



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION & RESOURCES

WCMA has been distributing regular bulletins alerting members to information and resources related to industry operations and coronavirus (COVID-19). We will continue sharing these messages 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.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Hears Arguments Over Safer-at-Home Order

A lawsuit brought by Republican lawmakers against Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Department of Health Secretary-designee Andrea Palm seeking to strike down the state's safer-at-home order is now under consideration by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, after justices heard oral arguments via teleconference this morning.

Deliberations begin this afternoon, and ruling is still possible today. WCMA will keep members informed of any breaking news which broadly impacts their operations.

Here's a look at early news coverage of the hearing:

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [GOP lawsuit to block Tony Evers' order to stay home in hands of Supreme Court](#)
- *WBAY-TV*: [Wisconsin Supreme Court hears arguments on Safer at Home extension](#)

Upcoming USDA Proposal Deadlines

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has the following [open requests for proposals](#) with upcoming deadlines:

- Due May 6: [Butter and Cheddar Cheese Proposals](#)
- Due May 12: [String Cheese Proposals](#)
- Due May 14: [Yogurt, Butter, Pepper Jack Shreds, Cheddar Slices, and Processed Cheese Proposals](#)

The Dairy Signal Features WCMA Perspective

Today's edition of Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin's new podcast, called *The Dairy Signal*, featured WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer and University of Wisconsin Director of Dairy Policy Dr. Mark Stephenson.

Topics included new USDA purchasing programs, charitable



giving, and industry efforts to keep employees healthy and safe. Find the podcast [here](#).

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *WKOW-TV*: [All employees at Monroe cheese plant to be tested after a number test positive for COVID-19](#)
- *CNBC*: [Wasted milk, euthanized livestock: Photos show how coronavirus has devastated agriculture](#)
- *WMTV-TV*: [Kroger to donate 200,000 gallons of milk](#)
- *MassLive*: [Due to coronavirus pandemic, Massachusetts farmers to give away free milk on Thursday](#)

Wisconsin

- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin plans to test all nursing home residents and staffers for coronavirus, while more cases emerge at food processing plants](#)
- *WDJT-TV*: [National Guard tests Palermo's Pizza plant employees after five test positive](#)
- *WITI-TV*: [Patrick Cudahy reopens after 85 COVID-19 positives, some work stations 'not complete'](#)
- *WGBA-TV*: [JBS plans to reopen Green Bay facility Tuesday](#)
- *WisPolitics*: [GOP leaders discuss regional approach to reopening in a meeting with Evers](#)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [U.S. deaths top 70,000 as experts predict grim summer](#)
- *Los Angeles Times*: [Mutant coronavirus emerges, more contagious than original](#)
- *FOX News*: [Nearly 400 workers at Missouri pork plant test positive for coronavirus, all asymptomatic](#)
- *FOX Business*: [Small business rescue program still granting big loans despite earlier scrutiny](#)
- *The Hill*: [Top Senate Democrats to try to pass a coronavirus oversight bill on Tuesday](#)
- *CNN*: [Face masks have become new political fault line](#)
- *24/7 Wall Street*: [Here's when every state plans to lift COVID-19 restrictions](#)

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](#) 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

New, Online Jobs Board Now Live

WCMA is pleased to announce its new, [online jobs board is now live](#) on WisCheeseMakers.org. WCMA members, including manufacturers, processors, marketers, and suppliers, are invited to [submit job openings](#) for listing at any time. It's free and easy to do!

Listings are publicly accessible and WCMA will promote the jobs board on social media platforms, in direct messages to our partners in education, and via electronic newsletters.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



WCMA Spring Leadership Trainings Postponed

WCMA is postponing its leadership trainings set for Spring 2020, due to pandemic restrictions on gatherings and member preferences.

Member employees registered for trainings scheduled from March 31 through May 28 will be automatically transferred to Fall 2020 class offerings. Complete details are available on [WisCheeseMakers.org](#). Registration cancellation and a full refund may also be requested.

Please note, there are no changes to WCMA's offering of Advanced Leadership Training, previously set for Fall 2020/Winter 2021.

Please contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Coordinator Ellie Herman](#) with questions.

UK-U.S. Trade Talks Now Underway

[Trade talks between the U.S. and Britain](#) began today through a video conference call, according to Britain Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman. Britain is looking to create free trade agreements with several countries, including the U.S., after leaving the European Union in January.

For more on international trade developments, see these news articles:

- *Politico*: [British trade talks with U.S. begin Tuesday](#)
- *Bloomberg*: [China trade deal turns from key Trump asset to an albatross](#)

INDUSTRY RESOURCES

Food Defense, Vulnerability Assessment Tools Now Available on WisCheeseMakers.org

WCMA is pleased to share a [new food defense standard operating procedure template and food defense vulnerability assessment](#) from industry consultants Jim Mueller and Larry Bell, who helped to lead the Artisan Dairy Producer Food Safety Initiative, a partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research.

OTHER NEWS HEADLINES

- *Wisconsin Ag Connection*: [Wisconsin sets a new milk production record in '19](#)
- *Wisconsin State Journal*: [As Supreme Court mulls issue, Attorney General says DNR can consider impact of high-cap wells](#)
- *WMTV-TV*: [DOJ requires DFA to divest as it attempts to buy dairy plants from bankrupt Dean Foods](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [AG Kaul announces lawsuit against Dairy Farmers of America](#)
- *Isthmus*: [Cheeseheads want their cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hook's Cheese)

WisCheeseMakers.org

