



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

June 16, 2026

news@wischeesemakers.org



NEWS

President Trump: U.S. May Not Renew USMCA



Last Wednesday, President Donald Trump said he was ["not looking to renew"](#) the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), marking a departure from expected progress on the deal. The President's remarks came as the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) prepares for a second round of USMCA negotiations with Mexican officials this week. Canadian trade representatives have also indicated positive relations with USTR, though the two countries have not yet set a date for formal negotiations. [READ MORE...](#)

Northeast FMMO Calls for Comments on Shipping Percentage



The Northeast Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) is accepting comments now through July 17 on a [proposal to lower the shipping percentage](#) from 20 percent to six percent for the months of September, October, and November. Lowville Producers Dairy Cooperative, a pool handler, requested the change following a long-term decline in Class I utilization and increase in Class II, III, and IV utilization.

Comments may be submitted via email to [Northeast FMMO staff](#) or mailed to:

Northeast Marketing Area
302A Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203
Attention: Brian Riordon

Contact Local Leaders to Apply for WI ARIP Grants



[Click above](#) to hear from WCMA member Pine River Pre-Pack about how ARIP helped turn an aging local road near their facility into a safe, reliable connector.

Applications are due June 29 for a [new round of Agricultural Roads Improvement Program \(ARIP\) grants](#). Announced in late April, this round will distribute \$70 million to support local road and culvert projects that help farmers and processors move products efficiently.

Connect with your local elected officials now to explore project opportunities and advocate for infrastructure investments that support dairy processing growth statewide.

Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Renew WI Bulk Milk Weigher and Sampler Licenses



Bulk milk weighers and samplers in Wisconsin can [renew their licenses online now](#) through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). Licensees who have not had an inspection within the past two years may [sign up for an appointment](#), held throughout August and September at county fairgrounds statewide. Have questions? Please contact [WDATCP staff](#). A map of current WDATCP dairy sanitarians and contact information is also [available online](#).

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Pierce County Journal: [Cheese Curd Festival celebrates 25 years of curds, community and WI tradition](#) (Featuring WCMA member Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery)
- Food & Wine: [The ultimate Wisconsin cheese trail for a taste of Wisconsin terroir](#) (Featuring WCMA members Landmark Creamery, Marieke Gouda, Roelli Cheese Co., Uplands Cheese, and Widmer's Cheese Cellars)

National & Global

- Reuters: [EU lawmakers approve U.S. trade deal to avert tariff conflict](#)
- FOX Business: [Deadly listeria outbreak sparks expanded cheese recall across multiple states](#)
- USA TODAY: [Supreme Court won't hear U.S./China tariff challenge](#)
- The Hill: [Dairy farmers sue Trump administration over checkoff program](#)
- Aberdeen News: [Babybel's Brookings plant to double cheese production, expand by \\$200M](#) (Featuring WCMA member Bel Brands USA)
- Farm Progress: [The new dairy gold rush: Which states see investment in processing?](#) (Featuring WCMA member CoBank)
- Associated Press: [The world wants more high-protein products, but there's not enough whey to go around](#) (Featuring WCMA members Agropur, Ever.Ag, and Glanbia Nutritional)

FEATURED: WEBINARS

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.

Watch Free WCMA Webinar Now for Cheese, Foodservice Trends

KEY MENU & PRODUCT STRATEGIES (Q1 2026)

| Strategy | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Beverage-led innovation for traffic or margin | 53% |
| New menu items | 48% |
| New menu items | 43% |
| New menu items | 36% |
| New menu items | 32% |
| New menu items | 29% |
| New menu items | 28% |
| New menu items | 27% |
| New menu items | 17% |
| New menu items | 15% |
| New menu items | 12% |
| New menu items | 11% |
| New menu items | 11% |
| New menu items | 7% |
| New menu items | 4% |

Base: Total Respondents (n=22)
Q2: What are your key menu and product strategies for Q1 2026?

A recording of WCMA's latest free webinar, focused on the latest trends in cheese production and sales, is [now available online](#). During this session, members heard from WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer and Kinetic12 Senior Partner Bruce Reinstein on cheese production and retail sales, as well as an inside look at the state of the foodservice industry. For a list of helpful contacts and resources shared during the session, [visit our website](#).

RSVP Today for July 9 Webinar on Robotics in Cheesemaking

WCMA Webinar

Supplier Roundtable: Robotics & Automation in Cheesemaking

REGISTER NOW

The dairy plant floor is changing, and fast. Robotics and automation are helping cheesemakers boost efficiency, reduce labor costs, and maintain the consistent quality customers expect. [Register now](#) to join WCMA's next free, members-only webinar on July 9 at 1:00 p.m. (CT), featuring an informational roundtable of trusted industry suppliers discussing how robotics and automation are changing the game in dairy processing, and how manufacturers can stay ahead of the curve.

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Enjoy Networking and Fun at WCMA Young Professionals Outing



Dairy processing professionals under 40 are invited to a day of networking and fun at the next [WCMA's Young Professionals event](#), as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates at American Family Field on Thursday, August 6. Space at this popular event is limited. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with friends and peers - [register now!](#)

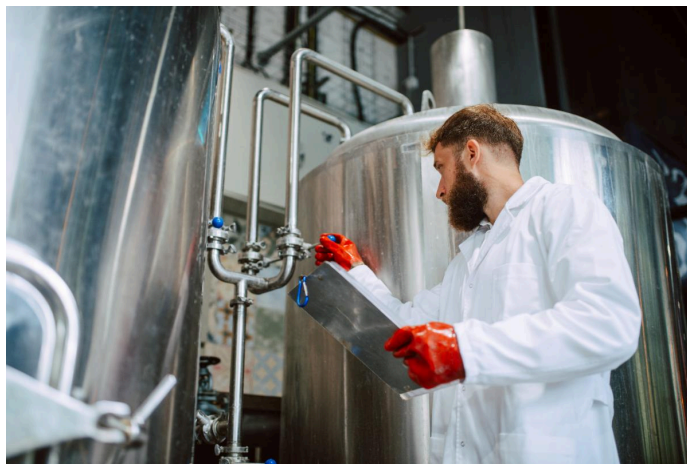
SIGN UP NOW

Upcoming WCMA Events

| July 9 | July 22 | August 6 | September 10 | September 17 |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Free Webinar: Supplier Roundtable | 2026 Golf Outing & Trap Shoot | Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing | Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual) | Front-Line Leadership Part A (In-Person) |

EDUCATION

Innovation Center to Host Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop in WA



Registration is now open for the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's upcoming [Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshop](#), set for August 26-27 in Pasco, Washington. This two-day course is designed to help dairy processing facilities improve pathogen control practices including Pathogen Environmental Monitoring (PEM), sanitation, and sanitary design. The training includes lectures, Q&A sessions, and hands-on exercises, led by food safety leaders in the dairy industry. [READ MORE...](#)

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