



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

July 7, 2026

news@wischeesemakers.org



NEWS

FDA Releases 2027 Human Foods Agenda



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week released its updated [2026 Foods Program Guidance Under Development](#) agenda, outlining draft and final guidance documents the agency expects to develop by the end of the year.

Among the most relevant priorities listed are FDA's planned guidance documents on:

- natural color additives, including the use of vegetable juice and fruit juice as color additives
- food labeling for online grocery shopping platforms, which could affect how dairy products are marketed in e-commerce
- updates to Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food, including chemical hazard and sanitation guidance that may affect food safety programs
- additional questions and answers on the "healthy" nutrient content claim; and
- additional guidance related to food traceability, food chemical safety, and infant formula protein quality.

FDA noted that the [guidance agenda](#) is subject to change and may be revised in response to emerging public health priorities, resource considerations, or new Administration policies. While FDA guidance documents do not carry the force and effect of law or regulation, they represent the agency's current thinking and recommendations on regulatory compliance and industry best practices.

Thompson Proposes H-2A Bill



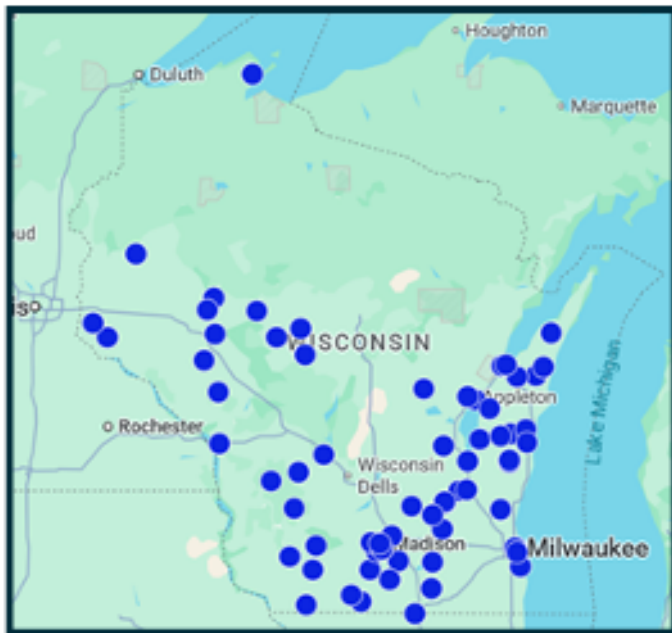
Congressman Glenn "G.T." Thompson (PA-15), chair of the House Agriculture Committee, last Tuesday introduced the bipartisan [Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act of 2026](#). In an effort to modernize the H-2A agricultural guest worker program and address longstanding workforce challenges, the legislation allows temporary H-2A visas to be used for agricultural jobs lasting up to 349 days regardless of whether the work is considered seasonal, a change intended to better accommodate year-round industries like dairy. [READ MORE...](#)

The bill would also shift authority for defining "agricultural labor and services" from the U.S. Department of Labor to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, creating an opportunity for a conversation about an extension of these benefits for processors.

Additionally, the proposal would create a process to allow certain unauthorized agricultural workers already employed in the United States to participate in the H-2A program, provided they meet eligibility requirements. The legislation does not include a pathway to citizenship.

WCMA has long championed federal workforce reforms that recognize the labor needs of dairy processors and producers and will continue monitoring this bill as it advances through Congress.

State Report Highlights Record Growth in Wisconsin Dairy Exports



This map highlights the 64 Wisconsin dairy companies - many of which are WCMA members - across 34 of the state's counties that have participated in trade promotion and export development activities.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) has released its [2021-2026 Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports \(WIAE\) Five-Year Report](#), highlighting the success of the state's historic investment in expanding global markets for Wisconsin agriculture. Among the report's most notable findings, Wisconsin dairy exports grew from \$467 million in 2021 to \$718 million in 2025 - an increase of more than 35 percent - while dairy's share of the state's total agricultural exports climbed from 12 percent to 18 percent during the same period.

The report credits WIAE investments and strong partnerships between WDATCP, industry organizations, and federal partners for helping expand international demand for Wisconsin dairy products. As a WIAE partner, WCMA has administered a [highly successful dairy export assistance program](#), providing members with individualized export consultations, technical assistance, and financial support for international product sampling and shipping costs.

WCMA was a leading voice advocating for the creation of the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports in 2020 and has successfully fought to secure continued funding for the program during every

U.S. Will Not Renew USMCA, Trade Rep Confirms



In a statement last Wednesday, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer [confirmed](#) the United States will not renew the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). As noted in the statement, the decision keeps the existing agreement in place for the next 10 years as the U.S. "continue[s] to engage with Mexico and Canada to address the Agreement's shortcomings and our trade deficits with these countries." [READ MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- WFRV-TV: [BelGioioso Cheese donates 900 pounds of cheese to GBAPS Summer Meals program](#) (Featuring WCMA member BelGioioso Cheese)
- WTAQ Radio: [Secretary Romanski ends June Dairy Month with visits to Renard's Cheese and Fairview Pastures](#) (Featuring WCMA member Renard's Cheese)

National & Global

- GNAT-TV: [Welch leads bill to combat consolidation in the dairy industry](#)
- Cleveland.com: [Cheese is having a moment. A Cleveland company is betting \\$128 million that it's only the beginning](#)
- Dairy Herd Management: [Beyond the toast: How the dairy industry must rebrand butter to win Gen Z](#)
- Morning Ag Clips: [Hilmar celebrates America's 250th anniversary with cheese donations to support food security](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hilmar Cheese Company)
- Supermarket Perimeter: [Henning Cheese offers everyday luxury with specialty cheddars](#) (Featuring WCMA member Henning Cheese)



Wisconsin Agriculture Secretary Visits Renard's Cheese

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) Secretary Randy Romanski (pictured, far left) ended June Dairy Month with a [visit to WCMA member Renard's Cheese](#), where Chris and Ann Renard shared updates on their growing retail operation and strong export momentum, including new opportunities in Asian markets. Our thanks go to the Renards for giving the Secretary a warm welcome! [READ MORE...](#)

EDUCATION

Dive Into the Future of Cheesemaking in Free July 9 Webinar

WCMA Webinar

Supplier Roundtable: Robotics & Automation in Cheesemaking



Nick Szczechowski
BluePrint Automation



Dan Feeney
Harpak-Ulma



Brandon Ewing
Kelley Supply, Inc.



Nate Burke
Premier Tech

With new advances in automation every day, the dairy plant floor is changing, and fast. [Register now](#) to join WCMA's next free, members-only webinar on July 9 at 1:00 p.m. (CT), featuring an informational roundtable of trusted industry suppliers.

Join speakers from [BluePrint Automation](#), [Harpak-Ulma Packaging](#), [Kelley Supply, Inc.](#), and [Premier Tech](#) in discussing how robotics and automation are changing the game in dairy processing, and how manufacturers can stay ahead of the curve.

RSVP TODAY

Oregon State Launches Quality and Food Safety Training Series



New and experienced dairy food safety professionals can register now for a new [Quality and Food Safety Training Series](#) offered by Oregon State University. The fully online, on-demand program covers how food safety systems work, how to identify and control hazards, and how to keep a facility audit-ready. The training is available in [two full tracks](#) as well as [individual, one-hour modules](#) focused on specific topics and industries, including dairy processing. [READ MORE...](#)

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

WisCheeseMakers.org/Events

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 9	July 22	August 6	September 10	September 17
Free Webinar: Supplier Roundtable	2026 Golf Outing & Trap Shoot	Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing	Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual)	Front-Line Leadership Part A (In-Person)

news@wischeesemakers.org
(608) 286-1001



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

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