

# WCMA applauds Republican plans to boost dairy industry

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MADISON - The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) applauded announcements from Assembly Republicans today, supporting major investments in the state's dairy industry, which are designed to provide immediate relief for farmers and long-term growth for processors.

"Throughout this session, state lawmakers have proven their clear commitment to seeing Wisconsin's dairy industry through the challenges of trade volatility, a severe labor shortage, poor weather, and a drop in milk consumption. Today, we applaud Assembly Republicans who are doubling down for dairy, targeting state investments in export initiatives and processor grants," said John Umhoefer, WCMA Executive Director. "As we increase specialty cheese sales and sales of all dairy products overseas, we will build markets and business relationships that will support hardworking dairy farm families."

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and Reps. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc), Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua), and Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) are working on bill drafts to accomplish Assembly Republicans' goals for dairy industry support, and plan to bring legislation to the Assembly floor for votes later this month. The group noted that some proposals, including those focused on exports and processor grants, will build upon ideas proposed by Governor Tony Evers in last month's State of the State address.

"Action by Assembly Republicans and the Governor is legislative leadership defined, and we have great hope that, in the final weeks of session, Republicans and Democrats will work together to boost Wisconsin's crucial dairy industry," said Umhoefer.