



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

April 21, 2026

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## NEWS

### Customs & Border Protection Opens Tariff Refund Portal



Businesses can now [request refunds](#) of tariffs paid under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The U.S. Department of Customs & Border Protection launched its [Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries \(CAPE\) tool](#) yesterday following a series of court orders issued this spring, including a U.S. Supreme Court decision stating that President Donald Trump [exceeded his authority](#) in using IEEPA to impose sweeping tariffs in 2025. Some businesses are reporting error messages from this new system, and federal representatives note that processing will take some time, as tens of thousands of importers are due up to \$175 billion in refunds. [READ MORE...](#)

### CheeseExpo Sets New Record with 30 Percent Attendee Growth



CheeseExpo 2026 came to a successful close last Thursday, drawing a record-setting total of approximately 5,200 attendees - an increase of 33 percent over 2024! This year's event attracted the largest amount of dairy processors and suppliers in WCMA history, hailing from 27 countries worldwide and 45 U.S. states. Attendees networked, celebrated, learned, and explored over 112 percent more exhibit space than in 2024. [Photos are now available](#) for download and sharing, as well as [presentations](#) from CheeseExpo's educational seminars. Thank you for an exceptional event! Mark your calendar now

## WCMA Auction Supports Dairy Industry's Future



WCMA thanks the energetic crowd of dairy processors, marketers, and suppliers who lifted their bidding paddles to support dairy industry education, training and research at the 2026 [Novonesis](#) Reception and Championship Cheese Auction on April 15, 2026, at CheeseExpo! Together, we raised record funds to support industry growth. [READ MORE...](#)

Special thanks go to all the winning bidders for their generous and enthusiastic support: [Actus Nutrition](#); [Kelley Supply Inc.](#); [Membrane Process & Controls, Inc.](#); [Masters Gallery Foods, Inc.](#); [ALPMA USA](#); [Complete Filtration Resources](#); [D.R. Tech, Inc.](#); [Loos Machine & Automation](#); [T.C. Jacoby & Co., Inc.](#); [Nelson-Jameson, Inc.](#); [Advanced Process Technologies - APT](#); [Novonesis](#); [dsm-firmenich](#); [ProActive Solutions USA, LLC](#); [Dahmes Stainless Inc.](#); [Ivarson, Inc.](#); [Great Lakes Cheese](#); [Decatur Dairy, Inc.](#); [Guggisberg Cheese](#); [Klondike Cheese Company](#); [Harry Davis & Company](#); [Dairy Connection Inc.](#); [Mohawk Technology](#); [Sugar River Cold Storage](#); [Bank of New Glarus](#); [Hydrite](#); [Trucent Centrifuge Parts & Repair](#); [Atlantic Grain & Trade](#); and [Pallet Service Corporation](#).

## Heiman Re-Elected President of WCMA; Officers Named



Congratulations to Kim Heiman of Nasonville Dairy (pictured, center) on his [re-election last week](#) to serve as President of WCMA in fiscal year 2026-27. Heiman will lead an executive team that also includes Mat Bartkowiak of Nelson-Jameson (far right) as First Vice President, Mindy Berrey of Land O'Lakes (second from right) as Second Vice President, Betsy Erdelyi of BMO (second from left) as Treasurer, and Chris Roelli of Roelli Cheese (far left) returning as Secretary. Four industry leaders were also selected to join the WCMA Board of Directors in elections held this spring. [READ MORE...](#)

## WCMA Member Impact Awards Now Open for Nominations



[Nominate your business](#) or another organization today to be part of the next class of WCMA's [Member Impact Awards](#)! Last year's winners were:

- WCMA Advocate of the Year: Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative
- WCMA Employer of the Year: Masters Gallery Foods

**NOMINATE NOW**

- WCMA Sustainable Stewardship Award: Agropur
- WCMA Culture of Excellence Award: Nasonville Dairy

Awards will be presented at [WCMA's Annual Member Meeting](#) on September 23 in Madison, Wisconsin. Nominations are open now through July 17, and self-nominations are accepted. Questions may be directed to [WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt](#).

## USDA Awards Cheese Contracts; Seeks Cheese, Yogurt, and Butter

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has [awarded contracts](#) to purchase over 16 million pounds of processed cheese from WCMA members Associated Milk Producers Inc., Dairy Farmers of America, Great Lakes Cheese, Masters Gallery Foods, and Winona Foods for use in federal food distribution programs.

USDA also issued solicitations to purchase over 2.5 million pounds of [cheese products](#) and over 2.3 million pounds of [butter and yogurt](#). Cheese bids are due April 28 by 1:00 p.m. (CT), and bids for butter and yogurt are due May 1 by 1:00 p.m. (CT). A list of [open USDA solicitations](#) and information on how to become an [approved vendor](#) is available [online](#).

## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### Register by April 30 for WCMA Federal Advocacy Fly-In



Just five spaces remain available for [WCMA's Federal Advocacy Fly-In](#).

Register by April 30 to join us 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 participate in targeted meetings with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), and members of Congress. These briefings and networking opportunities are designed specifically for dairy processing leaders. No prior advocacy experience is required, WCMA will prepare you with the tools and insights needed for confident, productive conversations.

For questions or to reserve hotel lodging, please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs and Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Final Opportunity: Growing Global Markets for Wisconsin Cheese**



Learn ways to grow your exporting business in an [all-new workshop](#), brought to you by WCMA, the Madison International Trade Association (MITA), and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's International Agribusiness Center. On April 23 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. (CT), at the Global Water Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, join industry leaders from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Schreiber Foods, and the Center for Dairy Research as they share insights on export trends and strategies to compete worldwide. Questions? Contact [WCMA Director of Sustainability & Grants Danica Nilsestuen](#).

**REGISTER NOW**

## RSVP Now for Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting & Tour of Kerry



Register now for the next [Dairy Food Safety Alliance meeting](#) on Wednesday, May 27 from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (CT). This hybrid meeting includes a tour of Kerry in Beloit, Wisconsin, open to the first 30 in-person registrants. All attendees will enjoy an afternoon of updates and informative presentations from food safety experts. This meeting is open to all dairy manufacturers, processors, and suppliers, regardless of WCMA membership status.

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE**

Thanks go to [Saldesia Corporation](#) and [Nelson-Jameson](#) for sponsoring this meeting! Additional sponsorships are [available now](#) through May 20.

## Save the Date for WCMA Golf Outing Info, Sponsorships



Registration for the [2026 WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot](#) will begin at 10:00 a.m. (CT) on Tuesday, May 19. Watch for early details and sponsorship opportunities online on May 5. This sellout event brings together hundreds of dairy processing industry leaders for a day of connection and fun. The 2026 outing will be held July 22 in central Wisconsin, and will include golfing on five courses, trapshooting, and pickleball. [READ MORE...](#)

# Upcoming WCMA Events

May 12-13	May 27	June 3	June 11	July 7
<a href="#"><u>Federal Advocacy Fly-In</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting (Hybrid)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (In-Person)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Free Webinar: Trends in Cheese Sales</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Free Webinar: Supplier Roundtable</u></a>

## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- Wisconsin State Farmer: [Seven cheesemakers reach pinnacle of their craft as Wisconsin Masters](#) (Featuring WCMA members BelGioioso Cheese, Foremost Farms USA, Moundview Dairy, Sargento Foods, Sartori Company, Schuman Cheese-Lake Country Dairy, and Widmer's Cheese Cellars)
- WISC-TV: [Wisconsin unemployment rate rises to 3.4 percent](#)
- Milwaukee Business Journal: [Why this major expo is "gouda" news for Milwaukee's Baird Center](#) (Featuring CheeseExpo)

### National & Global

- Reuters: [Lactalis warns of higher prices as Iran war raises costs](#) (Featuring WCMA member Lactalis)
- Food Safety Magazine: [FDA finds E. coli in Raw Farm cheese matching a second outbreak](#)
- Food Business News: [Startups pushing the boundaries of cottage cheese innovation](#)
- Yahoo! Finance: [The hidden genius behind Babybel's cheese wax coating](#) (Featuring WCMA member Bel Brands USA)
- Flightless Bird Podcast: [Cheeseheads and the World Championship Cheese Contest](#)

## EDUCATION

### Invest in Safety with June 6 WCMA Training



Register today for WCMA's [Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors](#) and take the next step toward building a stronger, more proactive safety culture at your facility. Scheduled for June 3, this annual, in-person course delivers practical insights and hands-on tools designed for both new and experienced employees. Participants will also receive a comprehensive training packet and a certificate of completion from Chippewa Valley Technical College and WCMA, creating a valuable record of high-quality safety instruction.

**REGISTER NOW**



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

**WisCheeseMakers.org/Events**

[news@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:news@wischeesemakers.org)  
(608) 286-1001



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