



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

October 29, 2024

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NEWS

USDA Announces \$15M to Boost Organic Dairy Access



WCMA this week cheered the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) direction of **\$15 million to expand access to organic dairy products** in schools and community youth programs.

At a news conference Monday in Vermont alongside the state's ag secretary Anson Tebbetts (see pictured), USDA Undersecretary Jenny Lester Moffitt noted the funding will be distributed through cooperative agreements with Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives, including the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA) run by the Center for Dairy Research and WCMA.

DBIA anticipates offering grants to organic dairy manufacturers before the end of this year. [READ MORE...](#)



H5N1 Response

H5N1 Milk Silo Survey Testing Begins

A **voluntary milk silo survey** organized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and the National Conference on Interstate Milk



Shipments (NCIMS) launches this week, with a goal of determining the prevalence of H5N1 infection in U.S. dairy herds. Testing will occur in at least 33 states, with additional states able to join the effort through the third week of the six-week-long survey, scheduled to wrap in early December. State departments of agriculture are or will be contacting dairy processors to alert them to upcoming testing. Sampling and survey results will be double blinded, meaning sampled facilities cannot be identified.

New H5N1 Human Cases Reported in California



Health officials last week [confirmed a new human case of highly pathogenic avian influenza \(H5N1\)](#) in a dairy farm worker in Merced County, California. This brings the state's [total confirmed human cases](#) to 16, more than any other state. The California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reiterated that the commercial milk supply is safe, and that the risk to the general public of contracting H5N1 is low. [READ MORE...](#)

As a reminder, the CDC [recommends](#) that anyone working with raw milk - including milk haulers and dairy processing personnel involved in raw milk handling - wear personal protective equipment (PPE). [Recommended PPE](#) for these individuals includes a NIOSH-approved particulate respirator such as an N95, eye protection, and gloves. They must also thoroughly wash their hands after raw milk contact.

A complete listing of confirmed H5N1 cases among dairy cattle in the U.S. can be found on the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's website](#). WCMA members can also visit [WisCheeseMakers.org](#) for information and resources related to the H5N1 outbreak in cattle and ways to protect their workers.

Remember to Vote November 5



Don't forget to exercise your right to vote next Tuesday, November 5. Information is available at [USA.gov](#) for voters nationwide including registration status, polling location, and more.

WCMA does not endorse political candidates, but urges members to make their voices heard in every election cycle.

Register Now for WEDC Global Trade Missions

WCMA members operating in Wisconsin



can sign up now for global trade missions hosted by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in 2025. Build relationships and grow your business with missions to the [United Arab Emirates](#) in January, [Mexico](#) in February, [China](#) in March, and more. [VIEW FULL DETAILS...](#)

USDA Issues Draft Yogurt CRD, Issues Cheddar Contract

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a revised [Commodity Requirements Document \(CRD\) for yogurt products](#), with comments and questions due to [USDA staff](#) today, October 29.

USDA has also [awarded a contract](#) to WCMA member Associated Milk Producers Inc. to provide over 693,000 pounds of cheddar cheese for use in federal food distribution programs. A list of [open USDA solicitations](#) and information on how to [become an approved vendor](#) is available [online](#).

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Dairy Reporter: [Wisconsin Cheese is challenging what "American cheese" means to Europeans](#) (Featuring Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and WCMA members Carr Valley Cheese, Emmi Roth, Hook's Cheese Company, Masters Gallery Foods, Mosaic Meadows - LaClare Family Creamery, Nasonville Dairy, Sartori Company, and Uplands Cheese)
- Dairy Foods: [Going inside the plant at Hook's Cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hook's Cheese Company)
- Spectrum News 1: [Ahead of November, how does America's Dairyland feel about the election?](#)

National & Global

- Dairy Foods: [Milk Specialties Global changes name to Actus Nutrition](#)
 - CBS News: [Thieves made off with 48,000 pounds of award-winning cheddar from artisan cheese seller](#)
-

FEATURED: MEMBERSHIP

Learn more about WCMA's programs and member services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's membership services and new Association members

Vote Now for WCMA Distinguished Service Award



[Cast your vote today](#) to help select the individuals who will be honored with the WCMA Distinguished Service Award in April 2025. This award recognizes supplier partner members who have played a significant role in building the success of the U.S. dairy industry. All votes must be received by end of day Friday, November 8.

Left: 2024 WCMA Distinguished Service Award honoree Gary Starkson (left) with Mark Steffens. Right: honoree

VOTE NOW

WCMA Welcomes New Members



Join WCMA in welcoming new supplier members [Headwall Photonics](#), [Delavan Spray Technologies](#), [American Dairy Products Institute](#), [Global Dairy Trade](#), [Schindler & Wagner GmbH & Co KG, \(Schiwa\)](#), [Creative Coatings](#), [Simoneau & Sterling Midwest](#), [Integrity Cheese Packaging of Wisconsin](#), and [Scherjon Equipment Holland](#). View these and other WCMA members now in our searchable [online directory](#). Have questions about WCMA membership? Contact [WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt](#).

EVENTS & CONNECTION

RSVP Now for Free U.S. Championship Cheese Contest Webinar



Eric Vorpahl
Contest Judge
Masters Gallery Foods



Orphee Paillotin
Contest Entrant
Alpinage Artisan Cheese

Chart your path to the 2025 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest with WCMA's [next free webinar](#) on Tuesday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). [Register now](#) to hear from Contest judge Eric Vorpahl and cheesemaker Orphee Paillotin. We'll cover the ins and outs of the Contest, how to make the most of your participation - whether or not you come away with a medal - and answer audience questions.

REGISTER NOW

Network, Get Trade Updates at WCMA Export Workgroup Meeting

WCMA Export Workgroup

Join online or in-person!

November 7
10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (CT)
Madison, Wisconsin

WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

REGISTER NOW:
WisCheeseMakers.org

Explore critical topics in dairy exporting and get updates on key trade issues at the next meeting of [WCMA's Export Workgroup!](#) Join in person or online on Thursday, November 7. Learn more about selecting trustworthy export partners, setting competitive prices for global markets, and navigating the complexities of international trade regulations. Plus, gain insights into the implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USCMA) and the use of common food names in Mexican markets.

Upcoming WCMA Events

November 5	November 7	November 22	December 5
Free Webinar: 2025 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest	Export Workgroup Meeting (Hybrid)	Young Professionals Event	Train the Safety Trainer Course (In-Person)

[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

EDUCATION

Register Today for 2025 WCMA Front-Line Leadership Classes



Invest in your valued employees' education and development. Register now for new virtual offerings of WCMA's popular [Front-Line Leadership](#) classes, just released for winter and spring 2025! View the full lineup, reserve space, and sponsor these top-rated courses now at [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.WisCheeseMakers.org).

[RESERVE SPACE](#)

For more educational opportunities from WCMA and our partners, visit:

[WisCheeseMakers.org/Events](https://www.WisCheeseMakers.org/Events)

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