



WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION & RESOURCES



Amid Ongoing Congressional Conflict, Senate to Vote on \$500B Coronavirus Relief Package

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) today announced the [Senate will vote on a pared-back coronavirus relief bill](#) later this week. The \$500 billion package includes \$300-per-week boosts in unemployment benefits through the end of the year, a new round of small business support, \$10 billion for child care, and \$10 billion for the Postal Service.

The [legislation is unlikely to advance](#), as it lacks support in the U.S. House of Representatives, controlled by [Democrats who approved a \\$3 trillion package](#) in May, which includes \$915 billion in support for state and local units of government and another round of direct stimulus checks for Americans.

WCMA Notes: Retain Your Workforce as Pandemic, Child Care Disruptions Persist

With ten percent of America's workforce currently filing for jobless benefits amid the coronavirus pandemic, it seems strange to say that we have a labor shortage. Yet, between unemployment enhancers and personal health concerns, most dairy industry employers know, good help remains hard to find.

Now, as children head "back to school" virtually and daycare centers

remain shuttered, we may be on the cusp of another labor exodus.



In the [September edition of WCMA Notes](#), WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney offers five simple, low-cost ways dairy industry employers can adapt to retain staff as the country faces child care disruptions during the pandemic.

Coronavirus Headline News

Dairy Industry:

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Letter from Trump in USDA food boxes has nonprofits concerned about playing politics](#)
- *Associated Press*: [Food banks: USDA program helped but better ways to meet need](#)
- *WTMJ-TV*: [Milk slated to be dumped gets new life from the Hunger Task Force](#) (Featuring WCMA member Marieke Gouda)
- *WDJT-TV*: [Support Wisconsin dairy farmers and get free Wisconsin State Fair tickets](#)
- *Food & Wine*: [America's cheesemakers are in peril. Buying this cheese gift box helps.](#)

Wisconsin

- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin records highest positive percentage of COVID-19 tests since March as Dane County warns against gatherings](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [19 more hospitalized for coronavirus in Wisconsin, no new deaths Monday, DHS says](#)
- *WISC-TV*: [Students hope UW-Madison restrictions on undergrads will slow COVID-19 spread, keep campus open](#)
- *WCCO-TV*: [184 students in quarantine at UW-Eau Claire](#)
- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: [Health leaders looking ahead to 'Herculean task' of vaccinating 300 million or more Americans against COVID-19](#)
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*: [Wisconsin economy takes a hit from sports delays, cancellations](#)
- *WSAW-TV*: [Survey: Coronavirus causes construction project delays, cancellations in Wisconsin](#)

National/International:

- *Reuters*: [Coronavirus cases rising in 22 U.S. states](#)
 - *CBS News*: [Coronavirus model projects U.S. deaths will surpass 400,000 by end of year](#)
 - *Barron's*: [Under pressure to deliver, nine COVID-19 vaccine developers promise safety first](#)
 - *Washington Post*: [Most Americans won't be allowed to get a coronavirus vaccine as soon as it's approved](#)
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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:

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Wisconsin Groundwater Council Recommends Research, Support for Improved Nutrient Management

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Groundwater Coordinating Council last week submitted its [2020 report to the Legislature](#), recommending state support for research on nutrient management practices that minimize the loss of natural soil nitrogen to groundwater, and for a program to help develop and implement those practices on Wisconsin farms.

Dairy Innovation Hub Funds Seven Projects



[University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences officials have announced seven projects which will receive 2020 grants](#) via the Dairy Innovation Hub initiative. The projects address the Hub's four priorities: stewarding land and water resources; enriching human health and nutrition; ensuring animal health and welfare; and growing farm business and communities.

WCMA has proudly advocated for the Dairy Innovation Hub, partnering with Dairy Business Association, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, and others to secure nearly \$9 million in state support in the last budget cycle.

IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin:

- *Eau Claire Leader-Telegram*: [Opening of 2021 Broadband Expansion Grants announced](#)
- *WFRV-TV*: [Wisconsin Senators raise concerns over USMCA enforcement](#)
- *Feedstuffs*: [U.S. dairy falling behind in global trade](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Wisconsin dairy industry leaders discuss international trade policy in 'AgTalks' panel](#)

National/International:

- *WEAU-TV*: [National cheese production up two percent](#)
- *Dairy Foods Magazine*: [Dairy's affordability is a key sustainability consideration](#)

EDUCATION

Join WCMA Education Committee on October 6

Save the date for a virtual meeting of the [WCMA Education Committee](#) set for Tuesday, October 6 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. (CT). Committee members will discuss current pandemic-related training needs and evaluate industry trainings offered by WCMA, the Center for Dairy Research, and UW-River Falls. All WCMA members are welcome to join in this free, open meeting. Questions? Contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Register Now For WCMA's Next Step Leadership Course Focused on Diversity, Inclusion Strategies



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

WCMA is shining a spotlight on its newest industry training offering: [Next Step Leadership](#), set for Tuesday, October 6. This engaging online class offers a refresher on essential leadership skills and a deep dive on one topic, determined by our members. This year, Next Step Leadership focuses on diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Tuition costs \$135 per person, and just six spots remain - so [reserve your space today!](#)

Here's a look at WCMA's other Fall 2020 leadership trainings:

- **September 24:** Front-Line Leadership Training: Essential Skills **SOLD OUT!**
- **October 15:** [Front-Line Leadership Training Part B: Positively Impacting Performance](#) **ONE SPOT REMAINS**
- **November 4:** Front-Line Leadership Training: Cultivating a Team **SOLD OUT!**
- **November 5:** [Front-Line Leadership Training Part C: Cultivating a Team](#) **SIX SPOTS REMAIN**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Register for Other Industry Training Opportunities

WCMA is proud to promote opportunities for training and enrichment hosted by our partners in industry. Consider registering to participate in these upcoming events:

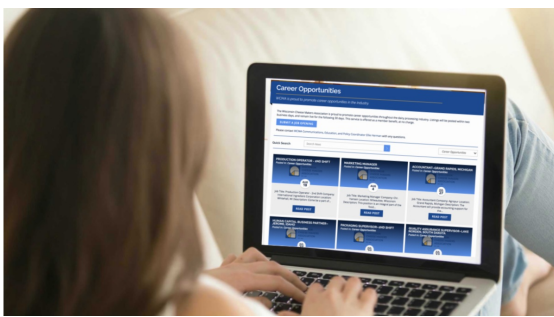
- September 17: [Cheesemaking 101 | Center for Dairy Research](#)
- September 28: [Cheesemaker's Short Course | UW-River Falls](#)
- October 1: [Cheesemaking 101 | Center for Dairy Research](#)
- October 27-29: [Dairy Protein Beverage Applications Online Course | Center for Dairy Research](#)

WORKFORCE

Join WCMA's Workforce Committee October 20

Register now to join in a virtual meeting of [WCMA's Workforce Committee](#) set for Tuesday, October 20 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. (CT). Meeting goals include discussing pandemic-related workforce challenges - and how WCMA can help, current training offerings and unmet needs, changes to WCMA's annual Wage & Workforce Survey, and various employee attraction and retention resources. All WCMA members are welcome to join in this free, open meeting, and those with human resources responsibilities are especially encouraged to participate. Questions? Contact [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Submit Openings, Consider New Opportunities on WCMA Jobs Board



WCMA's [industry-specific online jobs board](#) is currently featuring career opportunities at WCMA member companies Agropur, Caloris Engineering, Chr. Hansen, International Ingredient Corporation, and Springside Cheese. [Check out what's posted right now!](#)

All WCMA members, including manufacturers, processors, marketers, and suppliers, are invited to [submit job openings](#) at any time. It's free and easy. Have questions? [WCMA staff](#) can help.

Register Now for Wisconsin's "Drive Thru" Job Fairs

Wisconsin-based WCMA members are invited to participate in ["drive thru" job fairs at more than 20 locations](#) throughout the state on Thursday, September 17. Companies may [register online now to join in these innovative events](#).

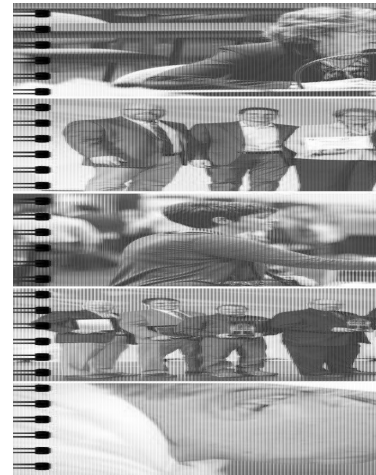
MEMBERSHIP

Reserve Ad Space for 2021 WCMA Member Directory

Preparations are now underway for the 2021 Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association Member Directory, and we're pleased to offer supplier members [an early opportunity to reserve ad space](#).

Advertising in the WCMA Member Directory connects your company with more than 100 dairy manufacturers, processors, and marketers, operating out of 275 facilities in 22 states and 11 countries.

Advertising spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis - and the deadline to reserve space is Monday, October 19. To reserve your space, contact [WCMA Office and Member Service Manager Sara Schmidt](#).



Welcome New WCMA Member



WCMA is pleased to welcome new dairy processor member [Hoogwegt U.S.](#), based in Lake Forest, Illinois. Hoogwegt is a worldwide provider of milk powders, butter fats, and whey products for the dairy market.

For more than 128 years, WCMA has served as the voice of cheese and dairy manufacturers, processors, and marketers. Today, WCMA represents more than 100 dairy processing companies and cooperatives operating across the United States, as well as 575 companies that supply industry equipment and services.

In Memoriam: Bradley Swan

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Bradley Swan, age 54, who passed away on September 3. Brad was a dedicated 26-year sales veteran of Sealed Air Corporation/Cryovac. More information on his life and upcoming services is [available in his online obituary](#).

Sign Up Colleagues for WCMA E-Newsletters

Thanks for subscribing to WCMA's weekly electronic communications! Please note, WCMA extends this benefit to all member employees. Let us know if we should [add your colleagues](#) to our mailing list, or if you'd like to share feedback on this or other communications products.

WisCheeseMakers.org

