

# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

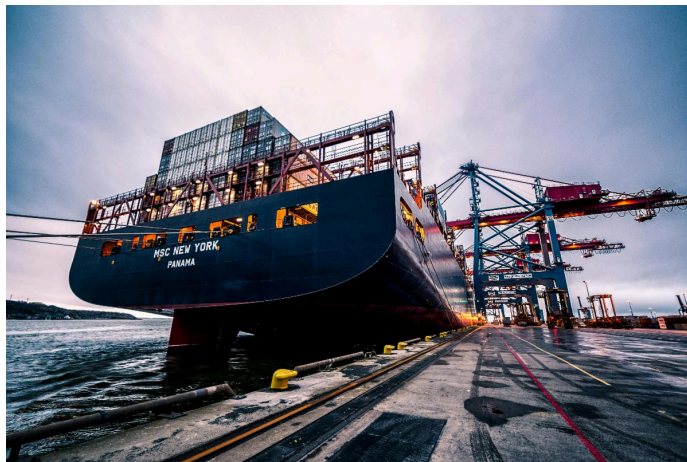
May 12, 2026

[news@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:news@wischeesemakers.org)



## NEWS

### Federal Court Strikes Down 10 Percent Tariffs



A federal three-judge panel [ruled in a split vote](#) Thursday that President Donald Trump's temporary 10% unilateral tariffs are "invalid" and "unauthorized by law". Trump imposed the tariffs after the U.S. Supreme Court in February struck down his original tariff plans, announced in 2025 under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The Trump Administration has appealed Thursday's ruling. Meanwhile, the process of [refunding tariffs](#) paid under the original IEEPA tariffs continues, with funds reaching some businesses' bank accounts as early as today. [READ MORE...](#)

### USDA Issues Interim Final Rule on Whole Milk for Healthy Kids



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Friday [issued an interim final rule](#) implementing the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, signed into law in January following the advocacy efforts of several dairy industry groups, including WCMA. The rule restores whole and 2% milk options for children ages 2 years and older in federal Child Nutrition Programs, and exempts milkfat from weekly average saturated fat limits under certain school meal programs. [READ MORE...](#)

### Butter Removed as "Staple Food" from SNAP Stocking Standards



Under USDA's final rule [announced Thursday](#), retailers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can no longer count butter as a "staple food" under USDA's [retailer stocking requirements](#). This is a change from the proposed rule issued in September 2025. The final rule maintains dairy as a staple food group under the program, and does not affect shoppers' ability to purchase butter using SNAP benefits. [READ MORE...](#)

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## FDA Pilots New One-Day Inspectional Assessments



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced last week](#) that it has begun piloting new, one-day "inspectional assessments," with 46 such assessments already conducted in April. The pilot reaches across several FDA inspectorates, including human food. Officials noted the program is not intended to replace standard FDA inspections, and that investigators may still expand the duration or scope of a one-day inspection at their discretion. [READ MORE...](#)

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## Study Finds H5N1 in Air, Wastewater on California Dairy Farm



A [new study](#) released last week found highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1) virus in the air and wastewater of 14 California dairy farms, suggesting that the virus can be transmitted through multiple pathways on farms. Researchers said that farmers can reduce the risk of transmission to employees and animals by reducing the amount of aerosolized milk in the air, and inactivating infected milk prior to disposal. They also noted that this study was based on environmental sampling, not direct infection tracking, and that more research is needed to confirm how the H5N1 virus spreads. [READ READ MORE.....](#)

### [Access Free H5N1 Resources at WisCheeseMakers.org](#)

WCMA maintains a library of [free, up-to-date H5N1 resources](#) designed to help dairy processors and their farmer partners protect their employees, their herds, and their products from H5N1. Access links to key state and federal sites, webinar and workshop recordings, customizable templates, and more at [WisCheeseMakers.org/H5N1](#).

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## Enter WI State Fair Dairy Products Contest by June 5



Showcase your products and at the [Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Contest](#), open for entries now through June 5. Nearly 50 classes are available, including a new Open Butter class. Product judging will take place June 18, with awards presented on August 13 during the State Fair Blue Ribbon Dairy Products Auction. Complete entry information is [available online](#). Questions may be directed to [Wisconsin State Fair staff](#). [READ MORE...](#)

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## Apply by May 15 for Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker Program



Applications are due Friday, May 15 for the [Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker](#) program, administered by the Center for Dairy Research, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and UW-Extension. Cheesemakers who meet the application requirements may apply for a [New](#) or [Returning](#) Master certification. Questions should be directed to [Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker Program Coordinator John Jaeggi](#).

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## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- WLUK-TV: [New store honoring string cheese pioneer opens in Fond du Lac County](#) (Featuring WCMA member Sargento Foods)
- Barron News-Shield: [Local cheesemaker awarded at World Contest](#) (Featuring WCMA member Schuman Cheese-Lake Country Dairy)

### National & Global

- JustFood: [Danone to close U.S. dairy-alternatives factory](#)
- FoodBev Media: [Agropur unveils \\$1B \(CAD\) investment to modernize Canadian dairy operations and expand protein capacity](#) (Featuring WCMA member Agropur)
- CNBC: [Consumer prices rose 3.8 percent annually in April, the highest since May 2023](#)
- Dairy Herd Management: [Walmart opens new \\$350 million milk processing plant in Texas](#)
- San Antonio Express-News: [Popular potato chip brand recalled in Texas over potentially fatal salmonella risk](#)

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## EVENTS & CONNECTION

**Secure Premier Sponsorships - and Golf Spots - by Friday May 15**



On Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. (CT), registration opens for WCMA's popular [Golf Outing and Trap Shoot](#). But did you know there's a way to skip the rush - and showcase your company to nearly 800 dairy processing professionals? WCMA will hold up to 12 golfer spots for companies that secure [Premier Level sponsorships](#) before **this Friday, May 15**. Limited Premier Level opportunities remain available, so act quickly to secure yours!

**SPONSOR NOW**

### Upcoming WCMA Events

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

## EDUCATION

### Learn Cheese Production & Sales Trends in Free WCMA Webinar



**REGISTER NOW**

Consumer preferences, economic pressures, and retail strategies are constantly shifting - and those shifts can have a direct impact on dairy processors' bottom line. [Register now](#) to join WCMA on Thursday, June 11 at 1:00 p.m. (CT) for a free, members-only webinar focused on current trends in cheese production and sales, offering the latest data and insights.

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



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