



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

Canada Votes to Cut Dairy Market Access Ahead of USMCA Review



Canadian lawmakers last week approved [unprecedented legislation](#) designed to prevent the nation's trade negotiators from reducing tariffs on or increasing import quotas on dairy products, including those from the United States. The provocative move aims to cement Canada's supply management system and protect its own dairy industry ahead of a mandatory 2026 review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). [READ MORE...](#)

WCMA is finalizing its dairy trade policy platform, which will include a push for greater trade opportunity for American dairy processors throughout North America and beyond. To engage in WCMA's advocacy, contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

House Appropriations Committee Approves Reduced DBI Funding

Last night, the House Appropriations Committee passed its version of a [Fiscal Year 2026 funding bill](#) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in a party-line vote. The package cuts overall federal support for the agencies by 4.2 percent, or approximately \$1.2 billion, to a total of \$25.5 billion.

The House proposal includes reduced funding of \$8 million for the [Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives](#) - a key WCMA priority - funding direct-to-business grants and industry research, education, and technical assistance. WCMA continues to



work with Senate leaders to increase funding from this level in the final package.

The House bill would safeguard the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) from cuts to milk and dairy purchasing, and provides \$4 million for Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives Projects, both provisions supported by WCMA. Also noteworthy is a [late amendment](#) to the bill, approved on a voice vote, which would direct USDA to study and recommend to Congress options for reducing market concentration and consolidation in the infant formula industry.

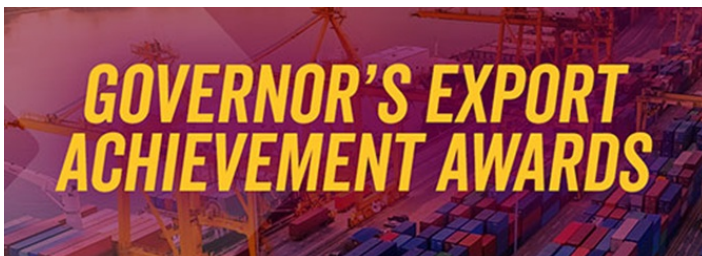
The proposal must now be considered by the full House of Representatives. A Senate proposal is expected in early July.

Apply Now for New Round of WI RFSI Equipment Grants



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) officials are [encouraging dairy processors](#) and other food supply leaders to apply now for Equipment-Only Grants through the [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure \(RFSI\) Program](#). Dairy processors and manufacturers operating in Wisconsin are eligible to apply for equipment funding aid if they do not already have an active RFSI grant. Grant proposals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. (CT) on July 21, 2025. WDATCP will host an [informational webinar](#) on Wednesday, June 25 at 11:00 a.m. (CT).

Wisconsin Governor's Export Awards Seeking Nominees



Is your company or cooperative making a splash in the global marketplace? The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is now accepting applications for the Governor's Export Achievement Awards. [Apply today - or nominate](#) a deserving peer for this impactful recognition. [READ MORE...](#)

Renew Wisconsin Bulk Milk Weigher & Sampler Licenses



Bulk milk weighers and samplers in Wisconsin can [renew their licenses online now](#) through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). Licensees who have not had an inspection within the past two years may [sign up for an appointment](#), held throughout August and September at county fairgrounds statewide. Have questions? Please contact [WDATCP staff](#). A map of current WDATCP dairy sanitarians and contact information is also [available online](#).

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Green Bay Press Gazette: [Maker of Kemps, Borden Cheese expands into Green Bay area with dairy plant purchase](#) (Featuring WCMA members Dairy Farmers of America and Winona Foods)
- BroadbandBreakfast: [Wisconsin Governor presses for \\$400M broadband investment](#)

National & Global

- The Hill: [Senate parliamentarian strikes key SNAP spending cuts from GOP megabill](#)
- Washington Examiner: [Trump's "impossible" deadline looms over world leaders with few trade deals done](#)
- Farmers Advance: [Dairy industry is concerned over the Trump Administration's mixed messages on deporting illegal immigrants](#)
- Marketplace: [How have DOGE cuts impacted food safety?](#)



Governor Tony Evers Celebrates June Dairy Month with WCMA Members

WCMA thanks Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers for celebrating June Dairy Month with visits to WCMA member businesses across the state: Associated Milk Producers Inc., Hidden Springs Creamery, Nasonville Dairy, Renard's Cheese, and Roelli Cheese Co. For more on these visits, see the related news coverage:

- WXOW-TV: [Gov. Evers tours Hidden Springs Creamery as part of June Dairy Month](#)
- WKBT-TV: [Governor Evers celebrates Wisconsin Dairy Month with visits to local creameries](#) (Featuring WCMA member Nasonville Dairy)

EDUCATION

Cultivate Safety Leaders with September 9 WCMA Training



Enhance your organization's safety culture and help your staff develop their skills as a trainer with [WCMA's Train the Safety Trainer class](#), set for Tuesday, September 9 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (CT) in-person at WCMA's offices in Madison, Wisconsin. This [interactive, industry-specific course](#) is designed to empower safety trainers with the tools to effectively communicate safety expectations and protocols - and achieve maximum compliance. Thanks go to [Nelson-Jameson](#) for their exclusive sponsorship of this course!

REGISTER TODAY



EVENTS & CONNECTION

Join WCMA Young Professionals at American Family Field



Register now to [join the WCMA Young Professionals](#) at American Family Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for a Brewer baseball game and tailgate on Thursday, August 28. Enjoy networking and a catered tailgate, then head into the stadium to watch the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. Thanks go to [Vivolac Cultures Corporation](#) for their sponsorship of this gathering!

RSVP TODAY

Promote Your Business: Sponsor This Event

Show your support for the dairy processing industry by [sponsoring the WCMA Young Professionals Brewer Game outing](#) on August 28. Sponsorship benefits include:

- One complimentary registration
- Access to attendee list
- Recognition during event with use of company logo
- Recognition on WCMA website on associated event page
- Written recognition via:
- WCMA e-newsletter and e-mail promotions

- WCMA social media

Limited sponsorships are available until August 21. Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

Upcoming WCMA Events

July 10	July 16	August 14	August 26	August 28
Free Webinar: Optimizing Water Quality in Dairy Processing	Golf Outing & Trap Shoot	Free Webinar: Dairy Food Safety	Dairy Wastewater Fundamentals Short Course	Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing

[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Leprino



WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Jim Leprino, who [passed away](#) on June 19 at the age of 87.

In 1956, Jim joined the family business full-time, helping to lead its transformation from a small neighborhood shop into the global leader known today as Leprino Foods Company. Jim was known for his unwavering commitment to the Leprino team, and for his generosity and dedication to giving back to his community.

More information on a funeral service is available in Jim's [obituary](#).

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