

January 2024

Update From Executive Director, Amy Winters



Happy New Year. I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and your 2024 is starting

out well.

With the beginning of a new year, and a focus on goals and aspirations, I am reflecting on my first six months with WDPA. Leading this remarkable organization, with our board and Tammy, has been a privilege beyond measure, and I am really excited about the work ahead in 2024.

As we send out membership renewal letters later this month, we invite and encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas, and interests with us. Your input is invaluable to us as we shape our programming, engage in legislative matters, and develop educational and networking opportunities.

Please also reach out anytime to discuss how we can best serve your needs and involvement within the association.

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Wisconsin Dairy Products Association WDPA Newsletter

WDPA Board President

Please join us in congratulating our new board president Joe Miller and thank outgoing president, Stacy Wand. We are so thankful for the time and commitment both have given to the Wisconsin Dairy Products Association, their leadership and support.



Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program Grants

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.

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

In **2023** Wisconsin had **exports of \$3.87 billion** in agricultural products, **down from \$4.22 billion** in Agricultural products 2022.

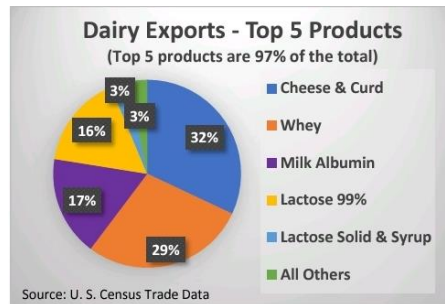
The USDA Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade November 2023 report forecasts federal fiscal 2024 exports will be down nearly \$2.5 billion from 2023, or 5.1%.



[Global Business Development Program WEDC](#)

2023 Export Highlights

Of the \$3.87 billion in agricultural products exported, Dairy: cheese, whey, lactose, and milk proteins accounted for 13% of all Wisconsin agricultural exports. Wisconsin is number one in the U.S. for the export of specialty cheeses and, dairy bovine genetics.



Agricultural Exports to China are Expected to Decrease in 2024 as They Continue to Push for Agricultural Independence.

In 2023, China imported a total of 2.6 million tonnes of dairy products, representing a 12% decrease compared to the previous year.

This decrease stems, in part, from the country's ongoing efforts to achieve agricultural self-sufficiency.

China has been implementing policies aimed at bolstering its domestic agricultural production. This includes investments in technology, infrastructure, and subsidies to support local farmers. By prioritizing domestic production.

By prioritizing domestic production, China aims to improve food security, reduce reliance on foreign imports, and mitigate potential risks associated with external disruptions to the global food supply chain.

With only 5 countries accounting for the majority of our exports here in Wisconsin, continuing to diversify and open new markets such as Taiwan, Nigeria and Indonesia are essential.

If unaddressed, the challenge of trade agreements and sustaining markets amidst competitive pressures could significantly affect our export economy. It is imperative that we undertake measures to bolster our trade agreements and open new markets.



Under the Dome

Legislative Update

Bill Number	Bill Description	Current Action	WDPA Position
Senate Bill 431	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 Senate and expected to be voted on by the Assembly later this month	Support
Senate Bill 271	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 by the Senate and awaiting action in the Assembly	Support
Assembly Bill 831	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
Senate Bill 370	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
Assembly Bill 655	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.	Support
Assembly Bill 952	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.

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 for additional information.