



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

December 30, 2025

news@wischeesemakers.org



SUBSCRIBER NOTE: WCMA's offices will be closed Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday. We wish you a safe and happy celebration!

NEWS

WCMA Notes: SNAP in the Spotlight



The federal [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) has made headlines in recent months, becoming a focal point of public debate. From discussions surrounding the "One Big Beautiful Bill" to a federal government shutdown this fall that threatened SNAP funding, one thing has remained consistent: [WCMA members have voiced strong support for SNAP](#). Learn more from WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer in this month's [WCMA Notes column](#). [READ MORE...](#)

Apply by January 9 for USDA Philippines Trade Mission



Applications are open now until January 9, 2026 for a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [trade mission to the Philippines](#). On April 13-16, 2026, dairy exporters will join USDA and other agricultural exporters for business meetings, market briefings, site visits, and networking in the ninth-largest export market for U.S. agricultural and food products. Applications are available on [USDA's website](#). Questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#). [READ MORE...](#)

USDA Purchases Cheddar from WCMA Members

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week announced plans to [purchase over \\$19 million](#) worth of cheddar products from WCMA members Associated Milk Producers Inc., Bongards Creameries, Masters Gallery Foods, and Winona Foods. Information on how to become an approved USDA vendor is [available online](#).

Headlines

Wisconsin

- WKOW-TV: [Gov. Evers wraps up 72-county Wisconsin tour](#) (Featuring WCMA members Associated Milk Producers Inc. and Roelli Cheese Co.)
- Plymouth Arts Center: [New Year's Eve in the cheese capital of the world](#) (Featuring WCMA member Sartori Company)

National & Global

- RFD-TV: [Cheese exports drive U.S. dairy's global trade growth](#)
 - Dairy Foods: [Land O'Lakes to make huge food donation at Minnesota Vikings game](#) (Featuring WCMA member Land O'Lakes)
 - The Fresno Bee: [Major mozzarella maker closes Fresno-area facility as it opens Texas site](#)
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EVENTS & CONNECTION

Enter the World Championship Cheese Contest by January 30



[Enter now through January 30](#) to secure valuable technical feedback and compete for the prestigious title of World Champion Cheese! Just one month remains to enter your cheese, butter, cultured products, and dry dairy ingredients in the [2026 World Championship Cheese Contest](#). Complete Contest information, including entry requirements, is available in the [2026 Contest Entry Kit](#).

ENTER NOW

EDUCATION

WCMA Training Preview: Strengthen Your Team's Safety in 2026

Plan ahead now to build a stronger safety culture at your facility in 2026 with [WCMA's employee safety training opportunities](#), designed specifically for the dairy processing industry.



[WCMA's Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors](#), held in-person on June 3, 2026, provides participants with practical tools to identify, abate, and avoid job-related hazards. For experienced safety leaders, [WCMA's Train the Safety Trainer Course](#), held virtually on December 1, 2026, sponsored by [Burnett Dairy Cooperative](#), focuses on sharpening communication strategies and leadership skills to drive compliance and lasting culture change.

[LEARN MORE](#)



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