



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

August 13, 2024

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NEWS



H5N1 Response

FDA Survey Finds No Viable H5N1 in Raw Milk Cheese



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today released the [results of its second retail sampling survey](#) of retail dairy products. This survey tested 167 products collected at retail locations for highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1). The samples included aged raw milk cheese as well as pasteurized fluid milk and products made from pasteurized milk, such as pasteurized cheeses, cream cheese, butter, ice cream. No viable H5N1 virus was detected in the products. [READ MORE...](#)

Apply Now for \$10,000 WCMA Biosecurity Grants

Midwestern dairy processors can act now to help their farmer partners access financial assistance to support their biosecurity efforts amid the H5N1 outbreak. Supported by funding from the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), WCMA is now offering [grants of up to \\$10,000](#) for equipment, supplies, employee training, and consulting for on-farm biosecurity efforts.



Grants are first-come, first-served, so [share the simple application today](#).

**VIEW COMPLETE
DETAILS**

Watch Free WCMA H5N1 Food Safety Webinar Now



A recording of WCMA's latest free webinar, focused on H5N1 food safety research findings and regulatory updates is [now available online](#). This session features guest expert Dr. Steven Grube of the Food and Drug Administration.

A copy of the presentation used during the webinar and a list of key contacts and resources are also available now at WisCheeseMakers.org/H5N1.

Additional H5N1 Resources

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 additional resources, visit WisCheeseMakers.org/H5N1. WCMA members with questions may contact [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#) or [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

USDA Issues Solicitations for Swiss, Cheddar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a solicitation for the procurement of [cheddar cheese](#), with bids due Friday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). USDA is also seeking [Swiss cheese](#), with bids due Monday, August 19 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Questions on both solicitations may be directed to [USDA staff](#).

USDA has also [awarded contracts](#) to WCMA members Associated Milk Producers Inc., Cedar Valley Cheese, Dairy Farmers of America, Great Lakes Cheese, and Masters Gallery Foods to deliver more than 237,000 pounds of cheddar cheese for federal nutrition programs. To learn how to become a USDA-certified vendor and bid for federal contracts, visit [the agency's website](#).

Headlines

Wisconsin

- WITI-TV: [Highlighting cows, cheese at the Wisconsin State Fair](#)
- WHBL Radio: [New housing development in Plymouth launched by SCEDC](#) (Featuring

National & Global

- Farm and Dairy: [Pearl Valley Cheese named grand champion cheese at Ohio State Fair](#)
(Featuring WCMA member Pearl Valley Cheese)
- WISH-TV: [Cheese sculptors bring art to Indiana State Fair](#)
- Yahoo! Life: [The world's most expensive cheese is actually made from donkeys](#)

WCMA Members Win Big at Wisconsin State Fair

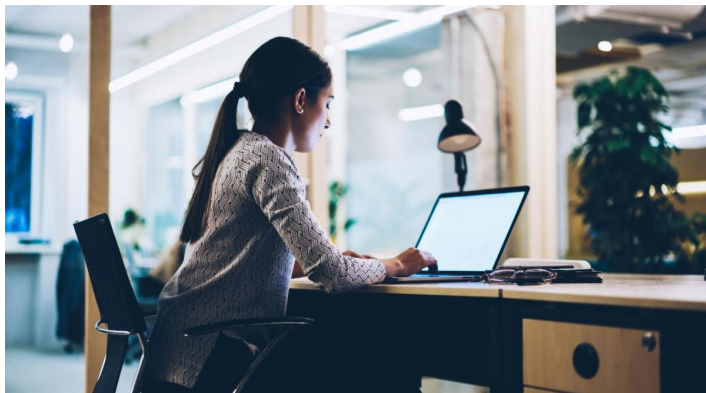


Congratulations to WCMA member Schuman Cheese - Lake Country Dairy, which was [named Grand Master Cheesemaker](#) for its Maple Flavored Mascarpone at the 2024 Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Contest and Auction! WCMA members Nordic Creamery claimed the Grand Champion Butter title for its unsalted butter, while WCMA member Klondike Cheese Company earned Grand Champion Sour Cream for its Odyssey Reduced Fat Mediterranean Feta Dip and Grand Champion Yogurt for its Odyssey Labneh. WCMA is pleased to support this popular event, which this year raised a record \$65,080 for dairy promotion and education.

FEATURED: WORKFORCE & EDUCATION

Learn more about WCMA's programs and member services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's offerings to support members' efforts to attract, train, and retain a high-quality workforce.

DOL Rule Increases Salary Threshold for Overtime Eligibility



The U.S. Department of Labor enacted [a final rule](#) on July 1, increasing salary thresholds required to exempt a salaried executive, administrative, or professional employee from federal overtime pay requirements. The threshold now equals an annual salary of \$43,888 – or less than \$844 per week - and will increase to \$58,656 on January 1, 2025. Starting July 1, 2027, salary thresholds will update every three years, by applying up-to-date wage data to determine new salary levels.

Executive Action Expands Path to Legal Permanent Residency

The Biden Administration this summer announced an [executive action](#) allowing certain undocumented relatives of U.S. citizens to apply for lawful permanent residency without leaving the country. The policy extends legal status and protections for approximately 500,000 spouses and roughly 50,000 noncitizen children of immigrants under the age of 21 whose parent is married to a U.S. citizen. [READ MORE...](#)

Childcare Costs Rising in Wisconsin, Limiting Labor Pool



Last week, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced the results of the [2024 Market Rate Survey](#), a federally required analysis that helps determine the buying power of the state's [Wisconsin Shares](#) subsidy program. The 2024 report found a [larger-than-predicted increase](#) in child care provider prices between 2022 and 2023, resulting in a drop in affordable child care slots by nearly 25 percent. [READ MORE...](#)

Recent data from the Federal Reserve shows that in Wisconsin – and nationally – households with young children and that make less than \$75,000 per year are more likely to provide care themselves, with about 35 percent of these households reducing work hours to care for children.

Join WCMA's Workforce & Education Committee September 12



Share your thoughts on labor challenges in dairy processing, help shape actionable solutions, and connect with peers at the next [WCMA Workforce & Education Committee meeting](#) on September 12. Join us in person in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, or online from anywhere in the world. Thanks to [Novonesis](#) for its exclusive sponsorship of this special committee event!

[RSVP TODAY](#)

Check Out WCMA's Workforce Resources



Did you know that WCMA offers a free [online jobs board](#) where you can post open positions with your company or cooperative? How about our free [employee onboarding and recruitment videos](#)? We also offer a host of [leadership and safety trainings](#) for your valued staff.

Check out all the workforce resources we have to offer at [WisCheeseMakers.org](#), or contact [WCMA Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

Limited Space Remaining in WCMA Front-Line Leadership: Part A



Spaces are filling quickly in Part A of WCMA's popular Front-Line Leadership training. Act now to join one of three upcoming offerings of this session, focused on essential leadership skills:

- [September 10: Virtual](#) (Only eight seats left!)
- [September 11: In-Person](#) - Exclusively sponsored by [Nelson-Jameson](#) (Only eight seats left!)
- [September 17: Virtual](#)

Looking for more? Parts B and C of this popular course are also open for registration now. [LEARN MORE...](#)

Build Lasting Connections in WCMA Advanced Leadership Series



Register today to forge valuable professional connections as part of the next cohort of [WCMA's Advanced Leadership Series](#), starting this fall! This highly-rated three-part course brings together mid-level managers and employees transitioning to management positions for connection and growth. Find full details and sign up now at [WisCheeseMakers.org](#).

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

[WisCheeseMakers.org/Events](https://www.wischeesemakers.org/events)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Secure Tickets Now for WCMA Young Professionals Outing

Just days remain to get your tickets for the [WCMA Young Professionals Brewer Game and Tailgate](#) on August 29. Don't miss this chance for fun and networking with your peers, colleagues, and friends in dairy! [Registration ends August 15, so act now.](#)

Many thanks to our event sponsors [A-Z Process Solutions](#), [Pump Solutions, Inc.](#), and [Vivolac Cultures Corporation](#) for their



generous support! Interested in connecting with the dairy processing industry's next generation? [Sponsorships for this event](#) are still available for a limited time.

Upcoming WCMA Events

August 20	August 29	September 10	September 11	September 17
Technology Committee Field Day at Nasonville Dairy	Young Professionals Brewer Game Outing	Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual)	Front-Line Leadership Part A (In-Person)	Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual)

[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

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