



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

July 14, 2026

news@wischeesemakers.org



NEWS

FDA Rejects Petition to Set PFAS Limits in Food



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week [rejected a legal petition](#) to establish limits on [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#) in food products, instead opting to set non-binding "action levels" for manufacturers. The Tuscon Environmental Justice Task Force, which originally filed the petition in November 2023, said it plans to sue FDA in an effort to force the agency to set thresholds on acceptable PFAS levels in food. [READ MORE...](#)

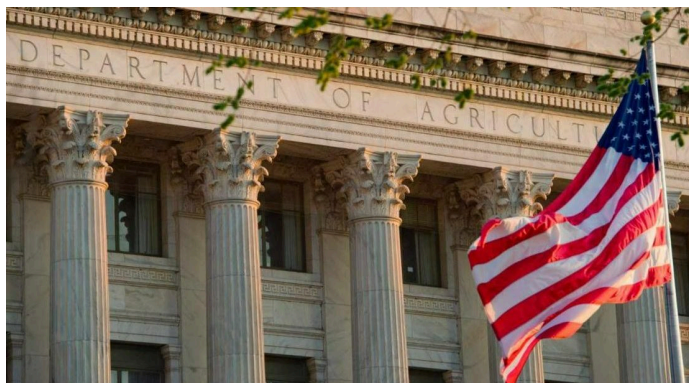
PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals", can enter food through water, packaging, cookware, or the fertilizer and pesticides used on crops. PFAS have been linked to cancer, birth defects, decreased immunity, high cholesterol, kidney disease and a range of other serious health concerns. Advocacy efforts have widely focused on limiting PFAS in drinking water, though a growing body of scientific evidence indicates food, [including milk](#), can also harbor the chemicals.

U.S. Labor Statistics Project Food & Beverage Workforce Growth



American food and beverage manufacturing businesses are projected to 2.2 million jobs by 2034 - more than any other manufacturing industry - according to a [new report](#) from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Dairy product manufacturing is among the top five food & beverage subcategories, with a growth projection of 10,800 jobs. Beverage manufacturing topped the list of subcategories, at an estimated 37,800 jobs by 2034. [READ MORE...](#)

Unions File Lawsuit to Block USDA Reorganization



A group of federal employee labor unions last week [filed a lawsuit](#) to halt the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) reorganization and relocation, [first announced last year](#). According to court records, the unions contend the plan requires Congressional approval, and that it will "gut programs, interrupting and eliminating the delivery of important services" by forcing experienced USDA staff to leave the agency. [READ MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Tasting Table: [The family-run company behind Culver's iconic cheese curds](#)
- Appleton Post Crescent: [Court-appointed receiver seeks buyer for Kaukauna cheese grading firm](#)

National & Global

- Reuters: [How climate change is putting traditional parmesan cheese at risk](#)
- Dairy Processing: [Land O'Lakes expanding to add dairy protein production](#) (Featuring WCMA member Land O'Lakes)
- WHJL-TV: [Capitol Conversations: U.S. Rep. Tony Wied on Farm Bill, voter ID laws](#)
- AgDaily: [Idaho raw milk outbreaks add context to \\$4 billion dairy-safety impacts study](#)
- SFGate: [California's dairy industry panics over August recycling deadline](#)



Hill Valley Dairy Hosts Engage with Ag Event

As part of Wisconsin Ag Coalition's Engage with Ag series, WCMA member Hill Valley Dairy hosted lawmakers and candidates for elected office for a tour and tasting. [Click the "Play" button](#) to check out a video summary of the visit!

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Register Now for WCMA Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing



Dairy processing professionals under 40 are invited to a day of networking and fun at the next [WCMA's Young Professionals event](#), as the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates at American Family Field on Thursday, August 6. Space at this popular event is limited. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with friends and peers - [register now!](#)

Upcoming WCMA Events

July 22	August 6	September 10	September 17
<u>2026 Golf Outing & Trap Shoot</u>	<u>Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing</u>	<u>Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual)</u>	<u>Front-Line Leadership Part A (In-Person)</u>

FEATURED: WEBINARS

Learn more about WCMA's programs & services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight sustainability news for the dairy processing industry, sharing insights, ideas and resources.

Explore Robotics & Automation in Free WCMA Webinar



A recording of WCMA's latest free webinar, focused on the latest trends in cheese production and sales, is [now available online](#). During this session, members heard from [BluePrint Automation](#), [Harpak-Ulma Packaging](#), [Kelley Supply, Inc.](#), and [Premier Tech](#) on how robotics and automation are changing the game in dairy processing, and how manufacturers can stay ahead of the curve. For a list of helpful contacts and resources shared during the session, [visit our website](#).

Sign Up to Receive Webinar Email Updates

WCMA's [member-only webinars](#) offer concise, no-cost opportunities to learn from leading experts about a broad range of topics in dairy processing, from sales trends and technological advances to immigration enforcement and much more. Don't miss a minute of these informative, engaging sessions! [Log into your WCMA Member Compass](#) at WisCheeseMakers.org and sign up now to receive email communications about future webinars. Need help? View our [video tutorial](#).

EDUCATION

Network, Connect In-Person at WCMA Fall Leadership Trainings

 WATCH NOW



Bethany Sarauer, Grande Cheese
Front-Line Leadership Graduate

Act today to [secure engaging in-person educational opportunities](#) for your staff this fall. Register now for WCMA's popular [Front-Line Leadership](#) series!

This [highly-rated course](#) guides new and seasoned dairy processing leaders through strategies to sharpen essential leadership skills, maximize staff performance, and cultivate a successful team.

Live, in-person sessions begin September 17, and are available as a three-part series or a la carte. Plus, [complete all three parts](#) and receive a free, full registration to CheeseCon 2027 - a value of approximately \$600!

Click "[Watch Now](#)" to hear from WCMA training graduates about why they love Front-Line Leadership!

SIGN UP NOW



news@wischeesemakers.org
(608) 286-1001



All content contained in this newsletter is protected by U.S. copyright law and may not be forwarded, reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published, or broadcast without the prior written permission of Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association.

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!