

WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

Wisconsin Budget Investments Include Big Wins for Dairy



WCMA members last week touted significant wins for Wisconsin dairy in [the newly signed 2025-27 Wisconsin state budget](#). Thanks to strong bipartisan leadership and WCMA advocacy, the budget includes investments to advance dairy innovation, workforce development, export expansion, infrastructure improvements, and hunger relief. [READ MORE...](#)

Dairy Provisions, SNAP Program Cuts Included in Final Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill



WCMA on Thursday lauded certain dairy provisions, while expressing concern over cuts to domestic food aid, in the federal budget reconciliation bill signed into law by President Trump on Friday. The final package provides funds to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to perform cost-of-production surveys for the dairy industry, extends the Dairy Margin Coverage program, and cuts \$186 million from SNAP, shifting responsibility for financing up to 25 percent of these benefits to states, and adding new restrictions and work requirements for eligibility. [READ MORE...](#)

WCMA & Michael Best Offer New, Free Immigration Action Preparedness Resources

Employer Checklist: Before an Immigration Action

- Legal Preparation
 - ☐ Hire or consult with a qualified immigration attorney in advance.
 - ☐ Distribute a list of trusted, free or low-cost immigration legal resources to all workers.
- Workplace Preparedness
 - ☐ Develop a written Immigration Response Plan, which may be based off these checklists. As with any Standard Operating Procedure, consider who will be responsible for managing federal agents and employees during an immigration action, and explicitly list them, their back-ups, and associated contact information.
 - ☐ Determine which areas of your facility are public vs. private. (See below.) Affix signage identifying private spaces as needed.
 - ☐ Identify a designated space for agents to wait while management and/or legal counsel is located.
 - ☐ Practice the plan with all public-facing employees—include what to say, what to do, and how to stay safe.
 - ☐ Create this plan and some of providing training for all staff, focused on understanding the following rights and best practices:
 - Do NOT give permission for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter any part of the workplace without first speaking with an immigration attorney or designated manager.
 - You have the right to remain silent and request to speak to a lawyer, and you do not need to provide documentation during an ICE action.
 - Do NOT run if ICE enters; fleeing can lead to arrest.

Note: This document is general information and should not be considered legal advice. For additional information, please contact WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney at rsweeney@wcmachicago.org or Michael Best & Friedrich LLP Partner Kelly Fortier at kfortier@mcshabest.com.

WCMA, in collaboration with member law firm [Michael Best & Friedrich LLP](#), is pleased to offer a new, practical resource to help dairy processing industry employers prepare for potential immigration enforcement actions. With renewed national attention on immigration enforcement and reports of increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity, [this timely tool](#) provides real-world, actionable guidance to help companies support their teams and safeguard their operations.

[Click here to download checklists](#) designed to help you prepare for immigration action, including detailed steps to take before, during, and after a workplace raid or site visit, as well as clear guidance on how to distinguish between public and private areas within a facility. This resource is available free of charge to WCMA members. Members with general questions may contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#). To seek legal guidance, please contact [Michael Best Partner Kelly Fortier](#).

White House Reports Extension on Tariff Pause, Though Rates Going Up for Fourteen Countries August 1



At least fourteen countries' imports are set to face steep new blanket tariffs starting August 1, President Donald Trump shared Monday in a series of social media posts. Rates are going up for countries including Japan and South Korea.

Meanwhile, the tariff pause for many other key trading partners set to expire tomorrow will now be extended to August 1, White House officials noted yesterday. Though Trump set a goal of 90 trade deals within the 90-day period, only agreements with the United Kingdom, China, and Vietnam have been announced. [READ MORE...](#)

Submit Comments to FDA on Food Chemicals

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is [accepting comments](#) now through July 18 on a proposed method of ranking chemicals in food. The proposed method is similar to one that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency uses for prioritizing chemicals, but the FDA's method takes into account factors specific to exposure from food and uses a scoring method similar to the FDA's Risk Ranking Model for Traceability. [READ MORE...](#)

USDA Seeks Mozzarella Bids

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a [solicitation for mozzarella string cheese](#) to be used in federal food distribution programs, with bids due Wednesday, July 16 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

Wisconsin

- Brownfield Ag News: [Wisconsin budget supports ag exports, dairy processors, research, roads](#) (Featuring WCMA and member Uplands Cheese)
- Wisconsin Life: [Forty-five years covering Wisconsin's dairy industry for The Milkweed](#)

National & Global

- Reuters: [Dairy supply management could sour Canada-U.S. trade talks](#)
- Dairy Processing: [Startups, ingredients and tariff uncertainty](#)
- Watertown Daily News: [Texas company considering Watertown site for \\$250 million dairy processing plant](#)
- KMA Radio: [Nebraska getting its first new dairy processing facility in 60 years](#)

FEATURED: SUSTAINABILITY

WCMA Joins Dairy Sustainability Alliance



WCMA has officially become a member of the [Dairy Sustainability Alliance](#), joining a network of over 175 organizations and more than 350 professionals working together to advance environmental stewardship, animal care, food safety, and community well-being across the U.S. dairy supply chain. For more details on the Alliance, visit the [Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's website](#).

Reserve Space Now in WCMA Greenhouse Gas Workshop



Registration is [open now](#) for WCMA's upcoming dairy sustainability workshop, focused on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Led by industry experts from Harbor Environmental, a Terracon company; and the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, "[Carbon Clarity: How to Measure, Benchmark, and Improve Your Company's GHG Impact](#)" will guide participants through the process of determining a GHG inventory, establishing emissions baselines, and how to track and report progress in alignment with frameworks such as the GHG Protocol.

WCMA, CDR Offer Sustainability-Focused DBIA Grants

The Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between WCMA and the Center for Dairy Research (CDR), will offer approximately \$3 million in funding through [two direct-to-business grant programs](#) beginning August 4. One of these programs, the [Dairy Industry Impact Grant](#), is designed for applicants pursuing projects with the potential to benefit the



broader dairy industry. This fall, the program will specifically focus on initiatives related to sustainability or export growth.

With limited existing grants specifically tailored to support dairy processors in implementing sustainability projects, the Dairy Industry Impact Grant is a unique opportunity for applicants to jump-start their dairy sustainability efforts.

For more information and to sign up for DBIA's informational grant webinar, visit the [DBIA website](#).

EVENTS & CONNECTION

WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Participant List Now Available



[Course assignments and an updated list of participants](#) are now available for the WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot, set for Wednesday, July 16 in central Wisconsin. All name changes must be made on-site.

Registration is still open for the first-ever WCMA Pickleball Tournament, as well as the WCMA Golf Outing & Trap Shoot Social Hour and Dinner! [Act now to sign up.](#)

Have questions? Please contact [WCMA Contest Director Kirsten Strohmenger](#).

[VIEW COMPLETE LIST](#)

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](#)

Limited Space Remaining in WCMA Front-Line Leadership Classes



Limited spaces are available for upcoming in-person offerings of WCMA's top-rated Front-Line Leadership course this fall, sponsored by [Nelson-Jameson](#). Designed specifically for team leads, supervisors, and managers, these interactive classes build essential skills in communication, conflict resolution, and team motivation. Whether you're developing new leaders or strengthening your current team, Front-Line Leadership delivers practical tools that drive results on the plant floor.

[VIEW DATES & REGISTER NOW](#)



IN MEMORIAM

Steve Krause



WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Steve Krause, who [passed away](#) June 30 at the age of 73. Steve began his career in the cheese industry as a cheesemaker in the family business, before becoming vice president of cheese operations for Tosca Ltd. He played a key role in the innovation of the 640-pound box for Cheddar, and was honored for his contributions to the industry with WCMA's Distinguished Service Award in 2015. Steve was also a longtime, beloved "B-Teamer" and member of WCMA's Contest Committee, helping to grow and improve the competition year after year.

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