



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

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## NEWS

### Federal Shutdown Stalemate Risks Key Nutrition Aid



Day Seven of the [federal government shutdown](#) is underway with no deal in sight, as Democrats continue to hold out for an extension in expiring Affordable Care Act subsidies. In a reversal Monday, President Donald Trump indicated a new openness to negotiating a deal, though there are no signs of significant progress at the time of this newsletter distribution.

WCMA is advocating for a resolution on federal funding that preserves key functions at USDA, FDA, and other industry-reliant agencies, as well as for continued aid for nutrition programs. While school nutrition programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) have support to continue for at least a month, the \$8 billion Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is now [operating on a contingency fund](#) of just \$150 million, which could run out in a week.

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### WCMA Honors Policymakers with 2025 Cheese Champion Awards



Click the ["Play"](#) button to view our video highlighting WCMA's 2025 Cheese Champions

WCMA last week announced the federal and state lawmakers receiving the [2025 Cheese Champion Awards](#) for their leadership and commitment to Wisconsin's dairy industry. The honorees are: Governor Tony Evers; U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Congressman Derrick Van Orden (R-WI 03); State Senators Jesse James (R-Thorp), Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto), and Brad Pfaff (D-Onalaska); and State Representatives Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville), Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City), and Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon). [READ MORE...](#)

# Food Security & Wisconsin Products Grants Now Open



A new, \$5 million round of [Food Security & Wisconsin Products Grants](#) is open now, following [successful advocacy](#) by WCMA and members earlier this year to increase program funds. The reimbursement grants are designed to help Wisconsin food banks and pantries buy and distribute local products in their communities. Though applications are only open to nonprofit food assistance organizations in the state, applicants must demonstrate their connections with Wisconsin food producers and processors. [READ MORE...](#)

## WCMA Health & Safety Group Meeting Postponed



Due to the federal government shutdown, WCMA has postponed its [October 8 Health & Safety Group meeting](#) with partners from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Notice of a plan to reschedule has been sent to all group members. Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#) with questions.

## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- Dubuque Telegraph Herald: [Vendors, crowds have dairy good time at Shullsburg CheeseFest](#) (Featuring WCMA member Prairie Farms Dairy Inc. - Shullsburg Creamery)
- PBS Wisconsin: [John Rosenow on dairy workers and immigration enforcement](#)
- Vernon Reporter: [Viroqua resident Missy Hughes, longtime Organic Valley and WEDC leader, running for Governor](#)
- WPR: [Dairy CAFO seeks to consolidate, grow herd by thousands in southern Wisconsin](#)
- WPR: [University of Michigan study finds large animal farms might be a significant source of air pollution](#)
- WPR: [Bird flu detected at another Jefferson County poultry facility](#)

### National & Global

- The Fence Post: [Soaring demand for dairy foods fueled a US butterfat boom, but cheesemakers need milk protein levels to catch up](#) (Featuring WCMA member CoBank)
- PBS: [Meet the artisanal makers of the world's most expensive cheese](#)
- Fortune: [American farmers were already facing multiple crises. Then came Trump's immigration crackdown](#) (Featuring WCMA member Land O'Lakes)
- Louisiana Illuminator: [Trump cancels \\$94 million in food aid. Central Louisiana feels the pinch.](#)
- RFD TV: [U.S. ag exports support 1M+ jobs, but rural labor gaps persist](#)
- CIDRAP: [H5N1 outbreaks hit more commercial poultry in 3 states](#)

## EVENTS & CONNECTION

## Prepare for Immigration Enforcement in Free WCMA Webinar

# WCMA Webinar

## Immigration Enforcement & Preparedness



**Rebekah Sweeney**  
Wisconsin Cheese  
Makers Association



**Kelly Fortier**  
Michael Best &  
Friedrich, LLP



**Eric Davis**  
MorganMyers

Following a recent increase in U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) action in Wisconsin and nationwide, WCMA's [October 9 free member webinar](#) will now focus on immigration enforcement & preparedness. Join us for the latest news and updates, an overview of WCMA's [Immigration Action Preparedness tool](#), and communication best practices. Featured speakers are:

- Rebekah Sweeney, Senior Director of Programs & Policy, WCMA
- Kelly Fortier, Partner, Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
- Eric Davis; Vice President, Food and Consumer Trust; MorganMyers

**REGISTER NOW**

## Join WCMA Young Professionals on November 14



Join [WCMA Young Professionals](#) on Friday, November 14 in Kaukauna for a full day of connection, learning, and fun! Get an inside look at Arla Foods with a tour designed for cheese manufacturer and processor members, then enjoy lunch and bowling while networking with fellow WCMA members. [Don't miss this exciting opportunity](#) to expand your network and spend time with peers in the dairy industry!

**RSVP NOW**

## Upcoming WCMA Events

October 9	October 21	October 23	October 28	October 29-30
<a href="#">Free Webinar: Immigration Enforcement &amp; Preparedness</a>	<a href="#">Annual Member Meeting and Awards Ceremony</a>	<a href="#">Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Workforce &amp; Education Committee Meeting and HR Workshop</a>	<a href="#">Dairy Sustainability Workshop: Carbon Clarity</a>

## EDUCATION

**Reserve Space in WCMA Human Resources Workshop**





Don't miss your chance to strengthen your team at [WCMA's Human Resources Workshop](#), coming up October 28 in Madison! Designed specifically for HR leaders in the dairy industry, this engaging event kicks off with a WCMA Workforce and Education Committee meeting before moving into an afternoon packed with practical learning. [Register today](#) to take part in this valuable professional development opportunity.



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