



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

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## NEWS

### SCOTUS Strikes Down Tariffs; Trump Sets New, Temporary Rate



Last week, the Supreme Court ruled 6–3 that President Donald [Trump exceeded his authority](#) in using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose sweeping tariffs in 2025.

A central unresolved question is whether businesses will now receive refunds for tariffs already paid. The tariffs generated could total more than \$200 billion in revenue, and companies have begun filing claims seeking repayment, while [lawmakers have proposed legislation](#) that could require the government to return these monies. However, the Supreme Court did not mandate refunds, deferring to the lower U.S. Court of International Trade to determine next steps, and federal officials have indicated they will wait for judicial guidance before acting.

Meanwhile, the [Trump Administration responded yesterday](#) by rescinding the original, emergency-based tariffs and replacing them today with a temporary 10 percent global tariff under separate legal authority, intended to preserve leverage in ongoing trade negotiations. The new tariff authority is limited to 150 days of duration, and trade policy uncertainty is expected to continue.

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### USDA Plans to Purchase \$148 Million in Dairy Products



On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced plans](#) to purchase \$263 million in American commodities, including \$148 million in dairy products. In a [statement](#), WCMA praised the action, saying, "By directing \$148 million in dairy products like milk, butter, and cheese to hunger relief programs, USDA is both strengthening the nation's nutrition safety net and providing important stability for American dairy businesses." [READ MORE...](#)

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## WCMA Priorities Advance as WI Assembly Session Concludes



Last week, the Wisconsin State Assembly [approved several priority bills](#) championed by WCMA. Here are some key highlights:

- [Assembly Bill 180/Senate Bill 154](#) passed with strong bipartisan support on a 71-22 vote. Originally introduced to restrict soda and candy purchases under Wisconsin's FoodShare program (or SNAP), the bill ultimately became the vehicle for a critical funding fix after federal action shifted an additional 25 percent of administrative costs to states. WCMA led the agricultural community's advocacy efforts, helping secure the full amount needed to stabilize the program. Importantly for dairy, WCMA also secured a revised definition of "candy," ensuring dairy-based protein bars are properly recognized as nutritious foods.
- [Assembly Bill 130/Senate Bill 127](#) passed unanimously, unlocking more than \$130 million in PFAS remediation funding and providing long-sought clarity on PFAS liability. WCMA secured a key amendment to protect farmers, dairy processors, and third-party vendors operating in compliance with permits issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, ensuring they are not unfairly held liable for contamination they did not cause. This provision alone could save Wisconsin's dairy industry hundreds of millions of dollars over the long term.
- [Assembly Bill 664/Senate Bill 645](#) passed on a bipartisan voice vote, requiring that butter - not margarine - be served to Wisconsin schoolchildren. In a [statement](#) applauding the bill's passage, WCMA called the bill a "win-win" and urged members of the State Senate to move the bill forward promptly.

The next step is action by the Wisconsin State Senate on its final scheduled floor day in March. If approved there, the legislation will head to the desk of Governor Tony Evers to be signed into law.

Interested in more WCMA advocacy news? Contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#) to join the WCMA Policy Committee and receive future updates.

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## Headlines

## Wisconsin

- Travel Wisconsin: [An epicurean getaway: the Wisconsin cheese tour](#) (Featuring WCMA members Carr Valley Cheese, Cedar Grove Cheese, Emmi Roth, Union Star Cheese Factory, and Widmer's Cheese Cellars)
- DairyBusiness: [Applications available for the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council](#)

## National & Global

- American Ag Network: [Cheese and butter fuel dairy export growth in 2025](#)
- Washington State University: [Study: New healthy food definition may help consumers identify nutritious options](#)
- Deli Market News: [Kraft Heinz Company appoints Nicolas Amaya as President, North America](#)
- The Fence Post: [House Farm Bill markup postponed](#)
- Reuters: [1,800 meters of pizza, a ton of Grana Padano cheese fuel Games athletes](#)

## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### Final Day to Save on CheeseExpo Registration



It's the final day to save on [CheeseExpo 2026](#)! Act now to save 10 percent on most registrations and [secure your all-access pass](#) to the dairy processing industry's must-attend event of the year. Experience world-class education, energizing celebrations, cutting-edge technology, and so much more. Don't wait - [register now](#) to take advantage of special early-bird pricing.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

### Make Plans Now for World Championship Cheese Contest



Mark your calendar: the World Championship Cheese Contest begins next Tuesday, March 3 in Madison, Wisconsin. Experience the action in-person during [public hours](#) on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Enjoy live judging demonstrations at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each day, plus free samples from top cheesemakers. Then, tune in at [WorldChampionCheese.org](#) or on Facebook for the exciting livestreamed announcement of the World Champion, held on Thursday, March 5 at 2:00 p.m. (CT). [READ MORE...](#)

March 3-5	March 12	March 17	April 14-16
<a href="#">2026 World Championship</a>	<a href="#">Food &amp; Dairy Joint Annual Meeting with</a>	<a href="#">Health &amp; Safety Group Meeting</a>	<a href="#">CheeseExpo 2026</a>

## FEATURED: MEMBERSHIP

### WCMA Welcomes New Members



Join WCMA in welcoming new dairy manufacturer member [Boar's Head Brand](#) and [Panhandle Products](#), and new supplier members [Hach Company](#), [Budreck Truck Lines](#), [GOEX Corporation](#), [Total Industrial Air](#), [Haynes Manufacturing Company](#), [GLM](#), [MECAPACK](#), [Grand Quest Industries \(GQI\)](#), and [SIT Elatech](#).

View these and hundreds of other WCMA members now in our [searchable online directory](#). Have questions about WCMA membership? Contact [WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt](#).

### Build Connections: Order WCMA Member Directories Today



Looking for a comprehensive resource to reach the global dairy processing industry? The [2026 WCMA Member Directory](#) has everything you need to drive your business forward, from contact information for nearly 800 WCMA member business worldwide, to ways you can engage and build connections through your Association. This full-color, durable guide is a must-have in the office or the plant. Contact [WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt](#) to order additional copies for just \$25 each today.

## EDUCATION

### Learn, Reconnect at WCMA Health & Safety Group Meeting



Reconnect with your peers and grow your knowledge at the [next meeting of WCMA's Health & Safety Group](#) on Tuesday, March 17. Join us in-person or online for the annual meeting of the Dairy Processing Safety Alliance, a deep dive into confined space safety, and recommendations for communicating safety standards to workers with limited English skills.

**RSVP TODAY**

## Interested in connecting with industry safety professionals?

Sponsorships of this event are [available now through March 13](#), including complimentary registration and recognition. Don't miss this opportunity to reach new audiences and show your support for the dairy processing industry!

**BECOME A SPONSOR**



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

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

## IN MEMORIAM

### William "Bill" Schlinsog



WCMA mourns with the family and friends of William "Bill" Schlinsog, who [passed away](#) last Thursday at the age of 98. Bill was an accomplished and respected leader in the dairy industry. He began his career as a Wisconsin cheesemaker and dairy plant manager for several companies, beginning with Schlinsog Dairy, a company his father started. He also served the industry for decades as a State of Wisconsin food inspector, cheese grading specialist, and dairy product marketing specialist. From 1990-2004, Bill served as Chief Judge for both the United States and World Championship Cheese Contests, elevating the competitions to new heights of technical prestige and providing invaluable guidance to future generations of expert dairy product evaluators. A private graveside service will be held. Information on memorials can be found in Bill's [obituary](#).

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