



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

Trump Admin Clarifies H-2A Eligibility for Dairy Operations



The U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Homeland Security (DHS) announced June 17 a [new administrative action](#) clarifying that dairy farmers may utilize the H-2A visa program when they can demonstrate a temporary or seasonal labor need.

The announcement follows years of uncertainty surrounding dairy's eligibility for H-2A workers. While federal law has long included dairy work within the scope of agricultural employment, the year-round nature of milk production has often complicated access to a visa program traditionally designed for seasonal labor. Under the new guidance, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officials are directed to evaluate dairy-related H-2A petitions on a case-by-case basis.

Because H-2A visas are limited to agricultural employment, the June 17 announcement will not expand access for dairy processing positions. WCMA continues to advocate for [federal immigration reforms](#) that provide practical workforce solutions, including expanded visa opportunities for year-round manufacturing employees and workers throughout the dairy supply chain.

U.S. Senate Farm Bill Draft Expected Today



John Boozman (R-Arkansas), chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, is [expected to release](#) his chamber's draft of the remaining parts of the new Farm Bill today, Tuesday, June 23. As WCMA [previously reported in this newsletter](#), the House passed its version of the Farm Bill in early May, including a number of important provisions for dairy. Boozman has said he plans to hold committee markup sessions on the bill in July. [READ MORE...](#)

WCMA Members Awarded DBIA Grants



The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), administered by WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research, has [awarded \\$2.9 million in grants](#) to 28 dairy companies and cooperatives.

The group includes 15 WCMA members: Actus Nutrition, Cinnamon Ridge Farms, Country Creamery Farm, Decatur Dairy, Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, Hidden Springs Creamery, Roelli Cheese Co., and Ron's Wisconsin Cheese. A complete list of grant recipients and project summaries is [available online](#). [READ MORE...](#)

[Click the "Play" button](#) to hear the firsthand success story of DBIA grant recipient Cinnamon Ridge Farms!

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin State Farmer: [Glass Nickel Pizza chain's growth rooted in Wisconsin dairy industry](#) (Featuring WCMA member Foremost Farms USA)
- eDairyNews: [Wisconsin cheese plant pulls off massive \\$150M makeover](#) (Featuring WCMA member Dairy State Cheese)
NEW: View our [video recap](#) for an inside look!
- eDairyNews: [WI Congressman introduces REAL Butter Act](#)

National & Global

- The Fence Post: [Boozman to release farm bill draft Tuesday](#)
- FarmProgress: [Why cheese is being marketed as a new protein bar](#)
- New York Times: [Where has all the cottage cheese gone?](#) (Featuring WCMA member Westby Cooperative Creamery)
- Associated Press: [Dairy Farmers of America to 'idle' its St. Albans plant in Vermont, affecting 80 employees](#) (Featuring WCMA member Dairy Farmers of America)
- KSTP-TV: [American cheeses for 4th of July](#) (Featuring WCMA members Blakesville Creamery and Deer Creek Cheese)
- Brownfield Ag News: [Missouri dairy family finds success through cheese making](#)
- Coshocton Tribune: [Pearl Valley making cheese for nearly 100 years](#) (Featuring WCMA member Pearl Valley Cheese)



WCMA Board Tours MWC Facility

Many thanks to WCMA member [Glanbia Nutrition](#), who generously hosted the WCMA Board of Directors last week for their quarterly meeting and a tour of MWC in St. Johns, Michigan. With over 260 employees, the facility processes over 2.9 billion pounds of milk, and produces over 300 million pounds of block cheese and 20 million pounds of whey protein powders each year.

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Join WCMA Young Professionals August 6 for Networking Tailgate



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

Learn the Latest on Robotic Tech in Free WCMA Webinar

WCMA Webinar

***Supplier Roundtable:
Robotics & Automation
in Cheesemaking***

RSVP TODAY

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.

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