



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.

SBA Releases PPP Lending Report

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today released its [official report on Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) lending](#), noting nearly 4.5 million loans worth more than \$510 billion. The report offers insight as to the size of companies receiving loans, as well as distribution by state and industry.

Senate Set to Vote 'Soon' on House PPP Bill

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell confirmed Monday that [he will hold a vote "soon" on the House version of a bill offering Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) flexibility](#) to small business owners.

The House bill would extend the eight-week period for loan forgiveness to 24 weeks, or the end of the year, whichever comes first. The eight-week period began expiring Friday for the first loan recipients.

The bill also would lower to 60 percent the current requirement that 75 percent of a loan be used on payroll expenses, and gives participants the option to defer payroll taxes.

Final Reminder: WCMA Webinar on What Happens When An Employee Tests Positive Tomorrow

WCMA invites members to join in a free, educational webinar tomorrow, June 3 from 1-2 p.m. (CT). 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.

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](#). You'll receive access information for the webinar (or telephone call-in option) in reply.

CDC and DOL Release Guidance for Agricultural Workers and Employers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Labor today issued [guidance for agricultural workers and employers](#), providing a template action plan to prevent the contraction and spread of coronavirus. The guidance is geared toward on-farm operations, not manufacturing or processing activity.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry

- *The Fence Post*: [Dairy Farmers of America asks nation to spread #GallonsOfGood](#) (Featuring WCMA member Dairy Farmers of America)
- *Acadiana Advocate*: [Coronavirus outbreak confirmed at Borden Dairy](#)
- *Press-Republican*: [Milk giveaway packed](#)
- *WAOV-TV*: [Coronavirus pandemic continues to impact the dairy industry, but farmers are optimistic](#)

Wisconsin

- *WBAY-TV*: [Wisconsin COVID-19 deaths cross 600; testing numbers rebound](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Wisconsin nursing homes report 72 deaths, 413 cases](#)

National/International

- *Reuters*: [U.S. small business program handed out virus aid to many borrowers twice](#)
 - *MarketWatch*: [Coronavirus economic shock to be felt for a long time, CBO 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 or 608-225-7130
 - WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org or 608-386-3012
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SIGNATURE EVENTS

WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Rescheduled

WCMA will move its popular Golf Outing & Trap Shoot to Wednesday, September 16, 2020 after taking input from more than 75 companies that regularly participate and a deciding vote by our Board of Directors. Online registration for the September 16 event begins Wednesday, August 5 at 9:00 a.m. (CDT).

Industry members told WCMA that a move to September would allow more companies to participate. WCMA staff believes the later date will allow members to enjoy a more typical day of fun and networking than the host courses can offer in July.

WCMA's partners at Lake Arrowhead Resort, Bullseye Golf Club and Northern Bay Resort are pleased to welcome our outing in September, so mark your calendars for a beautiful late summer event!



ADVOCACY

DBIA Grant Application Period Begins June 15

The Dairy Business Innovation Center (DBIA) has released dates for all-new industry grants to help Midwest dairy producers and processors diversify, modernize or develop new products.

Coordinated as a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research and Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, DBIA is available to help dairy-related businesses in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota.

DBIA will be distributing direct-to-business grants totaling \$220,000. Grants can be used for a wide variety of projects, including:

- Dairy farm diversification through value-added initiatives, such as development of dairy products or on-farm business ventures
- Modernization, specialization or expansion of farmstead or dairy facilities to support product development or improvement
- Increasing sales of current products through improvement of product quality, packaging and marketing
- Value chain and commodity innovation to develop specialty dairy products
- Ensuring regulatory compliance and quality control to give businesses greater access to the food industry, e.g. to supply local stores and processors

A grant review committee established by DBIA and including WCMA will make awards for projects in increments up to \$20,000. The grant [application will be available on June 15](#). Applications are due August 14 and selected applicants will be notified in September.

DBIA is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives, a 2018 Farm Bill program championed by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and WCMA. DBIA will also use USDA funding to offer industry training and consultative services. Complete details are available on the [DBIA website](#) or by contacting your [WCMA staff](#).

Romanski Appointed WDATCP Secretary

This week, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers [appointed Randy Romanski to serve as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection \(WDATCP\)](#).

Across his 30-year career in public service, Romanski has held leadership roles across various Wisconsin state agencies. He previously served as both the Deputy Secretary and Secretary at WDATCP under former Governor Jim Doyle. He had been serving as interim head of the agency since November 2019.



WDNR Reverses Position, Will Consider Broad Impact of High Capacity Wells on State Waters

The Wisconsin [Department of Natural Resources \(WDNR\)](#) announced this week it will **once again consider the combined environmental impact of high capacity wells** on state waters. The shift follows Attorney General Josh [Kaul's withdrawal of a 2016 Attorney General \(AG\) opinion](#) limiting the authority of the agency, with regard to new high capacity well applications.

This [issue is currently before the Wisconsin Supreme Court](#), and WCMA is one of eight intervenors in that case, represented by Great Lakes Legal Foundation. Our attorneys note the WDNR's practices are authorized and limited by state statute and existing rules, not an AG opinion, and will push back on the WDNR's assertion. WCMA will continue to keep members informed.

EDUCATION



Center for Dairy Research Announces Fall Trainings, Opens Registration for Certificate in Dairy Processing

The Center for Dairy Research (CDR) this week unveiled its [class schedule](#) for Fall 2020. CDR staff will lead short courses on dairy protein beverage applications, cheese technology, dairy ingredient manufacturing, and cheese grading.

The CDR also opened registration this week for the [Certificate in Dairy Processing Short Course](#), which begins September 2. This online course provides promising plant workers and operators with a

clear understanding of all dairy plant processes via ten classes, with modules noted below. In addition, each participant will be expected to complete a project of their choosing with the assistance of a mentor.

Understanding Milk Module 1	Dairy Microbiology, Testing and Equipment 101 Module 2	Processing Equipment 101 Module 3	Milk Quality from Farm to Plant Module 4	Food Safety and Sanitation Module 5
Production of Cheese Module 6	Cheese Ripening and Defects Module 7	Production of Dairy Ingredients Module 8	Functionality and Applications of Dairy Ingredients Module 9	Production of Other Dairy Products Module 10

WisCheeseMakers.org

