

WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

September 17, 2024

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NEWS

WCMA Files Comments on FMMO Recommended Decision



In the final stages of a years-long process, WCMA last week [filed comments](#) on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Recommended Decision regarding changes to milk pricing formulas in Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMOs). WCMA's comments, submitted by Executive Director John Umhoefer, reiterated the Association's previous recommendation that USDA should rely exclusively on sound industry cost data in its calculation of make allowances, in order to accurately reflect today's higher costs of producing dairy products.

A final decision from USDA, and a dairy producer vote on the order changes, are anticipated before the end of 2024.

[READ WCMA'S
COMMENTS](#)

Learn about FMMO Reforms in Two Free Upcoming Offerings

Registration is still open for a [hybrid workshop on Federal Milk Marketing Order \(FMMO\) reforms](#) tomorrow, September 18. In this one-day session, national dairy economists and industry stakeholders, including WCMA's John Umhoefer, will discuss USDA's proposed milk pricing reforms and their implications for the industry.

WCMA members with questions about how USDA's proposed changes will impact their business can also sign up for [WCMA's free member webinar on Tuesday, October 15](#). This one-hour session will feature John Umhoefer and dairy economist Dr. Chuck Nicholson offering a deep dive into the impacts of FMMO milk pricing changes, including industry reaction to USDA's recommended decision. [Reserve your space today!](#)

WCMA, Dairy Organizations Push for CURD Act



In a [new letter](#) sent to members of Congress last week, WCMA and other leading dairy organizations are again pushing for the passage of the CURD Act. The bipartisan legislation, strongly supported by WCMA members, codifies a formal definition of “natural cheese” to align with industry practices and international cheesemaking standards. [READ MORE...](#)

Baldwin Pushes for Dairy Protections in U.S. Dietary Guidelines



U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) last week [called for protections for dairy products](#) in the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans. In a letter to U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Javier Becerra and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Senators Baldwin, James Risch (R-ID), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Peter Welch (D-VT) advocated against potential efforts to add non-dairy products to the dairy category in the next edition of the guidelines. [READ THE LETTER...](#)

OSHA Seeks Worker Input on Heat Illness Prevention Rule



Employees in the dairy processing industry are invited to [share their thoughts](#) on a new rule proposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to help protect workers from heat-related illnesses. Comments on the [proposed rule](#) will be accepted until December 30. [READ MORE...](#)

Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant Program Accepting Applications



Employers in Wisconsin can [apply now](#) until 3:00 p.m. (CT) on Monday, October 28 for grants through the state's Fast Forward program to develop customized worker training programs. Grants of \$5,000-\$400,000 each will be awarded, and a 50 percent match is required. [READ MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Public Radio: [Over half of Wisconsin counties have fewer jobs than before the pandemic, report says](#)
- Transportation Today: [Wisconsin Transportation Secretary Kristina Boardman begins term](#)

National & Global

- Food Business News: [General Mills selling North American yogurt business](#)
- The Modesto Bee: [Three makers in region win dairy innovation grants](#) (Featuring WCMA member Hilmar)
- Supermarket Perimeter: [Hiland Dairy to expand Texas facility](#)

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Save the Date: Join WCMA Health & Safety Group October 17



Connect with peers and learn the latest updates in employee health and safety for dairy processors at the [next meeting of WCMA's Health & Safety Group](#), set for Thursday, October 17 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (CT), at the headquarters of meeting sponsor [Foremost Farms USA](#). The meeting will cover regulatory proposals and ongoing initiatives, workplace violence prevention, and chemical safety practices. We'll also launch WCMA's formal alliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

[RSVP NOW](#)

RSVP for Annual EWCBA Convention

Register by October 18 for the [Eastern Wisconsin Cheesemakers and Buttermakers Association's \(EWCBA\) Annual Convention](#), set for Wednesday, November 6 at Waverly Beach in Menasha, Wisconsin. The meeting will include featured guest speaker Alex O'Brien of the Center for Dairy Research. Questions, [registration, and payment](#) may be directed to EWCBA's [Barb Henning](#).

Upcoming WCMA Events

September 17	September 19	September 24	October 8	October 10
Front-Line Leadership Part A (Virtual) (SOLD OUT)	Free Webinar: Making the Most of Your WCMA Membership	Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors	Front-Line Leadership Part B (Virtual) (SOLD OUT)	Front-Line Leadership Part B (In-Person) (One space)

	(All welcome)	(Virtual) (SOLD OUT)		remaining)
October 15	October 15	October 17	October 22	October 24
Basic Safety Training for Dairy Processors (In-Person) (16 spaces remaining)	Free Webinar: FMMO Reforms Explained (All welcome)	Health & Safety Group Meeting (Hybrid) (All welcome)	Front-Line Leadership Part B (Virtual) (SOLD OUT)	Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting (Hybrid) (All welcome)

[VIEW ALL & REGISTER](#)

FEATURED: WEBINARS

Learn more about WCMA's programs and member services in this special rotating section! This week, we spotlight WCMA's ...

This Week: Maximize Your Membership with Free WCMA Webinar

Join WCMA staff for a

FREE WEBINAR

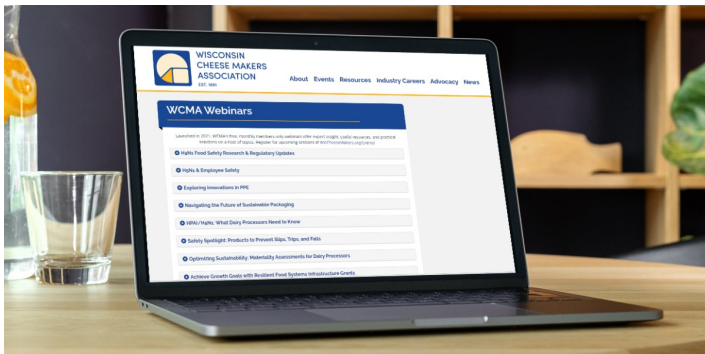
September 19



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

Explore Free WCMA Webinar Library



Launched in 2021, WCMA's free, monthly live webinar series covers a wide variety of topics important to members - from [sustainable packaging](#) to [personal protective equipment](#), and from [research on dairy exporting challenges](#) to [strategies for writing your best grant proposal](#). Recordings of previous WCMA webinars are [available online](#) to logged-in members anytime. Have a suggestion or idea for a future webinar? [Let us know!](#)

EDUCATION

WCMA, Innovation Center Offer Supplier Food Safety Course



Gain the tools and skills to ensure the food safety performance of your supplier networks with a new [Supplier Management Food Safety Workshop](#) on November 12-13, co-hosted by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, WCMA, member company Leprino Foods, and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Registration is open now. [LEARN MORE...](#)

Register Today for Center for Dairy Research PCQI Training



Sign up today to join a new [Preventive Controls Qualified Individual \(PCQI\) Training](#), set for November 6-8 at the Center for Dairy Research (CDR) in Madison, Wisconsin. This class will cover a standardized curriculum through interactive exercises and an extensive review of food safety plans. [LEARN MORE...](#)

Invest in Safety with WCMA Fall 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.wischeesemakers.org/events)

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