



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

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## NEWS



# H5N1 *Response*

## USDA Expands H5N1 Aid for Dairy Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [last week announced](#) forthcoming plans to compensate dairy producers for milk production losses due to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or H5N1) at 90 percent of lost production per cow for a set time period. The agency said it will soon issue a rule with specific funding and eligibility details. USDA also said it is expanding eligibility for a previously announced \$98 million in existing aid to include producers whose herds have not tested positive for H5N1. [READ MORE...](#)

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) has [appealed for H5N1 aid specifically for dairy processors](#) and WCMA will keep members informed of any relevant updates.

## Michigan Dairy Farmworker Tests Positive for H5N1

An employee on a Michigan dairy farm has tested positive for H5N1, [state health officials said Friday](#). The worker, who had regular exposure to dairy cows infected with H5N1, had mild symptoms and has recovered.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are [recommending personal protective equipment](#) for anyone handling unpasteurized milk, including hauling and processing workers.

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## House Committee Approves Farm Bill Draft

Late Thursday night, the House Committee on



Agriculture voted to approve [its version of the Farm Bill](#), opting to maintain current funding authorization for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives (DBII).

An amendment to boost that support to \$36 million was introduced by Congressman Derrick Van Orden (R-WI 03), but ultimately withdrawn after Committee Chairman Glenn Thompson (R-PA 15) committed to seeking additional support for DBII via the Farm Bill legislative process. [READ MORE...](#)

The House bill expands Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives Projects, adding 2 percent and whole milk to offerings, but does not include cheese and yogurt. The bill also calls for mandated biennial cost surveys to inform federal orders, makes the Dairy Forward Pricing Program permanent, and protects common food names.

While the [Senate's detailed framework](#) for its version of the Farm Bill has been released and includes \$36 million per year for DBII, the bill draft has yet to be shared, and changes in committee are expected. WCMA members interested in taking advantage of these ongoing advocacy opportunities should contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

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## USDA Awards Cheddar Cheese Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has [awarded contracts](#) to WCMA members Associated Milk Producers Inc., Bongards Creameries, Land O'Lakes, and Winona Foods to deliver more than 1.3 million pounds of cheddar cheese for federal nutrition programs. To learn how to become a USDA-certified vendor and bid for federal contracts, visit [the agency's website](#).

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## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- Madison Commons: [Training the people who make Wisconsin cheese unique](#) (Featuring the Center for Dairy Research)
- Milwaukee Magazine: [A brief history of milk in Wisconsin and beyond](#)

### National & Global

- Reuters: [U.S., European nations consider vaccinating workers exposed to bird flu](#)
  - POLITICO: [Farm bill markup aftermath](#)
  - AOL: [How a growing enthusiasm for raw milk is clashing with avian flu fears](#)
  - KRWG Radio: [Local dairy evaluation club competes in events featuring some of America's biggest food obsessions](#) (Featuring WCMA)
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## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### RSVP Now for WCMA Health & Safety Group Meeting

[Join the next hybrid meeting of WCMA's Health & Safety Group](#) on Thursday, June 13 for information-packed presentations, networking, and open discussion with your peers. Our agenda includes a look at new federal recommendations for safe raw milk handling, a primer on preventing heat-related illnesses, and key updates from the Occupational Health & Safety Administration.

[VIEW FULL AGENDA...](#)



**REGISTER NOW**

## Upcoming WCMA Events

May 30	June 11	June 13	July 17
<a href="#">Dairy Food Safety Alliance Tour &amp; Meeting (Hybrid)</a>	<a href="#">Free Webinar: Navigating the Future of Sustainable Packaging</a>	<a href="#">Health &amp; Safety Group Meeting (Hybrid)</a>	<a href="#">2024 WCMA Golf Outing &amp; Trap Shoot</a>

**VIEW ALL & REGISTER NOW**

## EDUCATION

### Industry Training Spotlight: Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy



The [Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy](#) offers a wide variety of resources, tools, and guides to help advance the dairy industry, including food safety trainings.

Registration is open now for two new offerings of the Center's Dairy Plant Food Safety Workshops - including [one in Madison, Wisconsin](#) co-hosted by WCMA members Foremost Farms USA and Sargento Foods, as well as the Center for Dairy Research. [READ MORE...](#)

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

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

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