



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

July 22, 2025

[news@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:news@wischeesemakers.org)



## NEWS

### Tell Congress: Support \$12M for Dairy Business Innovation



With agricultural appropriations funding packages now announced in both the U.S. [House](#) and [Senate](#), now is the time to join WCMA in [pushing for adoption](#) of the highest offering of \$12 million in funding for Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives. This funding empowers regional DBI centers, including one run by WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research, to provide direct-to-business grants and technical assistance to dairy businesses in 35 U.S. states. [Take action now](#) to ask your representatives and senators to **support the Senate's proposal for \$12 million for DBI Initiatives**. Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

---

### Trump Nominates Julie Callahan for Chief Agricultural Negotiator



President Trump has [nominated Julie Callahan](#) to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), pending Senate confirmation. Callahan is [currently the USTR's assistant trade representative](#) for agricultural affairs and commodity policy. Agriculture and dairy groups have praised Callahan's nomination, noting her experience and leadership capabilities. [READ MORE...](#)

---

## Trump Announces Unilateral Tariffs for 150 Countries



Tariff rates of "over 10 percent" will soon be set for [more than 150 smaller countries](#) in one letter, President Donald Trump said last Wednesday. Trump's Commerce Secretary, Howard Lutnick, later [suggested that that rate would be 10 percent](#), and clarified that these countries would include "the Latin American countries, the Caribbean countries, [and] many countries in Africa". The sweeping move comes just weeks before Trump's [previously-announced tariffs](#) take effect on August 1, and as the U.S. continues tense negotiations with major trading partners such as the [European Union](#). [READ MORE...](#)

---

## Congress Approves Trump's Funding Rescissions



Members of Congress [voted Friday to approve President Trump's request](#) to rescind, or claw back, \$9 billion in federal funding. Nearly 90 percent of the funding clawed back was intended for foreign aid programs, some of which offered valuable business opportunities to dairy processors and WCMA members. The package now moves to Trump's desk for final signature and enactment. [READ MORE...](#)

---

## FDA Proposes Nixing Standards of Identity for 18 Dairy Products



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week [announced plans to eliminate standards of identity](#) (SOIs) for 52 food products, including [18 dairy products](#). The move is part of the agency's efforts to eliminate regulations deemed obsolete or unnecessary. FDA is [accepting comments](#) on the proposal until September 15. WCMA will submit a comment on members' behalf. Members with questions or input may contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

---

## USDA Seeks Cheddar Cheese, Yogurt, Butter

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued solicitations for [cheddar cheese](#) for use in federal food distribution programs, with bids due July 30 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions may be directed



to [USDA staff](#). USDA also seeks [yogurt and butter](#) products, with bids due August 4 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions about this bid may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- Cheese Reporter: [Winners named in 2025 Green County Fair Cheese Contest](#) (Featuring WCMA members Chalet Cheese Co-op, Decatur Dairy, Emmi Roth, Hoard's Dairyman Farm Creamery, Klondike Cheese Co., Nasonville Dairy, Sabrosura Foods, V&V Supremo Foods, and Zimmerman Cheese)

### National & Global

- ABC News: [RFK Jr. wants to expand the role of dairy in dietary guidelines](#)
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: [Land O'Lakes CEO Beth Ford: Dairy needs immigration reform](#) (Featuring WCMA member Land O'Lakes)
- WFIN Radio: [Ohio's top cheesemakers recognized at the 2025 Ohio State Fair Cheese Contest](#) (Featuring WCMA members Biery Cheese Company, Guggisberg Cheese, and Pearl Valley Cheese)

## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### Congratulations and Thank You!



Congratulations to all of this year's [WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot winners](#)! Our thanks go to the participants and sponsors who made the event a successful, productive day of fun and networking. We're grateful for your continued engagement and generous support.

A complete list of winners is available at [WisCheeseMakers.org](#). Check out photos from the day on [WCMA's Facebook page](#) and feel free to like, download, and share. Don't forget to mark your calendars for next year's outing on Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

### Upcoming WCMA Events

August 14	August 26	August 28	September 9	September 11
<a href="#">Free Webinar: Focus on Food Safety</a>	<a href="#">Dairy Wastewater Fundamentals Short Course</a>	<a href="#">Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing</a>	<a href="#">WCMA Train the Safety Trainer (In-Person)</a>	<a href="#">Free Webinar: Making the Most of Your WCMA Membership</a>

[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

## Focus on Wastewater Fundamentals in New Course



More than half of available spaces are filled for a brand-new [Dairy Wastewater Fundamentals](#) short course, hosted by WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research on August 26. [Act now](#) to reserve your seat! This in-person course includes a morning of interactive instruction and an afternoon tour of Agropur's wastewater treatment facility near Appleton, Wisconsin. Both new and veteran wastewater operators will benefit from this deep dive into the fundamentals of wastewater treatment, taught by CDR staff and industry experts.

**REGISTER NOW**

## Prioritize Safety with WCMA Trainings This Fall



### WCMA Safety Trainings

**Register Now!**



Strengthen your organization's safety practices with WCMA's upcoming fall trainings: [Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors](#) and [Train the Safety Trainer](#) (exclusively sponsored by [Nelson-Jameson](#)). These courses are designed to equip your teams with the knowledge and hands-on skills they need to keep safety front and center and achieve maximum compliance. Explore the full lineup and register now at [WisCheeseMakers.org](https://www.wis cheesemakers.org).

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

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

## IN MEMORIAM

### Scott Overfelt

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Scott Overfelt, who passed away July 18 at the age of 59. As Commercial Director for



the Midwest Region for WCMA member Hydrite, Scott was known for his integrity, dedication to his clients, and good humor. A celebration of Scott's life is planned for Thursday, July 24 in Wisconsin Rapids. More information is available in Scott's [obituary](#).

[news@wischeesemakers.org](mailto:news@wischeesemakers.org)  
(608) 286-1001



*All materials contained on this site are protected by United States 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!