



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

Plan to End Government Shutdown Advancing



The U.S. Senate approved a legislative package to end [the record-long federal government shutdown](#) last night, advancing it to the House of Representatives, where a vote is expected later this week.

Included is funding to keep much of the federal government running through January 30, with a stopgap measure to fund operations at previous levels. In a departure from standard appropriations processes, the package also includes several packages to fully fund other government operations for a year – including those run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as detailed below.

Nutrition Funding

Aligned with WCMA priorities, this package provides full funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) and the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC), as well as reimbursement to all states that backfilled SNAP funding during the shutdown.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is expected to rule today on a request from President Donald Trump to [keep blocking states](#) from providing full SNAP benefits, arguing the money might be needed elsewhere. A [flurry of court filings and rulings](#) on over the past week meant that beneficiaries in states that acted quickly late last week to fill EBT cards, including Wisconsin, have received their full monthly allocations, while others have received partial benefits or nothing at all.

DBII Funding

The package also offers [\\$13,750,000 for Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives](#) (DBII) to the three centers originally funded by the 2018 Farm Bill, based in Wisconsin, Vermont, and Tennessee. While WCMA advocated for funding for the fourth California-based center as well, it is pleased to see a higher overall amount directed to DBII. The allocation amounts to \$1,375,000 more than FY25 funding levels.

Should the House vote be successful, the package would head to President Trump's desk for his signature. WCMA will keep you informed of major developments.

Supreme Court Set to Rule on Trump's Tariff Powers



The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering [a landmark case](#) that could shape how presidents use emergency powers in the future to manage trade. At issue is President Donald Trump's use of the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) – a first in our nation's history – to impose tariffs on imported goods without congressional approval. If the Court rules against the Trump Administration, the federal government could be required to refund more than \$200 billion in duties collected since the start of Trump's term.

During oral arguments last week Wednesday, several justices – including Chief Justice John Roberts and Trump appointees Amy Coney Barrett and Neil Gorsuch – [voiced skepticism](#) that the IEEPA authorizes tariffs, a tool traditionally controlled by Congress. [They questioned](#) whether the law was ever intended to grant the president taxing authority, with Gorsuch noting that “the power to reach into the pockets of the American people is just different.” The justices also discussed the logistical and economic implications of potentially refunding [billions of dollars in collected duties to importers](#).

Last night, President Trump posted to social media that an adverse decision could lead to an economic “unwind” exceeding \$3 trillion, calling it “an insurmountable [National Security Event](#)” that would be “devastating to the future of our Country — possibly non-sustainable.”

The Supreme Court is expected to act quickly – within weeks or months – on a decision, and WCMA will keep members informed of major developments.

Misguided Labeling Bill Stalls, Following WCMA Push



A hearing on a misguided food labeling and disclosure proposal in Wisconsin, [Assembly Bill 550](#), now appears unlikely. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) has referred AB 550, authored by State Representative Clint Moses (R-Menomonie) to the Committee on Consumer Protection, and the chair does not anticipate having time prior to the end of the session to hear the bill. The Senate companion legislation, authored by State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) has still not been introduced.

WCMA Helps to Negotiate Reduced Livestock Fee Increases

WCMA is reporting positive developments in its work with other agricultural advocates and policymakers for [adjusted rule changes for dairy animal inspections and movement fees](#) that could affect food supply chain pricing. If passed as originally proposed, fees could have jumped as much as 1700%. For example, an Animal Market



Class A license would have increased \$420 to \$7,430 annually.

After productive discussions between the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and industry leaders, WCMA can report the agency is now [proposing inflationary increases](#) only – with asks to be made of the Legislature to provide an additional \$1.2 million to meet program needs, in line with what other agricultural states support.

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Newsbreak: [UWRF, Burnett Dairy Co-op announce dairy partnership to strengthen industry, education](#) (Featuring WCMA member Burnett Dairy Cooperative)
- WLUK-TV: [From farm to table, explore Malone farm's delightful blend of cheese, cafe, and goats](#) (Featuring WCMA member Mosaic Meadows - LaClare Family Creamery)

National & Global

- Associated Press: [ByHeart recalls all baby formula sold nationwide as infant botulism outbreak grows](#)
- Springfield State Journal-Register: [Consumption of raw milk believed to be tied to outbreak in Illinois](#)
- Dairy Foods: [Bel U.S. to donate one million snacks to families in need](#) (Featuring WCMA member Bel Brands USA)
- MPR News: [Not just cattle. Argentine beef imports could hurt MN dairy, too.](#)

FEATURED: EMPLOYEE HEALTH & SAFETY

OSHA Releases 2025 Top 10 Most-Cited Standards



The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has released its preliminary list of the [Top Ten most frequently-cited standards](#) for Fiscal Year 2025, offering insight on key focus areas for workplace safety professionals. For the fifteenth consecutive year, fall protection tops the list, with 5,914 violations.

The list is also [available by NAICS code](#), which reveals 250 citations for dairy manufacturers from October 2024 through September of 2025 totaling \$1.5 million. The top safety issues for dairy processors include control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout), operation of powered industrial trucks – including forklifts, and general machinery operation.

The final list is historically released by mid-spring.

Dairy Processors See Drop in Severe Injury Incidents

One year after the launch of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) [severe injury](#)

[dashboard](#), dairy processors can take pride in a significant drop in the volume of incidents in their facilities - with just seven reported so far in 2025 in cheesemaking plants, as compared to 24 in 2024. The dashboard also offers insights on the types of accidents and where they occurred.

Mark Your Calendar: WCMA Health & Safety Group Meetings & Safety Trainings in 2026



WCMA is pleased to announce key dates for industry safety professionals for Association-led trainings and open committee meetings. Please mark your calendars now for these events:

- March 17 - [Health & Safety Group Meeting](#) (Hybrid)
- June 3 - [Basic Safety Training](#) (In-Person Only)
- October 13 - [Health & Safety Group Meeting](#) (Hybrid)
- December 1 - [Train the Safety Trainer](#) (Virtual Only)

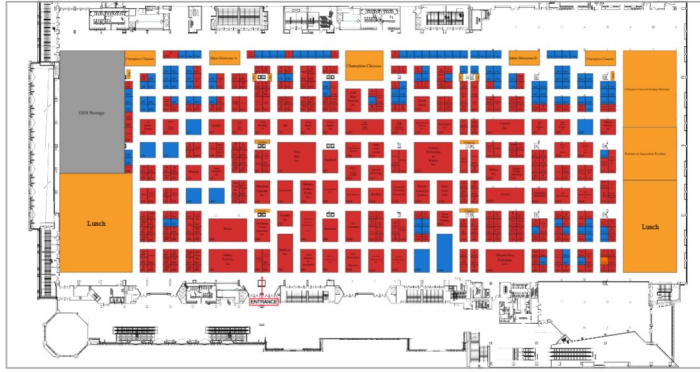
Sponsorship of these events is also available now on [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org). For more information, please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

EVENTS & CONNECTION



CheeseExpo Exhibits Filling Fast; Register Now for Best Rates

The exhibit show floor for [CheeseExpo 2026](#) is nearly full! Contact [WCMA Expo & Conference Director Caitlin Peirick](#) today to secure your space and connect with our 4,000+ attendees April 14-16 at the newly renovated Baird Center in Milwaukee,



Wisconsin. All WCMA members are invited to register early and save big. CheeseExpo's best value rates are available now for a limited time at [CheeseExpo.org](https://www.cheeseexpo.org).

Upcoming WCMA Events

November 13	November 14	November 20
<u>Dairy Export Group Meeting (Hybrid)</u>	<u>Young Professionals Event</u>	<u>Front-Line Leadership Part C: Cultivating a Team (In-Person)</u>

EDUCATION

WCMA Opens 2026 Scholarships for Applications



Applications are now open for [WCMA's seven student scholarships](#), totaling \$29,000.

WCMA offers [three distinct awards for students](#) attending a college, university, or technical school in the United States, or high school seniors registered to attend a qualifying school next fall. Preference will be given to candidates pursuing degrees and careers connected to the dairy industry.

The [Myron P. "Mike" Dean Cheese Industry Student Scholarship](#) awards \$5,000 each to two students connected to WCMA dairy manufacturer members, while the [Cheese Industry Supplier Student Scholarship](#) provides \$5,000 each to three students linked to WCMA supplier member companies. Additionally, the [Brian Eggebrecht Student Scholarship](#) Supporting Skilled Trades in the Dairy Industry offers \$2,000 each to two students attending or planning to attend a Wisconsin technical school.

Applications are due by February 20, 2026 at [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wischeesemakers.org), and recipients will be recognized at CheeseExpo on April 15, 2026, in Milwaukee.

Industry Training Spotlight: CDR Cheesemaking Fundamentals

Develop a solid understanding of cheese science and production with the [Cheesemaking Fundamentals](#) course from the [Center for Dairy Research](#) (CDR). This course covers the basics of cheese



manufacturing science, essential mathematical calculations used by cheesemakers, and common government regulations. It also serves as a prerequisite for CDR's advanced cheesemaking courses. [This course is also offered in Spanish!](#)

Additional upcoming CDR trainings include:

- [Dairy Ingredient Fundamentals](#)
- [Buttermaking Fundamentals](#)

WCMA is also pleased to highlight educational opportunities offered by trusted supplier members and industry partners, including the following:

- M3 Insurance: [OSHA Recordkeeping 101](#)
- The Wisconsin Safety Council: [Risk Assessment Course](#) & [Job Safety Analysis Course](#)



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