



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

June 2, 2026

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



## NEWS

### Senate to Consider Agriculture-FDA Funding Bill



The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to consider its Fiscal Year 2027 Agriculture-FDA spending bill this week Thursday, marking an important step in determining funding levels for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In an unusual move, Senate leaders are advancing the legislation directly to full committee consideration without holding separate subcommittee markups. The bill will shape federal investments in food safety, agricultural programs, rural development, and regulatory activities that affect dairy processors.

Meanwhile, the House has [already approved its version](#) of the bill, providing \$26.3 billion in discretionary spending for FY2027, including approximately \$22 billion for USDA, representing an overall 4 percent funding reduction for the department. The bill also includes a \$200 million reduction in overall Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program funding – most of which comes in the form of a 10 percent cut to fruit and vegetable benefits.

For dairy, the House bill holds \$13.75 million in funding for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (DBII), preserving investments in dairy processor innovation, farm viability, and new market development; this is WCMA's top policy priority within the bill. It also includes \$4 million for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Projects (HFMI), supporting continued expansion of efforts to increase milk purchases among SNAP participants. In addition, the bill includes language preventing reductions to dairy allotments in WIC finalized in 2024, preserving milk access for mothers and children, and clarifies congressional intent to ensure whole and 2% milk are available in both school breakfast and lunch programs.



## Take Action Now!

As Congress weighs its 2027 spending plans and the Farm Bill, now is the time to advocate for DBII funding. [Click here to tell your federal lawmakers](#) you support dairy business growth!

## U.S., Mexico Begin USMCA Review Discussions



U.S. and Mexican trade officials concluded their first round of discussions related to the joint review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on Friday, May 29. Negotiators focused on automotive rules of origin, steel and aluminum trade, economic security, and general efforts to strengthen North American supply chains.

Agriculture issues are expected to take center stage during the next round of talks, scheduled for June 16-17 in Washington, D.C. A third round will follow in July in Mexico City. U.S. officials have emphasized the importance of ensuring the agreement continues to benefit American farmers, manufacturers, workers, and businesses while maintaining a level playing field in North American trade.

WCMA will continue monitoring the discussions and advocating for policies that support dairy exports and market access opportunities for U.S. dairy processors.

---

## RFK Jr. Highlights Dairy's Nutritional Value During WI Farm Visit



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. [visited a western Wisconsin dairy farm](#) on Monday, June 1 alongside Congressman Derrick Van Orden (R-WI 03), using the event to promote faith-based addiction recovery programs, \$11 billion in temporary emergency cash-flow relief to row crop farmers, and the benefits of dairy and whole milk consumption. Speaking to dairy farmers at Gilbertson Family Farm in Elk Mound, Kennedy encouraged consumers to “eat real food” and said depriving children of access to whole milk was akin to “child abuse.” The visit also spotlighted recent federal action restoring whole milk options in schools, a policy change supported by Van Orden.

---

## Idaho Confirms New H5N1 Positives in Dairy Herds



For the first time since December 2025, dairy cattle in Idaho have [tested positive](#) for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1). As of June 1, state and U.S. agriculture officials have confirmed [14 new cases](#) in three herds. According to Idaho's state veterinarian, most of the infected cattle are asymptomatic, and milk production is not significantly affected. Additionally, the strain of H5N1 found in Idaho dairy cattle is spread by direct animal-to-animal contact, rather than wild migratory birds. [READ MORE...](#)

---

# Headlines

## Wisconsin

- WIZN Radio: [Sen. Baldwin visits Stoddard area farm to call attention to effects of Iran war on producing food](#)
- WTAQ Radio: [Gov. Evers kicks off June Dairy Month, celebrates Wisconsin's proud heritage as America's Dairyland](#)

## National & Global

- NPR: [More people are going hungry now than at the height of the pandemic](#)
- Dairy Foods: [Idaho Milk Products hosts ribbon cutting for new facility](#)
- Progressive Grocer: [ALDI bans 44 artificial ingredients from its own products](#)
- Food Business News: [IFF to sell Food Ingredients unit for \\$4.3 billion](#) (Featuring WCMA member IFF)
- AgDaily: [Oklahoma expands raw milk sales while dairy compliance bill stalls](#)



Photo: Henning Cheese

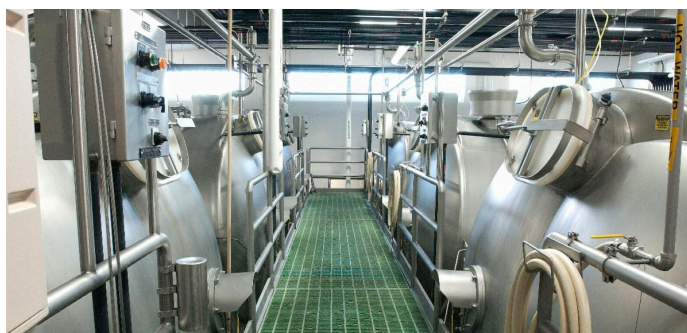
## Celebrate #JuneDairyMonth

Happy June Dairy Month! This special time offers an opportunity to celebrate the farmers, cheesemakers, processors, haulers, and industry partners who drive the success of the U.S. dairy industry. Dairy remains a cornerstone of rural communities and economic growth across the country, generating more than \$779 billion in economic activity, supporting over 3 million jobs. Follow WCMA on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) as we celebrate #JuneDairyMonth all month long!

## FEATURED: WCMA NOTES

*Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's monthly column, WCMA Notes, sharing insights and ideas for the dairy processing industry.*

### U.S. Cheese Expansions Throttle Up



As June Dairy Month kicks off, cheese production growth continues strong across the country. In this month's [WCMA Notes column](#), Executive Director John Umhoefer highlights four exciting greenfield and expansion projects from WCMA members Grande Cheese Company, Leprino Foods Company, Meister Cheese Company, and Valley Queen Cheese. [READ MORE...](#)

## EDUCATION

### FDA Holds Food Traceability Rule Trainings



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) have launched a [new training](#) to support participants in understanding and complying with USDA's Food Traceability Rule (FTR). The training focuses on FTR recordkeeping requirements, identifying applicable requirements, traceability data transmission, and Traceability Plan requirements. The training also covers how companies may approach establishing food traceability programs and procedures, including supply chain and data considerations. [READ MORE...](#)

### SDSU Launches Two-Year Dairy Technology Degree



Undergraduates at South Dakota State University (SDSU) can enroll now for a [new Associate of Science degree in Dairy Technology](#). The new program offers two tracks: Dairy Production and Dairy Products. Graduates are prepared for entry-level technical and management positions in dairy production, processing, government, and research. Credits transfer directly into SDSU's Bachelor of Science degrees in Dairy Production and Dairy Manufacturing. Classes for the new Associate program will begin in fall 2026. [READ MORE...](#)

## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### RSVP Now for Next Free WCMA Webinar

**WCMA Webinar**  
*Trends in Cheese Production & Sales*

Consumer preferences, economic pressures, and retail strategies are constantly shifting - and those shifts can have a direct impact on dairy processors' bottom line. 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.

### Upcoming WCMA Events

June 11	July 9	July 22	August 6
<a href="#">Free Webinar: Trends in Cheese Sales</a>	<a href="#">Free Webinar: Supplier Roundtable</a>	<a href="#">2026 Golf Outing &amp; Trap Shoot</a>	<a href="#">Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing</a>

*All materials contained on this site are protected by United States copyright law and may not be forwarded, reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published, or broadcast without the prior written permission of Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association.*

Wisconsin Cheese Makers Assn. | 5117 West Terrace Drive Suite 402 | Madison, WI 53718 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!