



# 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.

### USDA Offers Webinars on New Rural Business and Industry Loan Guarantees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced it will offer informational webinars on its new [\\$1 billion in loan guarantee program for rural businesses](#).

Registration is required for the webinars, set for [Wednesday, May 27 at 2:30 p.m.](#) and [Wednesday, June 3 at 1 p.m.](#)

The program is designed to help rural business owners meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic.

Complete details on eligibility and how to apply are [available now online](#). The application deadline is June 22, 2020, or until available funds are expended.

### New PPP Loan Forgiveness Guidance Issued

The U.S. Treasury and Small Business Administration issued new Paycheck Protection Program guidance late Friday: their [interim final rule on loan forgiveness](#) and [interim final rule on SBA loan review procedures and related borrower and lender responsibilities](#).

Neither document addresses the length of the loan forgiveness period, or challenges that some small business owners have encountered in trying to reach the requirement that 75 percent of funds be spent on payroll costs to qualify for full loan forgiveness.

The U.S. Senate could vote as early as this week on a bill doubling the loan forgiveness period to 16 weeks, while the House is expected to vote on a bill extending that period to 24 weeks and eliminating the 75 percent threshold. The future of neither bill is certain; WCMA will keep members informed of critical developments.

### USDA Requests Proposals for Mozzarella Purchases

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is requesting [proposals for the purchase of shredded](#)

[low-moisture mozzarella cheese](#), using dollars allocated in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Bids are due June 3, and questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

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## CISA & FEMA Host Forum on CO2 Shortage

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will hold an [open town hall forum](#) on Wednesday, May 27 at 11 a.m. (CT) on private sector access to affordable CO2. Questions must be [submitted in advance](#).

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## Register Now for WCMA Webinar: What Happens When An Employee Tests Positive for COVID-19

WCMA invites members to join in a free, educational webinar on Wednesday, June 3 from 1-2 p.m. The webinar will offer a practical look at what happens when an employee tests positive for COVID-19, and best practices both for prevention and for successful management of a confirmed case.

We're pleased to announce that Dr. Jonathan Meiman, Wisconsin Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Occupational and Environmental Health, and Green County Public Health Officer RoAnn Warden will present, alongside WCMA staff.

Webinar topics include:

- Prevalence of outbreaks in food processing facilities in Wisconsin
- Best practices for prevention
- What information is asked of an employer, in the event of a positive
- Investigations and the role of contact tracers
- How determinations regarding continued operations are made

Please RSVP to [WCMA Office and Member Services Manager Sara Schmidt](#) with your interest in joining and include any questions you may wish to ask. You'll receive access information for the webinar (or telephone call-in option) in reply.

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## Farmers May Apply for CFAP Payments Today

American farmers may submit applications for direct payments through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program](#) beginning today. CFAP will provide aid to farmers who have suffered a five percent or greater price decline, or who have suffered losses due to supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic.

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## Coronavirus Headline News

### Dairy Industry

- *WIZM-AM*: [Wisconsin cheese markets respond to reduced COVID-19 restrictions](#)
- *CBS News*: [Dairy farmers donate surplus milk to food banks](#)
- *Dallas Morning News*: [For a second time in Borden's 163-year history, a government contract could propel it through crisis](#)
- *Vermont Public Radio*: ['They should include us': Vermont's immigrant farmworkers push for coronavirus aid](#)

### Wisconsin

- *WMTV-TV*: [Dane County hitting more goals in COVID-19 fight, Wisconsin meeting fewer](#)
- *WITI-TV*: ['Nothing like we've ever seen': Memorial Day crowds at reopened Lake Geneva beach 'raise concern'](#)

- *Beloit Daily News*: [Rock County cases spike; figures from Beloit testing expected this week](#)
- *WKOW-TV*: [Software from the '50's, hardware from the '70's: Outdated tech adding to Wisconsin's unemployment struggles](#)

#### National/International

- *Reuters*: [Where U.S. coronavirus cases are on the rise \[20 states report increase\]](#)
- *Associated Press*: [States give few details on billions spent on virus supplies](#)
- *Politico*: ['Something isn't right': U.S. probes beef prices](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Worker shortage concerns loom in immigrant-heavy meatpacking](#)
- *USA Today*: [Back to school? 1 in 5 teachers are unlikely to return to reopened classrooms this fall, poll says](#)

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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](#) 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](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130
- WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: [rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-386-3012

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## OTHER NEWS HEADLINES

- *Economic Times*: [Dairy-rich diet may lower risk of diabetes, high blood pressure](#)
- *CBC-TV*: [Canada's dairy producers stand to lose \\$100M if USMCA takes effect July 1](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [After years of holding steady, value of Wisconsin farmland starting to decline](#)

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[WisCheeseMakers.org](#)

