

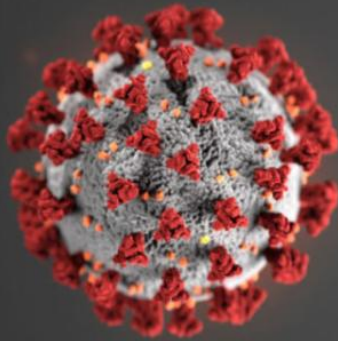


# WCMA NEWS

AN EXCLUSIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION



## COVID INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



### Register Now for WCMA, WDATCP Inspection Webinar

Register now to join a [free COVID-19 webinar](#) available exclusively to members of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) on Thursday, December 10 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. (CST). Officials from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) will provide updates to the agency's inspection protocols and regulatory flexibilities, amid the ongoing pandemic.

WDATCP's Bureau of Food and Recreational Businesses, Division of Food and Recreational Safety Manager Tim Anderson is set to present on December 10, alongside WCMA staff. Anderson will detail the agency's new pandemic inspection protocols, plans to continue timing and sealing services, and inspection debit flexibility secured from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration.

WCMA will reserve time at the end of the webinar for WDATCP staff to respond to member questions. WCMA will present pre-submitted questions from members anonymously; simply send them by Tuesday, December 8 to [WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#).

[REGISTER NOW](#)

### CDC Considering Shortened Quarantine Period

In a move designed to encourage compliance, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reportedly considering a [shortened quarantine period](#) following close contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19.

A CDC official told a *Wall Street Journal* reporter today that revised agency guidance could call for a quarantine period of between seven and ten days, if the individual also tested negative for COVID-19.

In a statement provided to [FOX News](#), a CDC spokesperson said no such changes had been finalized.

The CDC currently calls for a [14-day quarantine period](#) following close contact. WCMA will keep members informed of any change in CDC guidance.

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## FDA to Consider Pfizer Vaccine Approval December 10

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has scheduled an [emergency use authorization hearing](#) for December 10, at which it could approve Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, which drug makers say is 95 percent effective.

Military officials leading [Operation Warp Speed](#), the federal campaign to distribute vaccines nationwide, announced today doses will be available within 24 hours of FDA approval. Pfizer's vaccine must be held at sub-zero temperatures, posing some challenges to distribution.

[Moderna](#) officials are expected to appeal for emergency use authorization for its vaccine, which they say is 94.5 percent effective, and has the advantage of needing only refrigeration during transport and storage.

This week, [Astra Zeneca/Oxford](#) also released early reports on its vaccine candidate, which show signs of 90 percent efficacy.

Federal officials continue to note that 21 million U.S. front-line healthcare workers will be [first in line](#) for COVID-19 vaccinations, but have yet to determine whether vulnerable populations or other essential workers will be next.

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## WCMA Advocates for Essential Dry Ice Access for Dairy Processing Industry

With vaccine production likely to boost demand for already-limited supplies of dry ice, WCMA has ramped up advocacy efforts to ensure the dairy industry has access to an essential amount of 350,000 pounds per week for the distribution of dairy cultures.

WCMA has distributed a [one-page memo](#) to members of Congress, meeting with legislators from major dairy manufacturing states. WCMA will keep members informed of major developments, and ways to engage on this issue, if necessary.

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# Governors Issue New COVID-19 Restrictions

## Alabama

At the direction of Governor Kay Ivey, the state health officer has amended a safer-at-home order to remain in effect until December 11. People over age six must wear masks in indoor public spaces, when using a transportation service or when outdoors in gatherings of ten or more.

## California

At the direction of Governor Gavin Newsom, the state health department has issued a partial stay-at-home order, with those living in counties where coronavirus outbreaks are most severe prohibited from engaging in activities outside the home or gathering with others between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Essential workers, including those in the dairy processing industry, are exempt. The order lasts through 5 a.m. on December 21.

## Colorado

Governor Jared Polis on Monday issued an executive order authorizing the state health department to order hospitals and emergency departments to transfer non-virus patients and to cease admitting new ones to deal with the influx of coronavirus cases.

## Idaho

Governor Brad Little has issued an order prohibited indoor or outdoor gatherings of more than ten people are prohibited, with certain exemptions for religious and political gatherings.

## Illinois

Governor J.B. Pritzker issued orders closing restaurants and bars between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. banning indoor restaurant service.

## Nevada

Governor Steve Sisolak issued orders, effective today, limiting private gatherings to ten people, and banning gatherings of members from more than two households. Public gatherings are capped at 25 percent capacity or 50 people, whichever is smaller.

## Ohio

Governor Mike DeWine has ordered a three-week curfew, with citizens required to stay in their homes between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m, except to go to work, grocery stores or for emergency aid.

## Utah

Governor Gary Herbert issued a new face mask order, applicable to anyone over the age of two, effective today.

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## CFAP 2 Dairy Support Tops \$1 Billion

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week reports it has **distributed \$10.6 billion** in direct relief payments to farmers via the second round of its Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), including \$1.02 billion to dairy farmers. USDA will continue to accept applications for CFAP 2 monies through December 11.

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## Additional \$70 Million Directed to Wisconsin Small Business Relief Grants

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has announced he is directing an **additional \$70 million** in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to the ongoing second round of **"We're All In"** grants for small businesses, bringing the total program funding to \$185 million.

## Dairy Industry

- Bloomberg: [Cheese prices plunge as lockdowns bite into dining business](#)
- WTMJ-TV: [Some Wisconsin charities say the season of giving started when pandemic first hit](#)
- Dairy Herd Management: [Could fewer holiday casseroles throw off cheese demand?](#)

## Wisconsin

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Coronavirus numbers dip after deadliest week of pandemic, but hospitals still struggling](#)
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: ['Not sure how long we can hold the line': With hospitals full, doctors and scientists beg Wisconsinites to stay home for Thanksgiving](#)
- Wisconsin Public Radio: [Mayo Clinic puts hospital beds in ambulance garage, lobbies as COVID-19 surges](#)
- WMTV-TV: [Thousands of UW Health faculty, staff issue open letter to Wisconsin "family"](#)
- WBAY-TV: [DHS: Wisconsin has crossed the 3,000 COVID-19 death milestone](#)
- WFRV-TV: [Just over 25 percent of the latest COVID-19 tests come back positive in Wisconsin](#)
- WCCO-TV: [COVID dial back has Minnesotans flocking to Wisconsin bars and restaurants](#)
- New York Times: [Wisconsin medical examiner prepared for the worst. It wasn't enough.](#)
- KBJR-TV: [1 million total N95 masks have shipped to Wisconsin frontline workers](#)

## National/International

- Politico: [CDC urges overwhelmed contact tracers to prioritize efforts as cases soar](#)
- Associated Press: [Thanksgiving could be make-or-break in U.S. virus response](#)
- USA Today: [Fauci warns of 'stunning number of deaths'](#)
- Wall Street Journal: [More Americans are surviving COVID-19](#)
- Reuters: [U.S. ethanol recovery threatened by rising virus restrictions](#)

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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](mailto:jumhoefer@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-225-7130
- WCMA Communications, Education, and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney: [rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:rsweeney@wischeesemakers.org) or 608-386-3012

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## INDUSTRY UPDATES

### USDA Awards Butter, Yogurt Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Monday [successful bids](#) for the purchase of butter from WCMA member company Grassland Dairy Products-West Point Dairy and yogurt from Chobani, LLC for distribution through March 2021. A complete list of USDA's open [solicitations](#) and information on [becoming an approved vendor](#) are available online.

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### FDA Encourages Listing of Sesame Ingredients

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week issued a [draft guidance](#) encouraging dairy food manufacturers to voluntarily declare sesame in the ingredient list on food labels.

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## Register to Join in Upcoming DBIA Webinars

The [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance](#) (DBIA), a partnership between the Center for Dairy Research and WCMA, invites you to join in its continuing series of free webinars focused on business diversification, increased sales of value-added dairy products, and dairy exports.

Here's a look at the upcoming webinar schedule:

- [Regulatory Concerns in a Food or Beverage Start-Up | Tuesday, December 1, 1:30 p.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [Food Safety and Quality | Tuesday, December 8, 1:30 p.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [Understanding and Accessing Economic Development Financing | Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 1:30 p.m. \(CST\)](#)
- [Exporting Dairy Products | Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 1:30 p.m. \(CST\)](#)

Each webinar offers a combination of general information presentations, breakout sessions and interviews with farmers and processors who will share their experiences and lessons learned.

A [recording](#) of the most recent webinar, centered on crafting a prototype, and all other past DBIA webinars are now [available online](#).

### DBIA Webinar 4

Concept to Prototype to Ready



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## IN THE NEWS

### Wisconsin

- *MarketWatch*: [Danone plans to save \\$1.19B and cut 2,000 jobs](#)
- *Dairy Foods*: [New cheese company launches in time for the holidays](#)
- *Wisconsin State Farmer*: [Johnson presses USTR on tariff exclusion extension requests](#)

### National/International

- *The Hill*: [Biden to enlist Agriculture, Transportation agencies in climate fight](#)
  - *Food & Environment Reporting Network*: [Merrigan, former No. 2 at USDA, 'would welcome the opportunity' to lead agency](#)
  - *Brownfield Ag News*: [Flood of dairy enrollments expected](#)
  - *Dairy Herd Management*: [2020 – A banner year for butter](#)
  - *NPR*: [Asia-Pacific nations sign huge trade deal with China while U.S. sits it out](#)
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## WCMA Policy Committee Meets with State Leaders

Thanks go to the members of WCMA's Policy Committee, who last week met with newly-appointed Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary-designee Randy Romanski. The group had a lively discussion of the upcoming state budget and members' most pressing concerns, from COVID-19 support to export initiatives.

WCMA's Policy Committee actively advocates at the state and federal level, and will be meeting with elected leaders again in January. Want to get involved? You're encouraged to join in these efforts at any time. Contact [WCMA Communications, Education and Policy Director Rebekah Sweeney](#) to learn more.

# EDUCATION



# WCMA SCHOLARSHIPS

## Apply for WCMA Scholarships Totaling \$15,000

The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association is now accepting applications for five student scholarships worth a total of \$15,000.

In 2021, two students will be awarded the [WCMA Myron P. "Mike" Dean Cheese Industry Student Scholarship](#), worth \$3,000 each. Any employee or child of an employee of a WCMA dairy manufacturing, processing, or marketing member company may apply.

Employees or children of employees at WCMA supplier member companies may apply for the [WCMA Cheese Industry Supplier Student Scholarship](#). Three students will receive scholarship awards of \$3,000 each.

Applicants must supply transcripts, a letter of recommendation, and a completed application form by Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Forms may be found at [WisCheeseMakers.org](#), or can be directly requested from [WCMA Office & Member Service Manager Sara Schmidt](#).

Successful applicants will be announced in March 2021, with awards made in September.

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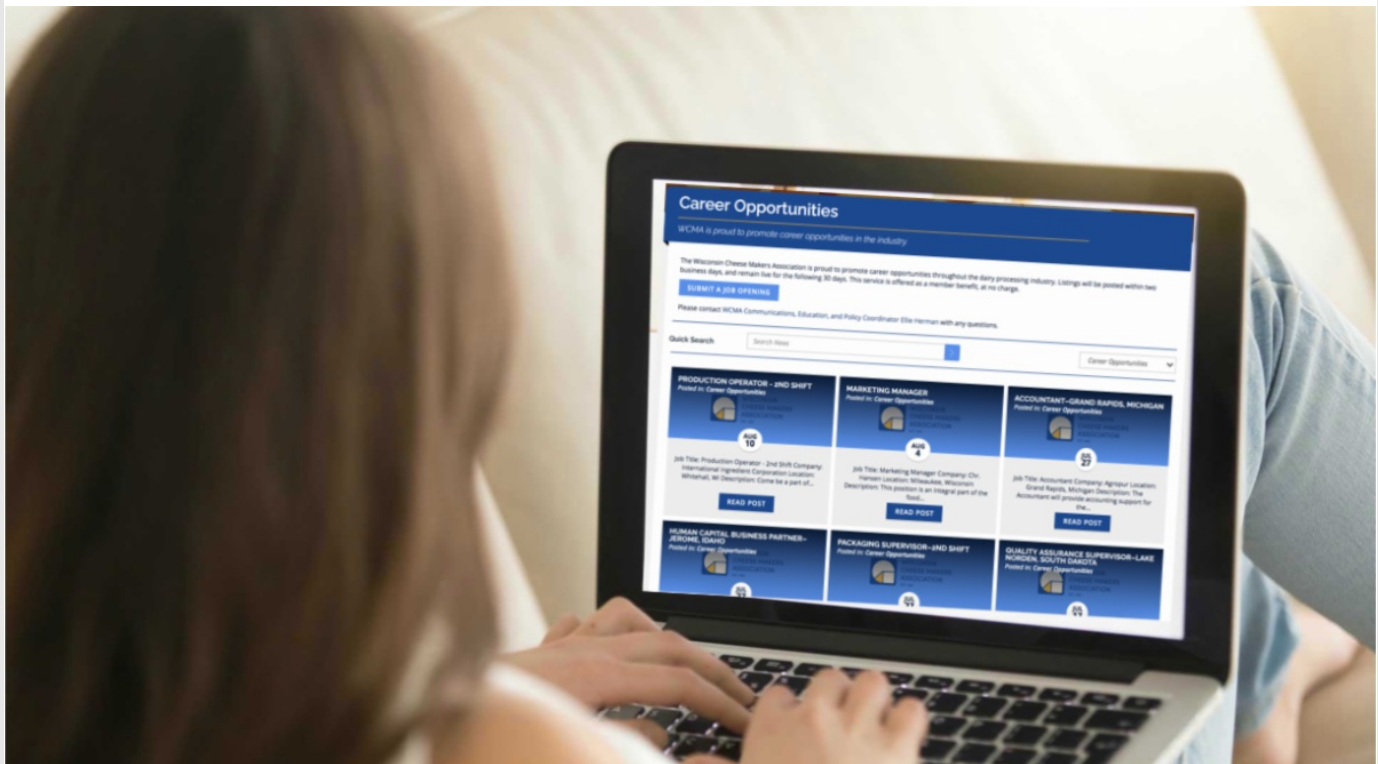
## Register Now for Industry Trainings

WCMA is proud to host and promote opportunities for industry-specific training and enrichment. Here's a look at some of those upcoming events:

- November 30-December 1: [Advanced Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point \(HACCP\) Training | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin](#)
- December 2-December 3: [Principles of Internal Auditing | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin](#)
- December 14-16: [FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food \(PCQI\) Training | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin](#)

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## WORKFORCE



## View and Post Opportunities on WCMA Jobs Board

WCMA's [online jobs board](#) is featuring 26 new industry career opportunities this week from member companies Agropur, Baker Cheese, Organic Valley, Springside Cheese, and V&V Supremo Foods. Check out listings for cheesemakers, interns, line leads, maintenance technicians, retail sales, whey processing, and more!

All WCMA members are invited to [post openings](#). It's free and easy! Questions may be directed to [WCMA Communications, Education and Policy Coordinator Ellie Herman](#).

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# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

FROM THE WISCONSIN CHEESE MAKERS ASSOCIATION

## Notice of Holiday Office, Communications Plan

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, WCMA offices will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. Member communications will resume on Tuesday, December 1, though member alerts will be distributed if news or needs warrant it. We wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving, and thank you for your ongoing support of WCMA!

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## 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.

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[WisCheeseMakers.org](http://WisCheeseMakers.org)

