



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

House Passes Budget Reconciliation; Senate Vote Pending



The U.S. House of Representatives last Thursday [narrowly approved a federal budget reconciliation package](#), passing the bill by just a single-vote margin. The bill would have to be approved in the Senate as well, where Republicans hold control. Some Senate Republicans cite concern over cuts to Medicaid, while others are pushing for increased spending cuts. As WCMA noted in previous newsletters, [the House bill](#) proposes a historic \$300 billion cut in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, shifting \$128 billion in hunger relief costs to states. The package also includes three WCMA member agricultural policy priorities: support for cost-of-production surveys to inform future FMMO adjustments, an extension of Dairy Margin Coverage to 2031, and an extension of support for certain organic production and market analysis programs.

Act Today to Support Dairy Priorities in Wisconsin Budget

As Wisconsin's Joint Finance Committee is poised to take action on the agricultural portion of the state budget, now is the time to [act in support of two key industry priorities](#): funding for the Wisconsin Initiative on Agricultural Exports and Dairy Processor Grants. While both programs have enjoyed bipartisan backing in the past, **lawmakers are eyeing broad spending cuts, and without your advocacy, WCMA's proposed increases may not be possible.** In less than a minute and with



just a few clicks, you can [tell lawmakers that measured investments in dairy are smart investments](#) in Wisconsin's economic future.

Join WEDC, DATCP International Trade Missions



Wisconsin dairy businesses looking to grow their presence in markets overseas can register now to join upcoming trade missions hosted by the [Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection \(WDATCP\)](#) and the [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation \(WEDC\)](#). View highlighted opportunities below, and visit [DATCP.wi.gov](#) and [WEDC.org](#) for a complete listing of trade opportunities.

Fine Food Australia

Expand your cheese brand at [Fine Food Australia, September 8-11](#). Jointly funded by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports (WIAE), this unique opportunity allows exporters to reach a large and diverse audience of distributors and potential buyers from the Oceania region. Contact [WDATCP staff](#) to reserve space.

IDF World Dairy Summit

Join WDATCP and the global dairy industry in Santiago, Chile, October 20-23 for the [International Dairy Federation \(IDF\) World Dairy Summit](#). Funded by the WIAE, this event is a unique opportunity for dairy industry leaders, experts, and enthusiasts to gather, share knowledge, and shape the future of the industry. Contact [WDATCP staff](#) to register.

Japan Trade Mission

Japan has one of the world's largest consumer markets, making it an excellent export target for processed foods, including dairy. WEDC's [upcoming global trade mission to Japan, September 5-13](#), will help connect dairy manufacturers and processors to potential buyers, distributors, and other partners in the market. [Online registrations](#) are due July 15.

USDA Plans to Purchase Dairy for Food Distribution Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week issued a [pre-solicitation notice](#) announcing its plans to purchase dairy and other domestic food products for distribution through federal food programs. Solicitations will be posted on [USDA's website](#) as they become available in the near future. WCMA will also share relevant solicitations with



members via this e-newsletter.

Information on how to [become an approved USDA vendor](#) is available [online](#).

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Food Processing: [Sargento plans historic investment in new processing plant in Plymouth](#) (Featuring WCMA member Sargento Foods)
- WXPB Radio: [Wisconsin to begin testing milk for avian influenza](#)

National & Global

- Dairy Herd Management: [Global cheese appetite is powering growth for U.S. dairy](#)
- The Financial Express: [India-US trade talks enter final stretch as agriculture, dairy remain key hurdles](#)
- MSN: [The EU signals willingness to fast-track trade talks with the U.S. before a 50 percent tariff returns in July](#)
- Dairy Processing: [MAHA Commission targets ultra-processed foods](#)
- KSTP-TV: [So Minnesota: Caves of Faribault making cheese for over a century](#) (Featuring WCMA member Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. - Caves of Faribault)

FEATURED: MEMBERSHIP

Submit Nominations for New WCMA Member Impact Awards!



Submit nominations now for [WCMA's all-new Member Impact Awards](#)! This newly launched program celebrates the outstanding contributions of WCMA members who go above and beyond. Each award honors the individuals and organizations making a meaningful difference in the dairy processing industry.

**LEARN MORE AND
NOMINATE**

WCMA is [accepting nominations now](#) through August 15 for four awards:

- **WCMA Advocate of the Year**, recognizing a member organization that has significantly contributed to advancing the dairy industry through legislative advocacy, education, or public influence.
- **WCMA Employer of the Year**, honoring a member organization that excels in human resources and/or workplace safety.
- **WCMA Sustainable Stewardship Award**, celebrating a member organization's outstanding

efforts in environmental stewardship and sustainability.

- **WCMA Culture of Excellence Award**, acknowledging a member organization dedicated to social responsibility and community engagement.

Awardees will be selected by the WCMA Board of Directors in September. Awards will be presented at the WCMA Annual Meeting in October. Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Membership Director Sara Schmidt](#).

WCMA Welcomes New Members



Join WCMA in welcoming new supplier members [Kodiak Process and Installation](#), [Yoran Imaging](#), [Price Engineering/SunSource](#), [Eastman](#), [Proaction International](#), [Genista Biosciences](#), [Reshape Biotech](#), [Lipp America Tank Systems](#), [Central Stainless Inc.](#), [Chiorino America](#), [QAD Redzone](#), and [Frain Industries](#).

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](#).

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Hit the Court at Inaugural WCMA Pickleball Tournament



Trade the vat or the office for a fun day on the court at the inaugural [Pickleball Tournament](#) at the WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot on July 16! [Register now](#) to join friends and colleagues in central Wisconsin for a round-robin tournament, open to both new and seasoned players.

Each registration includes instruction, paddle and ball use, a participant gift, and skill prizes. Pickleball players will also enjoy the BMO Harris Bank Lunch as well as networking at the Amcor Social Hour and Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Buffet Dinner.

REGISTER NOW

Limited Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Sponsorships Available

Looking to connect with attendees at the WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot? Limited sponsorships are [available now](#) at a variety of levels to suit your marketing goals and



budget. Secure one of two remaining [Driving Range Sponsorships](#) and greet golfers as they arrive on the range. Or, become a [Premier Dinner Sponsor](#) to make an impact at the Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Buffet Dinner, open to all attendees. Just two of these [high-visibility slots](#) are still available, and all sponsorships close June 5, so act quickly. Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Events Director Caitlin Peirick](#).

Upcoming WCMA Events

May 29	June 12	July 10	July 16	August 14
Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting & Tour (Hybrid)	Free Webinar: Trends in Cheese Sales	Free Webinar: Water Quality Management	Golf Outing & Trap Shoot	Free Webinar: Dairy Food Safety

[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

EDUCATION

Understanding Total Compensation Trends for Employee Attraction & Retention



WCMA is pleased to bring members a portion of its recent Workforce & Education Committee, sponsored by M3 Insurance, detailing [current trends in total compensation packages](#) – and how to maximize what you're offering your team for attraction and retention. This focused, engaging program, available exclusively to WCMA members features Pete Dewar, M3 Client Executive, and Grant Argall, M3 Director of Retirement Plan Services. To get involved in WCMA's Workforce & Education Committee, contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

WCMA Shares Mental Health Resources in Free Webinar

CONTENT WARNING: This webinar contains frequent mentions of suicide, which may be

triggering for some viewers.



A recording of WCMA's latest free webinar, focused on mental health resources for dairy processors, is [now available online](#). In this session, Dr. Kate McCoy of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services offers actionable strategies to promote a culture of mental wellness, reduce stigma, and connect employees with necessary support. A full library of previous WCMA webinars is [available online](#) to logged-in members anytime, at no cost.

NCCIA Offers Membrane Filtration Short Course



Registration is open now until June 1 for an upcoming [Membrane Filtration Short Course](#), hosted by North Central Cheese Industries Association (NCCIA) on Tuesday, June 17 at South Dakota State University (SDSU). The course includes hands-on exercises, a tour of the SDSU Davis Dairy Plant, and time for open discussion. Just 24 spaces are available for this interactive one-day training. Contact [NCCIA staff](#) to learn more and register.



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