

November 1, 2023

Update From Executive Director, Amy Winters



The past few months have been great for the WDPA. We held our World Dairy Expo

Championship Dairy Product Contest, our Award Ceremony and Auction, and made progress on legislative issues.

We also began the process of updating our internal processes to include association management software and contest software that will allow for online registrations and a much easier way for us to communicate with you.

I would like to personally thank Tammy Brereton, our Director of Membership and Programs (her new title) for all her hard work and for helping me get acclimated to my role; she is a tremendous asset to WDPA!

A big thank you also goes to the many members who have reached out to me and met with me. It has been wonderful, and I look forward to meeting many more of you and visiting your businesses.

Please reach out to me with any questions, concerns or ideas you have for WDPA.

My cell phone is (608)235-8443

My email address is
amywinters@wdpa.net

Tammy can be reached at her new email
tammybrereton@wpda.net



Wisconsin Dairy Products Association WDPA Newsletter

New Website and Logo Coming Soon

Our website and logo are getting an overhaul with much needed updates.

The new site will include a members' only section for exclusive content such as meetings, legislative involvement, issue updates, networking and more.

The landing page will have Wisconsin dairy marketing, dairy tourism information, and science-based information on our industry. We would like to also include videos of dairy processing; please let us know if you have any from your company that would be great for the public to see.

New Association Management Software Will Allow Us to Communicate and Engage with You

In addition to the new website, we are also implementing association management software that will allow us to manage your membership better, inform you about issues, have online payments and WDPA committee and meeting signups. We will be reaching out to each member company to update names, addresses and phone numbers.

National Sundae Day Saturday November 11th

Yes, Sundae on Saturday. Sundaes origination claim to fame was in 1981 in Two Rivers Wisconsin. The first Sundaes only cost a nickel and were only sold on Sundays. [The Sundae Was Invented At A Historic Ice Cream Parlor In Wisconsin \(onlyinyourstate.com\)](http://www.onlyinyourstate.com)

National Butter Day is November 17th

Americans eat on average 6.5 pounds of butter each year. Each pound of butter takes 21 pounds (or 24 gallons) of milk to produce. Wisconsin has 13 butter processing plants and 46 licensed butter makers.

Wisconsin Dairy Exports Second Quarter Highlights

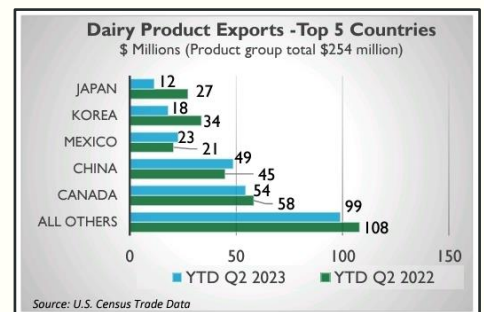
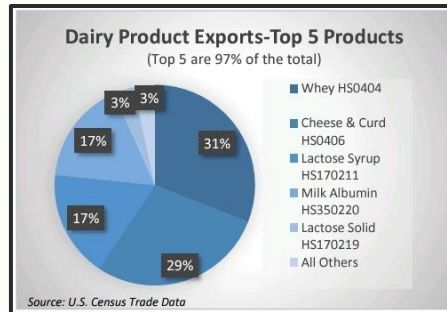
Wisconsin Exported \$4.22 billion in Agricultural products to 142 countries in 2022. We were first in the US in exports of specialty cheese. The largest increase was in Cheese, milk, whey and butter.

Our top export markets included Canada, China, Mexico, Korea and Japan.



[Global Business Development Program | WEDC](#)

Grants Still Available



Wisconsin dairy exports are down 16.56% this quarter YTD. The total for all dairy products for the 2023 2nd quarter YTD is \$254 million.

Wisconsin jumped two spots to number 10 in agricultural exports in the U.S. and remains number one in specialty cheeses.

New IRS Form I-9 in Effect

Form I-9 is used to verify the identity and employment authorization of individuals hired for employment in the United States. All U.S. employers must properly complete Form I-9 for every individual they hire for employment.. This includes citizens and noncitizens. Both employees and employers (or authorized representatives of the employer) must complete the form.

Starting November 1, 2023, employers will be required to use the latest version of Form I-9 (edition date 08/01/23), which United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) released earlier this year. The new Form I-9 applies to new hires only; employers should not complete new Form I-9 for current employees.

[The new Form I-9 is available on USCIS' website](#), along with an updated 8-page set of instructions. USCIS also released an updated [Handbook for Employers](#).

Micheal Best Law Firm will be conducting a [complimentary Form I-9 Update webinar on December 4](#)

Please contact our office if you have any questions or need additional information and support to make this transition.



Under the Dome

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 431 - Transportation of Fluid Milk Products Including Whey

Under current law, milk haulers in Wisconsin are allowed to transport 98,000 lbs of liquid milk on six axles. On average, haulers move about 2.4 billion lbs. of milk from farms to processors each month. Many of these haulers also then transport whey from those same plants, but are not able to fill their trucks as the weight restriction for whey is 80,000 lbs.

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. This would reduce the number of trucks on the road, safety issues of having liquid moving in tanks, reduce emissions and reduce the number of truck drivers needed.

The WDPA is lobbying in support of this bill. It received a public hearing in the Senate on October 24th. We expect the committee to vote on the bill next week. Please let us know if you have information specific to your company that would help legislators understand the economic benefit to your business and the state's dairy industry.

Assembly Bill 274 and Senate Bill 271

These two companion bills 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. The grant amount may not exceed 50 percent of the training cost or \$3,000, whichever is less. The bill appropriates \$1.5 million for the next two years.

The training must meet federal entry-level driver training requirements and the training entity must be on the federal Training Provider Registry.

Both bills have been voted out of committee with bipartisan support and are waiting to be scheduled for floor votes in the Senate and Assembly.

Assembly Bill 555 and Senate Bill 544 – Food Derived from Cultured Animal Cells or Tissue

Input Needed From WDPA Members

Under these companion bills, no person may sell or offer for sale a food product that contains cultured animal cells or cultured animal tissue derived from cultured animal cells unless the food product is labeled as containing lab-grown animal cells. The bill does not include language to include all lab grown milk as some is not derived from animal cells. We would like feedback from members on if we should ask for language to be included for all dairy/milk products. Please email Amy at amywinters@wdpa.net to provide information or input.

Here is a link to the bill language and a couple recent articles on lab based dairy:

[\(23-4419/1\) \(wisconsin.gov\) Perfect Day is creating 'real' dairy, without cows | CNN Business](#)

Continuing Education

UW Madison Center for Dairy Research Cheesemaking Fundamentals | self-study December 6

[Register Here](#)

WDPA is partnering with Midwest Food Products Association to provide training and seminars at MWFPA's member pricing.

MWFPA Food Allergens Training – November 28

The Midwest Food Products Association is providing a Food Allergens Seminar on November including speakers from the FDA and University of Nebraska, along with a legal update from Michael Best and demos by three participating labs, this should be an excellent and valuable session. The Agenda and Registration for this November 28 training can be found [Here](#). WDPA members have the MWFPA member pricing of \$325.00

Professional Dairy Producers (PDPW) Dairy Insights Summit November 28th, Sheraton Hotel Madison, Wisconsin

The rules of dairying have been shifting for years, and not just in the states. Processors from around the world will break down the key changes challenging our market access. While dairy farmers work diligently to ensure a wholesome product moves efficiently up the supply chain, not everything gets to its intended final destination. In fact, about one-third of the world's food is thrown out each year.

Join other leading-edge stakeholders as we discuss how to improve management practices and identify creative ways to reduce waste and better utilize our resources.

In a series of sessions, global experts and thought leaders in waste management, sustainability and food innovation will discuss:

- Writing the rules to the market-access game.
- Food surplus vs food waste, and approaching these topics with sustainability in view
- Pioneering innovation and change

WDPA members are being offered the PDPW member rate (Select member rate and add note at bottom of registration that you are a WDPA member. Agenda and Registration can be found [here](#))