

WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

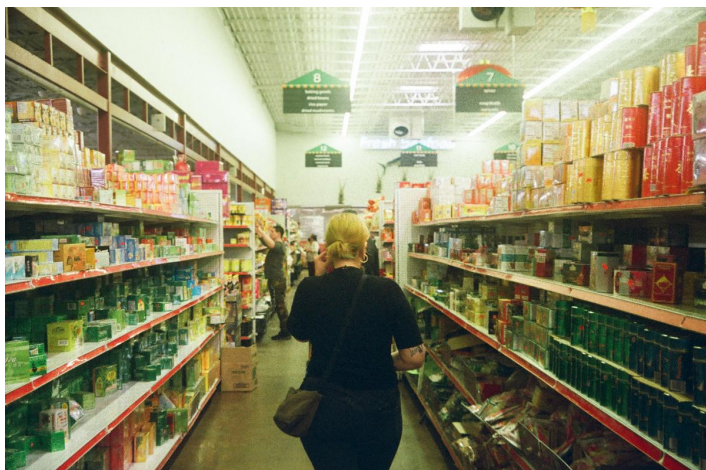
October 28, 2025

news@wischeesemakers.org



NEWS

States Attempt SNAP Workarounds as Shutdown Continues



The federal government shutdown entered its 28th day today, with no immediate resolution in sight. Due to Congressional inaction, funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is set to end this Saturday, November 1. Last Friday, in a reversal of prior statements, [the U.S. Department of Agriculture advised states](#) that it will not use existing contingency funds of between \$5 billion-\$6 billion to provide partial payments to the nation's 42 million SNAP beneficiaries, due \$8 billion in aid in November.

Even a temporary pause in SNAP funding could have a significant negative impact on retail dairy sales, with studies showing that SNAP households spend approximately 7-11 percent of their food aid on dairy products.

For more on what some states are doing to continue SNAP benefits without federal support, see these related news stories:

- Argus Leader: [South Dakota doesn't have a plan to cover federal food assistance for 75,000 if shutdown continues](#)
- WTVG-TV: [Nearly 1.5 million Ohioans could lose SNAP benefits in November due to government shutdown](#)
- KMSP-TV: [Gov. Walz unveils \\$4 million for MN food shelves as shutdown could halt SNAP benefits](#)
- WHO-TV: [\\$45 million in monthly SNAP benefits for Iowans at risk if government shutdown continues](#)
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [SNAP funding in Wisconsin is running out. Farmers and businesses brace for impact](#)

U.S., China Agree to Trade Framework Ahead of In-Person Meeting

Just days before President Trump's 100 percent tariffs on Chinese goods are set to



take effect, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the [U.S. and China have agreed to a trade framework](#) that will de-escalate the two countries' ongoing trade war. While details have not been released, Bessent indicated that the deal will avoid the higher tariffs, set for November 1, and end China's boycott of American soybeans. Bessent said he expects Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping to meet soon to finalize the deal. [READ MORE...](#)

FDA to Consolidate Inspection Areas Under "Simple Reform"



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [plans to return to a generalized inspectorate](#), consolidating its specialized field inspectors into a team of generalists, regulatory news outlet Citeline [reported](#) last week. The effort, known as "Simple Reform," reverses a 2017 initiative designed to ensure FDA inspectors were specialized in the area they were assigned to. Current reporting on this move focuses on medical research and production. WCMA is seeking clarity on the impact, if any, on food inspections. [READ MORE...](#)

Dairy Innovation Hub Hosts Dairy Summit November 18



The sixth annual Dairy Summit, hosted by the Dairy Innovation Hub, will be held on November 18 at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. This event will include tours of the UW-River Falls Dairy Pilot Plant, Meat Plant, and Humane Handling Institute. Attendees will also hear student research presentations and hear from students during the in-depth Student Impact Panel discussion. This event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is encouraged. [READ MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Green Bay Press-Gazette: [From cherries to cheese to iconic inns, Door County businesses loved playing a part in "A Wisconsin Christmas Pie"](#) (Featuring WCMA member Renard's Cheese)

National & Global

- Bellingham Herald: [E. coli outbreak tied to Whatcom County dairy](#)
- Longview News-Journal: [Dairy industry company to bring \\$200M-plus investment to](#)

[Longview](#)

- Dairy Foods: [Mixed milk could provide a new flavor source for cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA and members Hook's Cheese Company and Mosaic Meadows - LaClare Creamery)
- VTDigger: [Conservation and education programs were supposed to bolster a century-old dairy farm in Norwich. Now, it's in foreclosure.](#)

FEATURED: MEMBERSHIP

Final Week to Vote and Nominate for WCMA Recognition Awards



Last call to nominate and vote for outstanding leaders in the dairy processing industry for [WCMA's 2026 Recognition Awards](#). All submissions are **due by Friday, October 31**. Help honor excellence across the industry by voting to select finalists for the WCMA Distinguished Service Award and by submitting nominations for the WCMA Babcock Award, WCMA Cheese Industry Champion Award, WCMA Luminary Award, and WCMA Vanguard Award. This is a meaningful opportunity to recognize a colleague, mentor, or friend who has made a lasting impact on dairy's success. [Nominate and vote today!](#)

WCMA Welcomes New Members



Join WCMA in welcoming new dairy manufacturer members [Lanco Pennland](#), [Wenger's Springbrook Cheese](#), and new supplier members [Industrial Solutions Unlimited](#), [Vorpahl Fire & Safety](#), [Anritsu Product Inspection & Detection](#), [Stellar](#), [EMG International](#), [Vacuum, Pump & Compressor, Inc.](#), [ATCAM](#), and [ESC, Inc.](#)

View these and hundreds of other WCMA members now in our [searchable online directory](#).

Have questions about WCMA membership? Contact [WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt](#).

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Prepare for World Championship Cheese Contest in Free Webinar

Considering entering the 2026 World Championship Cheese Contest? Join WCMA for a [free webinar on Thursday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m. \(CT\)](#), focused on



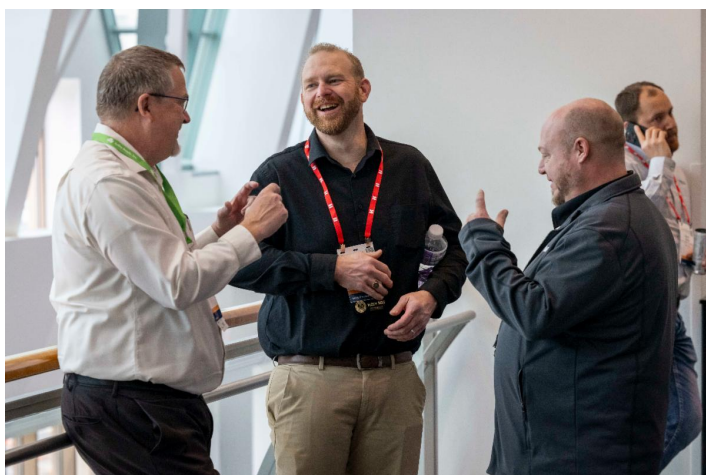
Kirsten Strohmer
Contest Director



Jill Allen
Contest Judge

all the key details you need for entry. Join WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmer for a detailed overview of how to enter the competition, including how to prepare and ship your entries; and hear from Contest Judge Jill Allen about how your products are evaluated. Then, ask all your Contest questions during our 30-minute, drop-in Q&A session. It's your opportunity to get the information you need, all in one concise session. [Register now!](#)

Make Impactful Connections at CheeseExpo 2026



Act now to make lasting business connections at CheeseExpo, set for April 14-16, 2026 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Market your company or cooperative to the global dairy processing industry with one of [CheeseExpo's impactful sponsorships](#), available for a limited time. Then, keep the growth going: [register yourself and your team](#) to explore CheeseExpo in-person! Don't miss your opportunity to reach new potential customers and build your professional network. Visit [CheeseExpo.org](#) for details today!

BECOME A SPONSOR

REGISTER NOW

Upcoming WCMA Events

October 29-30	November 6	November 13	November 14	November 20
Dairy Sustainability Workshop: Carbon Clarity (In-Person)	Free Webinar: World Championship Cheese Contest 101	Dairy Export Group Meeting (Hybrid)	Young Professionals Event	Front-Line Leadership Part C: Cultivating a Team (In-Person)

EDUCATION

CDR, T.C. Jacoby to Discuss Milk Composition and Cheese Plant Profitability Nov. 12

At the request of WCMA, experts from Center for Dairy Research and T.C. Jacoby



& Co. will present a special discussion on Milk Composition, Milk Standardization and Cheese Plant Profitability Wednesday, Nov. 12 at the Eastern Wisconsin Cheesemakers & Buttermakers Association (EWCBA) annual meeting in Menasha. CDR technologists Dean Sommer, John Jaeggi and Mike Molitor will be joined by Mike Brown, VP Dairy Market Intelligence at T.C. Jacoby & Co. for this analysis of the economic impact and product quality impact of higher levels of milk components in cheesemilk. Contact EWCBA's [Claire Sipple](#) for more information.



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