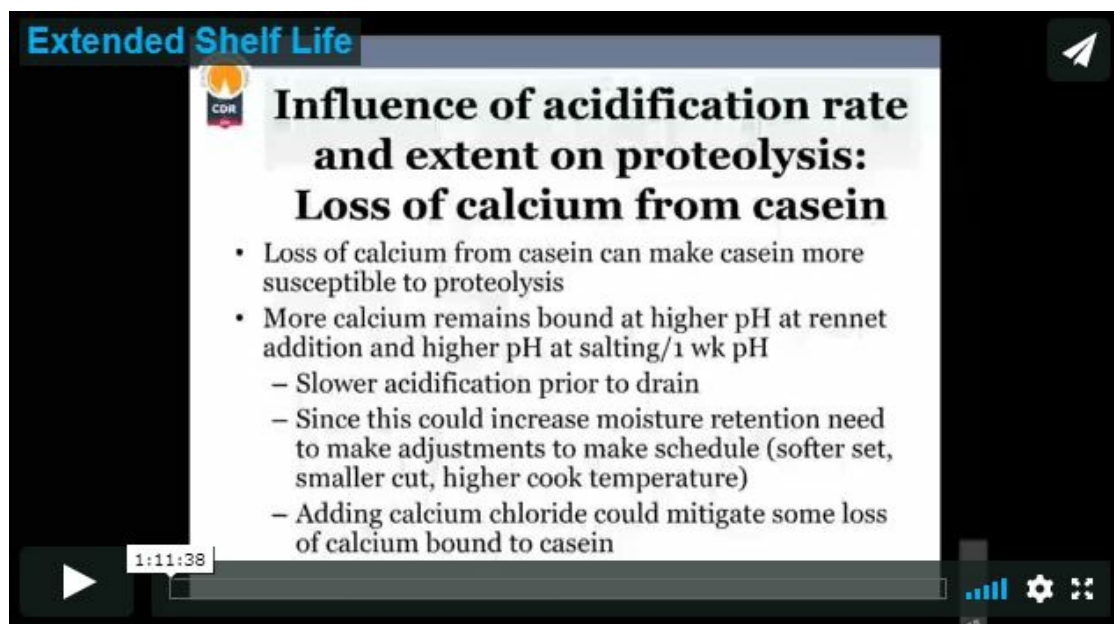
WCMA continues to lobby lawmakers and work to keep industry needs in the news, to urge USDA action.

Wisconsin State Assembly Approves Coronavirus Response Package

Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly today approved a coronavirus response bill on a vote of 97-2, sending the legislation to the State Senate for consideration tomorrow. It largely ensures that Wisconsin can capture the \$2.3 billion coming to the state under the federal stimulus bill, including higher Medicaid payments and unemployment benefits. WCMA staff has advocated for the businesses aids, tax relief, and a lift of the one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits, which

CDR Shares Webinar, Toolkit on Strategies for Extending Product Shelf Life

Thanks go to our partners at the Center for Dairy Research for sharing a toolkit and webinar, focused on extending the shelf life of dairy products, free of charge, [on their website](#). You may also click below to begin watching the webinar now.



Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *NBC News*: [Dairy farmers forced to dump milk as demand drops](#)
- *Dairy Reporter*: [Quarantine baking boosts demand for powdered dairy goods](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin farm bankruptcies on the rise](#)

Wisconsin

- *WITI-TV*: ['Flattening the curve:' DHS reports slowest one-day increase in COVID-19 cases since March](#)
- *WAOW-TV*: [Evers directs limits to debt collectors during COVID-19 closures](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [It's been four weeks, and these Wisconsin workers still don't have their unemployment checks](#)
- *WMTV-TV*: [Evers rejects President Trump's claim that he can reopen the economy](#)

National/International

- *New York Times*: [U.S. food supply chain is strained as virus spreads](#)
 - *KHOU-TV*: [South Dakota meat processing plant closed after 293 employees diagnosed with coronavirus](#)
 - *Washington Post*: [South Dakota's governor resisted ordering people to stay at home; now state has one of the nation's largest coronavirus hot spots](#)
 - *USA Today*: [COVID-19 claims lives of 30 grocery store workers, thousands more may have it, union says](#)
 - *Wall Street Journal*: [Coronavirus economic reopening will be fragile, partial and slow](#)
 - *Wall Street Journal*: [A second round of coronavirus layoffs has begun](#)
 - *USA Today*: ['We don't have a king:' Trump's claim of 'total' authority over states gets pushback across spectrum](#)
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Other Coronavirus Resources

WCMA will continue to provide links to both new and essential coronavirus resources for members in bulletins. We have also created a page on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org) with links to materials detailing employee safety best practices, operations guidance, federal and state support programs, and state orders impacting the dairy industry.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact WCMA staff. We are always here for you.

Key Contacts

- WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer: jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org or 608-225-7130
- WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org or 608-386-3012

WCMA SIGNATURE EVENTS

Champion Cheese Auction Live, Online April 24

Challenging times due to the coronavirus pandemic have brought change and delay for CheeseExpo, but WCMA aims to keep one tradition alive: the WCMA Championship Cheese Auction.

[Join WCMA Friday, April 24 for a live, online auction](#) of the champion cheeses. WCMA will recognize the great effort of the mastery of cheesemakers and Gold Medal winners of the 2020 World Championship Cheese Contest.



The auction provides crucial support to the World Championship Cheese Contest, WCMA scholarships, and WCMA supervisor and manager training programs. In past years, it has served as a chance for supplier partners and processors to thank and support the cheese companies that make this industry famous.

WCMA staff will supplement the auctioneer's live action with commentary and thanks in real time at the event center over [Facebook Live on the World Championship Cheese Contest page](#).

WCMA Announces 2020 Scholarship Winners

WCMA is pleased to [announce the names of 2020 scholarship recipients](#). Each year, WCMA shows its support for the dairy industry's next generation of leaders through scholarship awards worth a total of \$15,000.

Winners of the 2020 WCMA Myron P. "Mike" Dean Cheese Industry Student Scholarship are:

- **Mary Kawleski**, a product development employee at Agropur and graduate student in the Master of Food Technology program through the University of Georgia-Athens with a 3.95 GPA. Mary hopes to continue her career in food science to advance the possibilities of food applications.
- **Ashlyn Schnell**, a research and development intern at Schreiber Foods and biology major and chemistry minor with a 3.96 GPA at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, graduating in 2021. Ashlyn plans to pursue a Master's of Food Science and work as a lead food and research scientist in the dairy industry.

Winners of the 2020 WCMA Cheese Industry Supplier Student Scholarship are:

- **Samantha Hawkey**, an administrative assistant at Kelley Supply and business management student at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau, Wisconsin with a 3.89 GPA. Samantha

plans to further her education through a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and work professionally in the human resource department of Kelley Supply.

- **Theodore Jacoby IV**, a former intern at Agropur and current dairy manufacturing major at South Dakota State University with a 3.92 GPA. Theodore plans to pursue a job with Agropur or obtain a masters or doctorate degree related to the dairy industry after graduation.
- **Morgan Knapp**, a food technology intern at Agropur and chemistry major with a business concentration at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. After graduation, Morgan hopes to pursue a career in chemistry and pharmaceutical development.



Left to right: Mary Kawleski, Ashlyn Schnell, Samantha Hawkey, Theodore Jacoby IV, Morgan Knapp.

ADVOCACY

FDA Extends Comment Period on UF Milk to August

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has reopened the [comment period](#) on the proposed rule to permit the use of ultrafiltered milk in certain cheeses and related cheese products to provide stakeholders an additional 120 days to submit comments. The new comment period will close August 13, 2020. More information is [available here](#).

OTHER HEADLINE NEWS

- *The Washington Post*: [Northam freezes new spending in the state budget amid coronavirus pandemic](#) (on Virginia Governor vetoing truth-in-dairy-labeling bill)
- *Politico*: [Trump wants business as usual on USMCA](#)
- *Heavy.com*: [Just the Cheese on 'Shark Tank': 5 fast facts you need to know](#) (Featuring Specialty Cheese Company)

STAY CONNECTED

Thanks for subscribing to WCMA's weekly electronic communications, which focus in alternating weeks on industry news and industry events. WCMA extends this benefit to all member employees; let us know if we should [add your colleagues](#) to our mailing list.

To share feedback on WCMA newsletter content, please contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).