



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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news@wischeesemakers.org



NEWS

Congress Passes Spending Bill, Avoiding Government Shutdown



Late last week, U.S. Senators voted 54-46 to approve a \$1.7 trillion federal spending bill, avoiding a shutdown that was set to take effect at midnight that same day. President Trump [signed the bill](#) on Saturday, funding the government through September 30, when the current fiscal year ends. The House approved the bill last Tuesday on a party-line vote. [READ MORE...](#)

The spending package essentially extends the 2018 Farm Bill through September. It includes an increase of \$500 million for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition assistance program, as well as \$3 million to launch more Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives projects. Further, the bill provides a boost for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which supports low-income senior citizens. It also increases defense spending by \$6 billion and cuts non-defense spending by \$13 billion, mostly by eliminating previously enacted Congressional funding directives, or "earmarks."

Trump Announces More Tariffs Coming April 2

President Trump yesterday confirmed he [will not provide exemptions](#) to tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, and announced plans to roll out new reciprocal and sectorial tariffs on April 2. He did not specify the industry sectors to be impacted.

The announcement comes as Canada and the European Union (EU) prepare to implement retaliatory tariffs, and Mexico weighs similar action. The EU has announced a [second round of retaliatory tariffs](#) to hit mid-April on a wide variety of U.S. goods, including dairy products.



Canada has adopted a 25 percent tariff on \$21 billion in American-made products, including \$212 million of dairy products. Canadian leaders are also making plans for a [second tranche of agricultural tariffs](#).

H5N1 *Response*

FDA Releases Findings from H5N1 Studies on Raw Milk Cheese



On Friday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [released findings from two research efforts](#) regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI H5N1). WCMA is [urging FDA officials](#) to act quickly to make resources available for raw milk cheesemakers, including testing avenues for finished product and further studies on these initial findings. [READ MORE...](#)

Senate Committee Advances Makary for FDA Commissioner

The U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee [voted on Thursday](#) to advance Dr. Marty Makary's nomination as FDA Commissioner, clearing the way for his expected approval by the full Senate. Makary, a Johns Hopkins surgeon, [pledged to examine](#) seed oils and food dyes in school lunches and has indicated support for the Trump Administration's positions on vaccines and the reduction of the federal workforce. [READ MORE...](#)



Headlines

Wisconsin

- Dairy Foods: [Nelsonville Dairy produces 42 varieties of premium cheese](#) (Featuring WCMA member Nelsonville Dairy)
- WORT Radio: [Impacts of Trumponomics on Wisconsin dairy](#) (Featuring WCMA member Uplands Cheese)

National & Global

- Food Processing: [Kroger's Tamarack Farms Dairy \\$77 million expansion opens](#) (Featuring WCMA member The Kroger Co.)
 - Dairy Processing: [Hilmar cuts ribbon at new Kansas facility](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hilmar Cheese Company)
 - NBC Connecticut: [Inside look into how award-winning cheese is made in CT](#) (Featuring U.S. Championship Cheese Contest)
 - Burlington Free Press: [Vermont cheesemakers honored at U.S. Championships](#) (Featuring U.S. Championship Cheese Contest)
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EVENTS & CONNECTION

One Month to CheeseCon: Register Now



With just weeks remaining until [CheeseCon](#) 2025 kicks off in Madison, Wisconsin, now is the time to register for this must-attend industry event. Visit [CheeseCon.org](#) today to join your peers and colleagues in dairy processing at CheeseCon's special networking events, engaging educational seminars, and exciting celebrations of industry excellence.

REGISTER NOW

Save the Date for WCMA Health & Safety Group Meeting

Make plans now to join the [next meeting of WCMA's Health & Safety Group](#) on Thursday, May 1 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (CT).



This hybrid meeting is open to all WCMA member employees. Presentations and discussions will focus on occupational risk assessments, a spotlight on Masters Gallery Foods' Safety Program, and preventing & addressing human trafficking.

RSVP TODAY

Upcoming WCMA Events

March 18	March 18	March 20	March 20	April 15-17
<u>Front-Line Leadership Part C (Virtual)</u>	<u>Policy Committee Meeting & State Advocacy Day</u>	<u>Technology Committee Joint Industry Meeting</u>	<u>Free Webinar: Setting, Measuring and Reporting on GHG Goals</u>	<u>CheeseCon 2025</u> (Advance registration closes April 7)

VIEW ALL & REGISTER

EDUCATION

Spring Offering of WCMA Basic Safety Training Now Open



Ensure your valued team members have the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe on the job. [Register them now](#) for the May 13 in-person offering of WCMA's Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors class, exclusively sponsored by [Nelson-Jameson](#). Just 24 spaces are available, so reserve yours now!

SIGN UP TODAY

Industry Training Spotlight: UW-River Falls HACCP Course

Registration is [open now](#) for a new Hazardous Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) short course offered by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Held April 2-4, this hands-on workshop is open to all food processors, suppliers and regulators who wish to learn or review the basics of HACCP in a food facility. Topics will include potential food safety hazards, prerequisites,



validation of HACCP plans, implementing HACCP, and regulation. [READ MORE...](#)



news@wischeesemakers.org
(608) 286-1001



Wisconsin Cheese Makers Assn. | 5117 West Terrace Drive Suite 402 | Madison, WI 53718 US

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