

WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

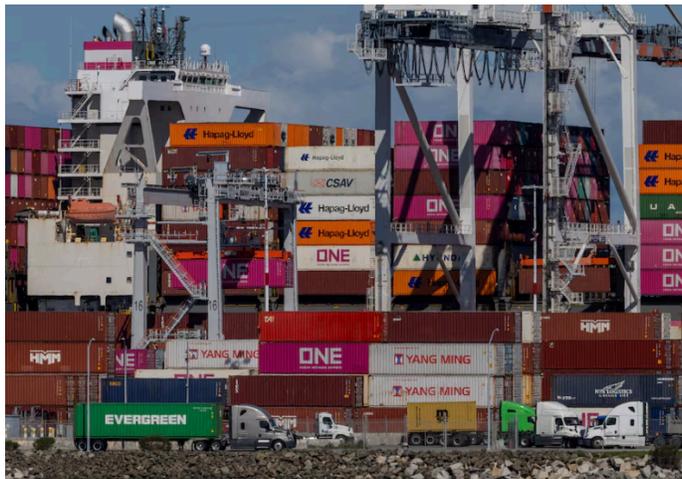
March 17, 2026

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NEWS

Trump Administration Launches New Trade Investigations



In an effort to replace the tariffs recently struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, President Donald Trump's administration last week [initiated investigations into 16 U.S. trade partners](#): China, the European Union, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Japan and India. Conducted under the authority of Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, the investigations aim to uncover trading practices unfair to the United States, and are expected to result in new tariffs. [READ MORE...](#)

Four-Step Tariff Refund Process in Development



Following a federal trade court ruling, the U.S. government says a [system for issuing refunds](#) of tariffs paid by importers under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act is "40-80 percent complete," and may be ready for use in as little as 45 days. An estimated \$166 billion could be eligible for repayment through the four-step system, which would include a claim portal, a "mass processing" step, a review of refund findings, and transmission of funds to the designated bank account. Another update on the system is expected next week. [READ MORE...](#)

Urge Congress to Fund Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives



**TELL CONGRESS:
FUND DAIRY BUSINESS
INNOVATION INITIATIVES**

As Congress weighs its 2027 spending plans, now is the time to [advocate for Dairy Business Innovation Initiative \(DBI\) funding](#). Join WCMA and your fellow members in calling for a significant boost to this impactful program, delivering millions in direct-to-business grants along with technical support and education. More than ever, the work of DBI centers is essential to our industry's stability and growth.

It's easy: simply [click the button below](#), fill in your name and contact information, and click "Send".

ACT NOW

Make Your Voice Heard in Washington: Join WCMA May 12-13



Federal decisions shape nearly every aspect of dairy processing - from food safety rules and labeling to trade, workforce, and nutrition programs. WCMA's [2026 Federal Advocacy Fly-In](#), set for May 12-13, offers a valuable opportunity to bring your real-world perspective directly to the policymakers and regulators who influence our industry's future.

Over [two focused days](#) in Washington, D.C., participants will meet with senior officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, followed by [advocacy meetings](#) on Capitol Hill with members of Congress and key Agricultural Committee staff. The [program](#) also includes policy briefings, networking with fellow industry leaders, and an evening tour of landmarks in our nation's Capitol.

Spots are limited for this special event. [Register online now](#) or contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#) to learn more.

JOIN US IN D.C.

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Agriculturist: [2025 was a banner year for U.S. dairy exports](#)
- MarquetteWire: [These are the must-try Wisconsin cheeses](#) (Featuring WCMA members Carr Valley Cheese, Hoard's Dairyman Farm Creamery, and Uplands Cheese)
- Agri-View: [Couple pursues value-added dreams](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hidden Springs Creamery)

National & Global

- The Guardian: [Cheese from largest U.S. raw milk distributor linked to E. coli outbreak](#)
- Morning Ag Clips: [U.S.-Ecuador agreement improves access to tightly restricted dairy market](#)
- Dairy Foods: [Joseph Gallo Farms celebrates 80 years of California cheesemaking prowess](#) (Featuring WCMA member Joseph Gallo Farms)
- Supply Chain Dive: [Babybel parent spending \\$200M to expand cheese production](#) (Featuring WCMA member Bel Brands USA)
- DairyReporter: [Fonterra to appoint new CEO in major leadership reshuffle](#)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

One Month Until CheeseExpo 2026: Register Online Today

CHEESE EXPO

April 14-16, 2026 | Baird Center | Milwaukee, Wisconsin

“If you’re into cheese,
you need to be there.”

Corey Geiger
CoBank



“It’s the
most interactive show
I’ve ever been to.”



Vic Grimm
Masters Gallery Foods

[CheeseExpo 2026](#) is just one month away! This gathering of over 4,000 dairy processing professionals only happens once a year, so [register now](#) to take advantage of unbeatable networking, energizing celebrations, world-class education, and 285,000 square feet of cutting-edge technology. It’s the only place you’ll find the resources and expertise of WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research - with a specific focus on dairy processing. [Online registration is open now](#) through April 6*, so don’t delay.

REGISTER TODAY

**After April 6, all registrations will take place on-site.*

March 17	April 14-16	May 12-13	May 27
Health & Safety Group Meeting (Hybrid)	CheeseExpo 2026	WCMA Federal Advocacy Fly-In	Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting (Hybrid)

EDUCATION

Plan Ahead for a Safe Summer: Register for WCMA Training



Make plans now to put safety first this summer in your plant. Register today for WCMA's June 3 [Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors](#)! This annual, in-person course offers valuable insights and practical tools for both new and seasoned employees. Participants also receive a packet of training materials and a certificate of completion from Chippewa Valley Technical College and WCMA, providing a record of high-quality safety instruction.

REGISTER NOW

Join Vermont Cheese Council for Artisan Education



WCMA members in Vermont can register now for the Vermont Cheese Council's (VCC) [2026 Artisan Cheesemakers Conference](#) on May 1. This in-person event offers a full day programming focused on the storytelling of cheese, from farm to retail shelf to plate. WCMA members can receive 20 percent off their registration with code **wicheese**. All questions can be directed to [VCC staff](#).

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

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

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