



WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

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NEWS

WCMA, Ag Groups Advocate for Farm Bill Action



As Congress returns this week from its August recess, WCMA and other agricultural groups are again advocating for action on a new Farm Bill. The 2018 package, which includes funding for key dairy processing priorities like nutrition aid and the Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, expired in 2023, and Congress' one-year extension will expire at the end of September.

The Republican-led House Agriculture Committee [passed its version of a new farm bill](#) in May, largely along party lines. Democrats who lead the Senate Agriculture Committee have released a [detailed summary of their proposal](#), but no formal bill language. The House and Senate ag committees each draft a version of the farm bill and must reconcile them before a full Congressional vote.

Watch for more updates on the Farm Bill in upcoming editions of this newsletter. To engage in WCMA's impactful Policy Committee, contact [Senior Director of Programs & Policy Rebekah Sweeney](#).

U.S. Food Insecurity Continues to Rise



Hunger remains a concern for a growing number of American families, according to a [new report](#) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The report notes that 18 million households struggled with food insecurity in 2023, continuing a multi-year increase. [READ MORE...](#)

Biden Announces \$7.3B for Rural Electrification

Sixteen cooperatives across 23 U.S. states will receive a total of \$7.3 billion in federal dollars to provide electricity and high-speed internet in rural areas. The funding, announced by President Biden last week in Westby, Wisconsin, comes from the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. [READ MORE...](#)

Mark Your Calendar: Join WCMA, Members at World Dairy Expo



Save the date for World Dairy Expo, October 1-4 in Madison, Wisconsin! Visit Booth EH4423 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (CT) each day to learn more about WCMA's offerings and the resources available through the [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance](#). On Friday, October 4, join the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for a Global Dairy Summit, featuring presenters from the U.S. Dairy Export Council and WCMA members Land O' Lakes and Milk Specialties Global. [LEARN MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Food Processing: [Wisconsin dairy exploring building a biorefinery for cheese waste](#) (Featuring WCMA member Burnett Dairy Cooperative)
- ProPublica: [DOJ reaches agreement with Wisconsin Sheriff's Office to improve services for people who don't speak English](#)
- VolumeOne: [Take the "Beer, Brats & Cheese" road trip](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hidden Springs Creamery)

National & Global

- Forbes: [Fresh take: From the back of a funeral home to America's top-selling cheese](#) (Featuring Sargento Foods)
- Dairy Foods: [Saputo announces executive appointments](#) (Featuring WCMA member Saputo Cheese USA)
- Dairy Herd Management: [Class III futures surpass Class IV](#)

FEATURED: WCMA NOTES

Learn more about WCMA's programs and member services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's monthly column sharing insights and ideas for the dairy processing industry.

Make Allowances Missed the Mark

As the long, complex process of updating outdated pricing formulas in Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMOs) enters its final phase, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recommended decision on make allowances leaves something to be desired, says [WCMA Executive Director John Umhoefer](#). Read more on USDA's proposal - and why it falls short - in [this month's WCMA Notes column](#).



[READ THE COLUMN](#)

EDUCATION

Reserve Space Now in Fall WCMA Safety Trainings



Limited space is available in two upcoming, in-person offerings of WCMA's engaging [employee safety classes](#).

New and veteran staff alike will benefit from [Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors](#) on October 15, exclusively sponsored by Nelson-Jameson. [Train the Safety Trainer](#), set for December 5, supports the dairy processing industry's safety trainers in their efforts to enhance their organization's safety culture and boost compliance.

[JOIN BASIC SAFETY](#)

[JOIN TRAIN THE TRAINER](#)

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

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

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Explore WCMA Offerings in Free Webinar

New to WCMA, or know someone who's considering WCMA membership? Register now to join WCMA staff for a [free](#)

Join WCMA staff for a

FREE WEBINAR

September 19



informational webinar next Thursday, September 19 at 1:00 p.m. (CT). Meet our staff and learn how we can support you and the growth of your business! We'll explore WCMA's networking opportunities, workforce attraction and retention tools, advocacy efforts, grant offerings, and more.

SIGN UP NOW

Upcoming WCMA Events

September 11	September 12	September 17	September 19	September 24
<u>Front-Line Leadership Part A (In-Person)</u> <i>(SOLD OUT)</i>	<u>Workforce & Education Committee Meeting (Virtual)</u> <i>(All welcome)</i>	<u>Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual)</u> <i>(SOLD OUT)</i>	<u>Free Webinar: Making the Most of Your WCMA Membership</u> <i>(All welcome)</i>	<u>Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (Virtual)</u> <i>(SOLD OUT)</i>
October 8	October 10	October 15	October 15	October 17
<u>Front-Line Leadership Part B (Virtual)</u> <i>(SOLD OUT)</i>	<u>Front-Line Leadership Part B (In-Person)</u> <i>(SOLD OUT)</i>	<u>Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (In-Person)</u> <i>(16 seats left)</i>	<u>Free Webinar: FMMO Reforms Explained</u> <i>(All welcome)</i>	<u>Health & Safety Group Meeting (Hybrid)</u> <i>(All welcome)</i>

VIEW ALL & REGISTER

IN MEMORIAM

Max Gonzenbach

WCMA mourns with the family and friends of Max Gonzenbach, who **passed away** September 3 at the age of 88.

Max began his successful 42-year career in dairy processing in 1970, when he and business partner Rudy Nef took over Valley Queen Cheese from their fathers, who founded the company. Max was known for his caring nature and innovative spirit, which earned him a WCMA Cheese Industry Champion Award in 2020.



Services are planned for September 11, 14, and 15. More information is available in [Max's obituary](#).

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