



# WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest  
in dairy processing

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## NEWS



# H5N1 *Response*

## RSVP for Free WCMA H5N1 Food Safety Webinar



**Dr. Steven Grube**  
FDA

Join WCMA next Tuesday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m. (CT) for a [free webinar on food safety research findings and regulatory updates](#) related to the current outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI/H5N1) among U.S. dairy cows.

Our program features a special presentation from Dr. Steven Grube, Chief Medical Officer in the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and will include a situation report from federal regulatory partners, a review of new research findings and studies currently underway, and a live Q&A session.

Questions may be submitted in advance to [WCMA Communications Director Grace Atherton](#) by Monday, August 5 at 12:00 p.m. (CT).

**REGISTER TODAY**

## WCMA to Host H5N1 Biosecurity Workshop August 13

Dairy manufacturers, processors, and their farmer partners are also encouraged to sign up for WCMA's upcoming workshop: [Enhancing On-Farm Biosecurity Practices Amid H5N1](#).

This hybrid event on Tuesday, August 13 from 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (CT) is free to join online or just \$25 in-person in Madison, Wisconsin. Our engaging program will feature informative presentations and practical exercises with Dr. Doris Olander of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Dr. Keith Poulsen of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and Karen Endres of the Farmer Wellness Program at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

WCMA's H5N1 programs are made possible in part by support from the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance](#), a partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research. For current H5N1 information and resources, visit [WisCheeseMakers.org/H5N1](http://WisCheeseMakers.org/H5N1). WCMA members with questions may contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) or [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

## Colorado Requires Dairy Producers to Submit Milk for Testing



To mitigate the spread of H5N1 in the state, Colorado agriculture officials are [requiring all licensed dairy farms to submit milk samples weekly](#) to be tested for the virus. Though pasteurization has proven extremely effective in inactivating the H5N1 virus in milk, Colorado leads the nation in human cases of H5N1, including several [new cases](#) in poultry farmworkers.

## Cornell Study Shows Mammal-to-Mammal H5N1 Spread



A [new study published by Cornell University](#) last week shows evidence of "sustained and efficient" spread of bird flu between cows and from cows to other mammals. Researchers say that while the study indicates that the virus could continue to adapt in mammals, genome sequencing did not reveal any mutations in the virus that would lead to enhanced transmissibility of H5N1 in humans. [READ MORE...](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains that the risk of H5N1 infection to the general public remains low, and [recommends](#) that individuals in direct contact with raw milk or other potential sources of infection wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

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## USDA Solicits Cheddar, Awards Process Cheese Contracts

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a solicitation for the procurement of [cheddar cheese products](#), with bids due Friday, August 9 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

USDA has also [awarded a contract](#) to WCMA member Associated Milk Producers Inc. to deliver more than 237,000 pounds of process 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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# Apply for Buy Local, Wisconsin Grants



Dairy manufacturers and processors operating in Wisconsin can apply now through September 9 for Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grants administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). A total of up to \$200,000 in grant funds will be awarded via a competitive review process. WDATCP will hold an [informational webinar](#) for interested applicants on Tuesday, August 6 at noon (CT). [READ MORE...](#)

## Headlines

### Wisconsin

- Dairy Processing: [DFW elects executive committee members](#)
- WIZM Radio: [Big cheese award winner, WI state Sen. Pfaff, on Microsoft data center energy consumption](#)

### National & Global

- Brownfield Ag News: [China's dairy self-sufficiency affects dairy exports](#)
- Brownfield Ag News: [Cheese Makers to offer H5N1 educational seminars](#) (Featuring WCMA)
- WCVB-TV: [A look into local cheese making, from farm to table](#) (Featuring WCMA member Narragansett Creamery)
- Duluth News Tribune: [Burnett Dairy Cheese Store prepares to open in Duluth](#) (Featuring WCMA member Burnett Dairy Cooperative)
- Civil Eats: ['Shelf Life' peeks into the nooks and crannies of the cheesemaker's world](#)

## EVENTS & CONNECTION

### Get Your Ticket for WCMA Young Professionals Summer Outing



Limited spaces remain available at WCMA's Young Professionals Brewer Game and Tailgate. [Reserve yours today](#) and join peers, colleagues, and friends in Milwaukee August 29. Registration ends August 15, so don't delay.

Can't attend, but want to make an impact? [Become a sponsor!](#) Sponsorships of just \$350 include recognition of your organization in advance meeting promotions and on-site at the event. Many thanks to [Vivolac Cultures Corporation](#) for their generous sponsorship.

## Upcoming WCMA Events

August 6	August 13	August 20	August 29
<a href="#">Free Webinar: H5N1</a>	<a href="#">Hybrid Workshop:</a>	<a href="#">Technology</a>	<a href="#">Young Professionals</a>



[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

## FEATURED

*Learn more about WCMA's programs and member services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's offerings and related news focused on industry regulation and technical issues.*

### Wisconsin DNR Updates Groundwater Enforcement Guidance with WCMA Input

WCMA is actively engaged with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on seeking improvements to an agency [guidance document](#) for calculating groundwater limits and exemptions in Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits.

On July 18, 2024, WDNR replied to February 9 public comments from WCMA and Midwest Food Products Association (with assistance from Applied Science Inc. and Probst Group.) WDNR's response and WCMA's stated concerns are [available here](#).

The agency anticipates that the final guidance, "Calculating Preventive Action Limits and Evaluating Groundwater Quality Exemptions for Groundwater Discharges," will be released by mid-August 2024. WCMA members with questions may contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#).

### Network, Learn at WCMA Technology Committee Field Day



Sign up now to [join WCMA's Technology Committee for a field day on August 20](#) at Nasonville Dairy in Marshfield, Wisconsin! Registration ends August 12, so act now to reserve your space.

The day kicks off at 10:00 a.m. with networking and a tour of Nasonville's cheesemaking facility. Enjoy lunch and environmental issues updates from industry experts, followed by a tour of Nasonville's state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant.

[RSVP BY AUGUST 12](#)

## EDUCATION

### Reserve Space Now in WCMA Safety Trainings This Fall

Help your valued team members stay safe on the job - reserve space in WCMA's



upcoming [dairy-specific safety trainings!](#)

New and veteran employees alike will benefit from Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors, available virtually on [September 15](#) or in-person on [October 15](#) (exclusively sponsored by [Nelson-Jameson](#)). For a more advanced look at maximizing safety compliance, join Train the Safety Trainer, held in-person in Madison, Wisconsin on [December 5](#). [READ MORE...](#)

## WCMA Leadership Trainings Now Open for Fall 2024



Empower your employees to lead - and showcase your company's commitment to growth: join and [sponsor](#) WCMA's top-rated [leadership trainings](#) this fall.

These popular courses offer something for everyone in the dairy processing industry, whether they're front-line leaders or rising managers, and whether they prefer in-person or virtual learning. [SIGN UP AND SPONSOR...](#)

For more educational opportunities from WCMA and our partners, visit: [WisCheeseMakers.org/Events](https://www.wischeesemakers.org/events)

## IN MEMORIAM

### Jeanette "Nette" Schlinsog

WCMA mourns with the friends and family of Jeanette "Nette" Schlinsog, who [passed away](#) July 14 at the age of 92.

Nette was an integral and beloved part of WCMA's Championship Cheese Contests for many years. Alongside her husband, Chief Judge Emeritus Bill Schlinsog, Nette supported all aspects of the Contests, from tabulating scores and results during judging to managing the impressive displays of award-winning cheeses and dairy products



at WCMA's annual industry gatherings. She was one of the inaugural recipients of WCMA's Eggebrecht Award, honoring exceptional Contest volunteers, in 2018.

A funeral service was held on July 22 in Middleton. More information is available in [Nette's obituary](#).

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