

February 2024

## Update From Executive Director, Amy Winters



Thank you to everyone that has already renewed your membership and for all the wonderful

feedback on our new website.

We are working hard to get our new association management software up and running; the onboarding process is very involved and time consuming, but we know it will provide a lot of value when you are able to start using it. We expect to have it ready the beginning of April.

I have spent much of the past month working on legislative issues, meeting with allied companies, and visiting members. As I continue to learn more about the dairy industry, I am so impressed with not only the dedication to quality, innovation, and safety, but also to uplifting others in the industry. We have an amazing group of people and companies in the WDPA!

As time allows over the next several months, I want to continue to tour member facilities and learn more about how we can add more value to your membership. If you would like to schedule a time for a visit, please call our email me.

My cell phone is (608)235-8443

My email address is  
[amywinters@wdpa.net](mailto:amywinters@wdpa.net)

Tammy can be reached at  
[tammybrereton@wpda.net](mailto:tammybrereton@wpda.net)  
or by phone at (608)836-3336



Additional links. [APPLYING AWARD MANAGEMENT UNIQUE ENTITY ID, IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE ONE IS THE](#)

# Wisconsin Dairy Products Association WDPA Newsletter

## Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program Grants Due March 6

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting applications for two Wisconsin Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program grants through 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

The two RFSI grants, the Infrastructure Grant and the Equipment-Only Grant, are funded through a cooperative agreement between DATCP and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). A total of \$27 million is available in grant funding.

RFSI grant projects must expand middle-of-the food supply chain capacity for locally, and regionally, produced foods and offer more and better market opportunities to small and mid-sized agricultural producers, including those who may not have access to value-added opportunities or processing to meet market demand for premium or value-added products, such as underserved producers.

There are two applications: one for the equipment grant (no cost share) and one for an Infrastructure grant (50% cost share). There is separate criteria for each.

Please let us know if you need additional information or help filling out the grant applications. Note the scoring section to ensure you have the most points you can. These are competitive grants so the quality of your proposal and application will definitely matter as does making sure you receive as many scoring points as possible. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Here is a link to the DATCP webinar. [Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure \(RFSI\) grants webinar - YouTube](#)

More information on next page....

## ADDITIONAL RFSI GRANT INFORMATION

**MOST TIME SENSITIVE STEP:**  
in 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov).

[2023-24 RFSI Grant FAQ](#)

[2023-24 RFSI Grant Match](#)

[Verification Letter Template](#)

[2023-24 RFSI Grant Critical](#)

[Resources And Infrastructure](#)

[Letter Template](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

[NAICS Codes](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

[Size Standards Tool](#)

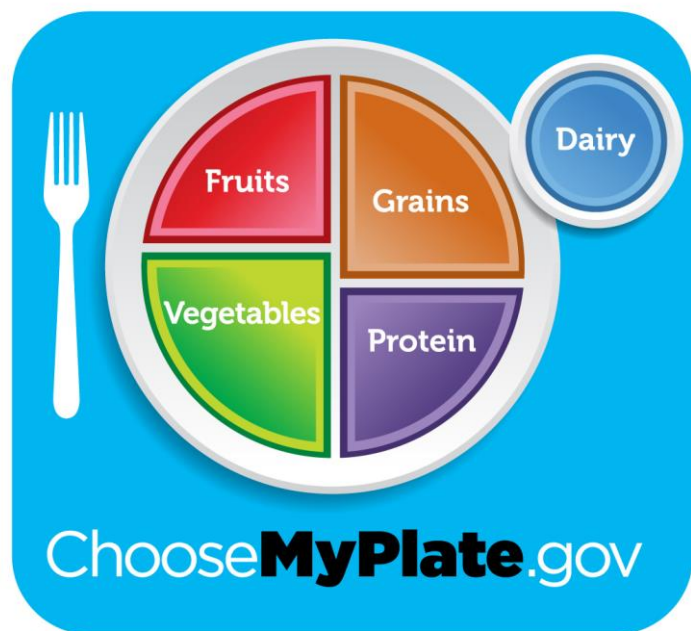
[System for Award Management U](#)

[nique Entity ID Registration](#)

## WDPA IN THE NEWS

Wisconsin Dairy Products Association Executive Director Amy Winters weighed in this month on the debate of dairy remaining in the USDA's Dietary Guidelines that are [currently under review](#). Vegan Navajo Nation past President and Arizona Congressional candidate Jonathan Nez and vegan activist group, [Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine](#), are asking the review committee to remove dairy from the guidelines calling the inclusion racist due to many indigenous people being lactose intolerant.

Here is [a link to the Milwaukee Sentinel Article](#)



Most people who are [lactose intolerant](#) can enjoy many dairy foods. Lactose-reduced or lactose-free milk, aged hard cheeses, and yogurts with live, active cultures to name a few. Lactose intolerance is different than a lactose allergy which is very rare.





# Under the Dome

## Legislative Update

Bill Number	Bill Description	Current Action	WDPA Position
<a href="#">Senate Bill 431</a>	Senate Bill 431 would allow all raw milk and liquid milk products and byproducts, including liquid whey and whey byproducts to be hauled at the higher 98,000 lb allowance	Passed the Legislature and waiting on action by the governor	Support
<a href="#">Senate Bill 271</a>	would create a commercial driver training grant program to provide grants to groups or employers that provide training to individuals to obtain commercial driver's licenses.	Passed the full legislature and awaiting governor's action	Support
<a href="#">Assembly Bill 831</a>	Would allow the sale of raw milk	Introduced in the Assembly. A Senate companion bill, SB 781 was also introduced. The bills will not advance.	Oppose
<a href="#">Senate Bill 370</a>	funding for the Farm and Industry Short Course program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls	SB 370 passed committee and was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance.	Support
<a href="#">Assembly Bill 655</a>	creates a "transition to grass pilot program" and grants to farmers who are implementing livestock grass-based managed grazing systems	Passed Assembly Committee. Senate companion bill introduced and public hearing held.	Support
<a href="#">Assembly Bill 952</a>	Under this bill, no person may label a food product as, or sell or offer for sale a food product that is labeled as, any type of milk unless the food product is cow's milk or hooved or camelid mammal's milk or a type of milk that meets certain specifications under federal law	Introduced and referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture.	We support the correct labeling of dairy products but have concerns with the way this bill language is drafted.

# New Legislative District Maps

## Maps Written by Governor Evers Passed the State Legislature This Month Find Out If Your Legislative District and Legislators Are Changing

Wisconsin's passage this month of new legislative maps could change not only your legislative districts but also the political control of the State Assembly.

It is estimated that 21% of the state's adults could have new political representation in the state Assembly during the upcoming election.

The Senate, currently with a 22-11 republican supermajority, is expected to remain in republican control during the 2024 election cycle.

Marquette University used computer modeling to estimate that 42 assembly districts favor democrats by more than 10 percentage points and another 4 by single digits. 46 seats favor republicans by more than 10 percentage points and another 7 by single digits. It really could be a close race in many of the newly drawn districts. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel projections estimate that over 120,000 eligible voters in previously secure republican districts have been redrawn into new districts expected to tilt towards the Democratic Party in the upcoming elections.

The impact of these changes will ultimately depend on factors such as current incumbents remaining where they are or moving into a newly drawn district, voter turnout, the effectiveness of political campaigns and the presidential election which could increase voter turnout and party line voting.

**To Find Out Your Current District Information and How It Will Be Changing, Click On [This Link](#) And Enter Your Voting Address. You Can Do The Same For Your Company Address.**

Here is an Interactive Map of the Newly Drawn Districts

**[Interactive: Explore Wisconsin's new electoral maps \(jsonline.com\)](#)**



# Save the Dates

## SPRING GOLF OUTING

May 15th-16th Northern Bay Golf Resort

## SYMPOSIUM AND ANNUAL MEETING

July 8th-9th Landmark Resort Door County

A room block has been reserved with meeting rates. If booking early specify the WDPA Symposium rate.

If you have ideas for Speakers or content, please contact Tammy.

We are also considering having a non-golf activity for those that would like to network in another venue or for family members who are not golfing. Please let us know your thoughts on this and if you or your family would like this option. It could be a trolley tour, mini golf, foraging class, cooking class, etc.

## WORLD DAIRY EXPO CHAMPIONSHIP DAIRY PRODUCT CONTEST, AWARDS AND AUCTION

### CONTEST

Contest will be held Tuesday August 20th through Thursday August 22nd. We are working on getting our new contest software implemented and we are very excited about the efficiencies it will allow for the registration of entries, judging results and follow-up communications.

### AWARDS and AUCTION

Awards and Auction will be Tuesday October 1st.

Please contact Tammy at [tammybrereton@wdpa.net](mailto:tammybrereton@wdpa.net) for additional information.

## **Continuing Education At Center for Dairy Research**

April 3-4: Cheesemaking Fundamentals

May 7-9: Advanced Cheesemaking: American Varieties

## **M3 Insurance HACCP Training**

May 8: Comprehensive HACCP Training for Wisconsin Food Processors and Manufacturers - M3 Insurance