

# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

April 30, 2024

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**Welcome to the new edition of WCMA's weekly e-newsletter!** It's all the industry news, events, and connection opportunities you value - in a fresh, concise format. Have questions or suggestions? Reply to this email or contact [WCMA Communications Director Grace Atherton](#) directly.

## NEWS

### WCMA Shares HPAI Updates, New Online Resource Center



As industry focus remains on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or bird flu), federal agencies last week released new research reaffirming the safety of the commercial milk supply, and yesterday enacted new policies regarding the interstate movement of cattle. WCMA members are encouraged to visit our [HPAI Response & Resource Center](#) for the latest information and updates. [READ MORE...](#)

Here's a look at some of the latest news coverage of HPAI in U.S. dairy cattle:

- NBC News: [Bird flu cases are likely being missed in dairy workers, experts say](#)
- CBS News: [Bird flu risk prompts warnings against raw milk, unpasteurized dairy products](#)
- KMGH-TV: [Bird flu confirmed in Colorado dairy cows, joining eight other states with confirmed outbreaks](#)
- U.S. News & World Report: [USDA testing beef amid bird flu outbreak in dairy cows](#)

WCMA will continue to share all relevant updates with members on our website and through this e-newsletter and separate Member Alerts as warranted. Questions? Contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) or [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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### Act Now for Dairy Business Innovation Funding in Farm Bill

As the already-overdue 2023 Farm Bill is debated in Congress, your action is needed now. Join WCMA in advocating for continued funding for Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives in the 2023 Farm Bill, currently being debated in Congress.



It's quick and easy: just add your name and address to [WCMA's simple online form](#) and click "send". [READ MORE...](#)

Questions? Contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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## USDA Seeks Kosher Cheese, Mozzarella String Cheese

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued solicitations for the purchase of [kosher cheese](#) and [mozzarella string cheese](#) for use in federal food distribution programs. Offers are due by 1:00 p.m. (CT) on Thursday, May 9. Have questions? Contact [USDA staff](#).

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## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- KOKH-TV: [Wisconsin cheese is a necessary option when party planning](#) (Featuring WCMA members BelGioioso Cheese, Burnett Dairy Cooperative, Klondike Cheese Co., and Sartori Company)
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [2024 Southeastern Wisconsin Top Workplaces announced](#) (Featuring WCMA members ABB, Excel Engineering, First Business Bank, Hydrite, Johnson Financial Group, M3 Insurance, and Specialty Cheese Co.)

### National & Global

- Dairy Processing: [USDA finalizes school meal standards](#)
  - Dairy Foods: [Oberweis Dairy finds buyer](#)
  - Quality Assurance & Food Safety Magazine: [Comedian Vanessa Bayer explores the world of dairy farming in Dairy Diaries](#)
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## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Registration Opens May 14; Full Details Available May 1

Mark your calendars and set your alarms for Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. (CT), when registration opens for the popular [WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot](#)! Full event details will be available May 1 at [WisCheeseMakers.org](#).

Sponsorships for this industry-favorite event will also be available beginning May 1. Don't miss this opportunity to market your company to hundreds of dairy processing professionals! [READ MORE...](#)

Have questions? Contact [WCMA's Events Team](#).

[BOOKMARK THIS PAGE](#)



## RSVP for WCMA Annual Member Meeting



Reserve your seat now for WCMA's Annual Member Meeting, happening Wednesday, May 22 in Madison, Wisconsin. Network with your peers, recognize legislative champions for the industry, learn about your Association, and get the latest cybersecurity tips. [READ MORE...](#)

Many thanks to our meeting sponsors, [Grande Cheese Company](#) and [ISG](#). Sponsorships of just \$500 are [available until May 14](#) and include a free meeting registration, recognition in all pre-meeting promotions, and more.

Have questions? Contact [WCMA Business Coordinator Carah Maier](#).

## Join Dairy Food Safety Alliance May 30 for Tour, Meeting



Save the date to join the Dairy Food Safety Alliance on Thursday, May 30 for networking and practical presentations on the latest food safety research and regulatory practices.

In-person attendees will start the day with a tour of Henning's Cheese in Kiel, Wisconsin, followed by a networking lunch and hybrid meeting at the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center in Manitowoc. [READ MORE...](#)

Have questions? Contact [WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

## Upcoming WCMA Events

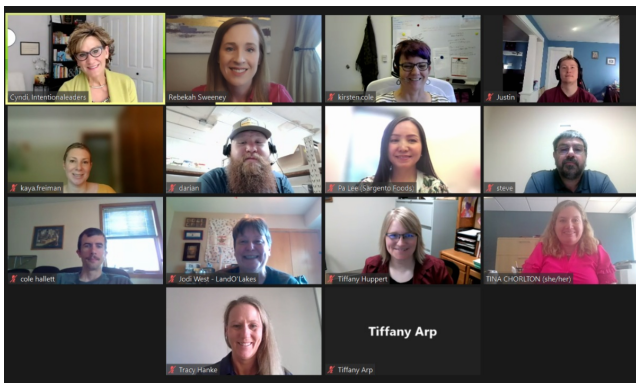
May 1	May 7-8	May 14	May 14	May 14

<a href="#">Golf Outing &amp; Trap Shoot Information Available</a>	<a href="#">Materiality Assessment Workshop</a>	<a href="#">Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (Virtual)</a>	<a href="#">Free Webinar: HPAI: What Dairy Processors Need to Know</a>	10:00 a.m. (CT): <a href="#">Golf Outing &amp; Trap Shoot Registration Opens</a>
May 22	May 23	May 30	June 4	June 11
<a href="#">Annual WCMA Member Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Next Step Leadership Training (Virtual)</a>	<a href="#">Dairy Food Safety Alliance Tour &amp; Meeting</a>	<a href="#">Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (In-Person)</a>	<a href="#">Free Webinar: Navigating the Future of Sustainable Packaging</a>

**VIEW ALL & REGISTER NOW**

## EDUCATION

### Register Now for WCMA Next Step Leadership Course



Sign up today to join WCMA's annual Next Step Leadership training! Each year, this engaging one-day course reviews basic leadership skills and focuses on a key strategy for employee attraction and retention. On Thursday, May 23, this year's class will focus on situational leadership. [READ MORE...](#)

Have questions? Contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

### Space Available in Virtual WCMA Basic Safety Training



Ensure your valued team members have the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe on the job! Register them now for the next offering of WCMA's new Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors, set for Tuesday, May 14 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CT) online. [READ MORE...](#)

Questions? Contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

### Dairy Innovation Hub to Showcase Research at May 15 Symposium

Registration is open now for the Dairy Innovation Hub's annual Dairy Symposium, set for Wednesday, May 15. Learn about the latest Hub-funded research across three University of Wisconsin campuses - made possible by this WCMA-championed initiative. [READ MORE...](#)

## DAIRY SYMPOSIUM

MAY 15, 2024

MEMORIAL UNION  
MADISON, WIS.



Have questions? Contact [Dairy Innovation Hub staff](#).

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

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

## FEATURED

### WCMA Expands Board, Electing New Directors and Officers



Meeting the needs of a growing membership, WCMA completed elections on April 16 to fill seven new Board of Directors seats, including new seats for regional manufacturer representatives, dairy processor and marketer members, and supplier members. Congratulations and thanks go to incoming Board members: Mindy Berrey of Land O'Lakes, Wilf Costello of Glanbia Nutritionals, Mark Federico of Narragansett Creamery, Kurt Epprecht of Great Lakes Cheese Company, Betsy Erdelyi of BMO Bank, Orphee Paillotin of Alpinage Cheese, and Jennifer Drake of Grande Cheese Company.

Congratulations are also in order for our other incoming board members: Jon Metzsig of Union Star Cheese Factory, Tony Eafanti of Leprino Foods, Kerry Henning of Henning Cheese, and Luke Buholzer of Klondike Cheese. Returning to our Board for the 2024-25 cycle are WCMA President Tim Omer of Emmi Roth, First Vice President Mike Sipple of Agropur, Second Vice President Jeff Gentine of Masters Gallery Foods, Treasurer Kim Heiman of Nasonville Dairy, Secretary Chris Roelli of Roelli Cheese Co, and Directors Bruce Workman of Edelweiss Creamery, Declan Roche of Foremost Farms USA, Richard Guggisberg of Guggisberg Cheese, Greg Alberts of Kelley Supply, Paul Bauer of Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, Steve Stettler of Decatur Dairy, Mathew Bartkowiak of Nelson-Jameson, Steve Doyle of Sartori Cheese, Bob Greco of Cheese Merchants of America, Mike Hinrichsen of Associated Milk Producers Inc., Kyle Jensen of Hilmar Cheese Company, and Randy LaGrander of LaGrander's Hillside Dairy. [READ MORE...](#)

### WCMA Welcomes New Members

Join WCMA in welcoming new dairy manufacturer member [Old World Creamery](#) and new industry supplier members [Kaeser Compressors](#), [KMC](#), [PlyVeneer Products](#), [Neo Water](#)



[Treatment](#), [Airlite Plastics](#), [Aripack, Inc.](#), [PCI Membranes](#), [Suhner USA Inc.](#), [Entourage Freight Solutions](#), [Wisconsin Bank & Trust](#), [Shive-Hattery](#), [Boerger, LLC](#), [GLJ Advisory Services](#), [Keenline Conveyor Systems, LLC](#), and [Lechler Inc.](#)

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

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