



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

House Approves Agriculture-FDA Funding; Senate Action Delayed



Congress continues work on Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations legislation, with several developments over the past week.

On Thursday the U.S. House of Representatives approved its [FY27 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\), and Related Agencies appropriations bill](#), advancing some funding priorities strongly supported by WCMA.

Among the provisions included in the House-passed measure are:

- \$13.75 million for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative (DBII);
- \$4 million for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive projects, encouraging milk purchases through SNAP;
- Language preserving milk and dairy benefits in the WIC program for mothers and children;
- Language reinforcing Congressional intent to make whole and 2% milk available in both school breakfast and lunch programs.

Notably, the House bill also delays FDA food traceability rules until 2028.

Meanwhile, the Senate appropriations process encountered delays. On Wednesday, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins [postponed committee consideration](#) of the Senate Agriculture-FDA spending package after disputes emerged over amendment votes and questions related to President Trump's proposed "anti-weaponization" fund.

Senate appropriators have signaled support for maintenance of FDA food safety and inspection activities, a measure supported by WCMA, despite other proposals for deeper federal spending reductions. Recent Senate discussions emphasized the importance of preserving food safety oversight, inspection capacity, scientific research, and implementation of key food safety programs.



**Take Action
Now!**

As Congress weighs its 2027 spending plans and the pending Farm Bill, now is the time to advocate for DBII funding. [Click here to tell your](#)

WCMA continues to actively advocate for continued federal investment in dairy innovation, nutrition programs, and food safety infrastructure throughout the appropriations process.

[federal lawmakers](#) you support dairy business growth!

Trump Updates Tariff Policy, Providing Some Farm Relief



President Trump last week [issued an Executive Order](#) modifying tariffs on certain imported steel, aluminum, and copper products. The [order](#) provides temporary tariff relief through 2027 for some agricultural equipment, including combines and harvesters, and expands access to lower tariff rates for equipment manufactured primarily with U.S.-sourced metals.

For dairy processors, the changes may modestly reduce costs for some forklifts and industrial equipment used in warehousing. However, many major dairy processing investments, including stainless steel tanks, vats, silos, piping, refrigeration systems, and plant construction materials, remain subject to existing tariffs.

WCMA continues to advocate for targeted tariff relief on dairy processing equipment and infrastructure to support the competitiveness of dairy manufacturers throughout the supply chain.

Federal Judge Strikes Down \$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee



In a reversal of prior federal court rulings, a judge on Monday [ruled against](#) the Trump Administration's \$100,000 fee for new H-1B visas, first announced last fall. This is the latest ruling in one of several lawsuits against the fee, which are pending in federal courts across the country. Administration officials say they plan to appeal the ruling. [READ MORE...](#)

Apply by July 13 for Wisconsin AI Workforce Training Grants



The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is now accepting applications for [Wisconsin Training for Resilient Advanced Industry Needs \(WisTRAIN\)](#) grants, a federally-funded program designed to help employers train workers in advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies. Applications for the initial funding round are due July 13, 2026.

WisTRAIN grants are available to Wisconsin employers of all sizes and can provide up to \$330,000 per employer or consortium. Funding may support occupational training in areas such as automation, robotics, predictive maintenance, data analytics, cybersecurity, digital systems integration, and other technologies increasingly used across manufacturing operations. Employees must work in Wisconsin-based positions, and training must align with the program's advanced manufacturing or artificial intelligence focus. [LEARN MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- The Fence Post: [Trump campaigns in Wisconsin](#)
- WFRV-TV: [Inside Weyauwega Star Dairy: Fresh cheese, local farms, and new expansion](#) (Featuring WCMA member Weyauwega Star Dairy)
- WXOW-TV: [Gov. Tony Evers tours Westby Cooperative Creamery](#) (Featuring WCMA member Westby Cooperative Creamery)
- Wausau Pilot & Review: [Wisconsin farms at low risk for New World screwworm, but should watch for these signs](#)

National & Global

- Texas Farm Bureau: [Thompson expected to release ag labor draft soon](#)
- CNBC: [U.S. customs agency, trade judge to seek path to final tariff refunds](#)
- ABC News: [Two more Texas screwworm infections found in animals far apart, USDA says](#)
- ProPublica: [Mark McAfee promotes the wonders of raw milk. It has sickened hundreds, regulators say](#)
- USA Today: [Deadly listeria outbreak traced to soft cheese](#)

FEATURED: SUSTAINABILITY

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

Plan Ahead to Apply for Fall DBIA Sustainability Grants



This fall, the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research, will offer a new round of Dairy Industry Impact awards, focused on supporting projects aligned with sustainability or export initiatives. Applications will open in August, and WCMA members can [sign up now](#) to receive updates on the program.

STAY UPDATED

Sign Up for Updates on Upcoming WCMA Sustainability Events



Watch your email inbox for more information coming soon about WCMA's sustainability-focused educational and networking opportunities! Our annual Sustainability Workshop will be held this fall, followed by a meeting of WCMA's Dairy Sustainability Group in early 2027. Meeting details and registration information will be shared in this newsletter and direct emails to members.

Interested in receiving updates about WCMA's sustainability programming? Update your communication preferences in your [WCMA Member Compass](#) or contact [Director of Sustainability & Grants Danica Nilsestuen](#).

Explore Resources from WCMA Sustainability Partners



As a proud member of the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's [Sustainability Alliance](#), WCMA staff and members had the pleasure of attending the Alliance's spring meeting in Chicago this April.

Useful resources shared during the meeting included:

- [Report: Realizing Sustainable Packaging](#) by Pure Strategies
- [Packaging Compliance Guides](#) by rePurpose
- [Presentation: What global reporting expectations mean for dairy](#) by Anthesis
- [Recycling funding opportunities](#) from Closed Loop Partners
- [Dairy Funding Opportunities Hub](#) by Dairy Conservation Navigator

Additional information, including the 2025 U.S. Dairy Materiality Assessment report and the U.S. Dairy Sustainability Progress Update to 2050 goals, can be found [online](#).

EDUCATION

Registration Open Now for UW-RF Pasteurization Course



Registration is now open for the upcoming [Pasteurizer Operator Short Course](#), offered June 22-23 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. This comprehensive training is designed for current pasteurizer operators and individuals seeking a Wisconsin Pasteurizer Operator License.

Topics of instruction include raw milk microbiology, pathogenic organisms, thermalization, CIP requirements, batch and HTST pasteurization, recordkeeping, seal placement, and broken seal events. Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) staff will administer the state pasteurization exam upon conclusion of the course.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Final Days to Sponsor WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot



Just days remain to reserve [high-impact marketing opportunities](#) at the WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot!

Become a sponsor now to promote your company to hundreds of dairy processing professionals at the industry's favorite event of the summer, set for July 22 in central Wisconsin. Sponsorships are only available through Thursday, June 11, so [act now](#).

[SPONSOR NOW](#)

Upcoming WCMA Events

June 11	July 9	July 22	August 6
Free Webinar: Trends in Cheese Sales	Free Webinar: Supplier Roundtable	2026 Golf Outing & Trap Shoot	Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing

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