



WISCONSIN
CHEESE MAKERS
ASSOCIATION
EST. 1891

April 24, 2025

Acting Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods Kyle Diamantas
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Acting Deputy Commissioner Diamantas:

I write today on behalf of Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) members to express concern over the recent suspension of the FDA's proficiency testing program for Grade "A" raw milk and finished dairy products, and to emphasize the dairy processing industry's support of food safety oversight.

As you know, the Grade "A" Milk Safety Program, executed by the Division of Food Processing Science and Technology housed at the Moffett Center, protects public health by promoting the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of regulatory standards as provided in the Model Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance. The rigor of the Grade "A" Milk Safety Program is critical to ensuring consistency and accuracy across the FDA's approximately 170 laboratories tasked proficiency testing. Its reported suspension until at least September 30, 2025, coupled with the recent halt of bird flu testing in dairy products, poses a threat to our collective ability to prevent foodborne illness and to consumer confidence.

Food safety is a shared priority for this Administration and for the dairy industry. Your agency's role has never been more important, and it is vital that it remains equipped to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. We are here as eager partners in your work, and we urge you to move swiftly to resume the operations of the Grade "A" Milk Safety Program.

Note that WCMA represents 125 dairy processing companies and cooperatives, backed by over 700 companies supplying equipment and services to the dairy processing industry, operating in 44 American states and around the world. Our dairy processing members range from the smallest cheesemaking operations, including artisan and farmstead manufacturers, to the largest, multinational corporations with globally recognized brands. All share in our industry's passion and essential mission: providing safe, nutritious dairy products to feed the world.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter, and for your public service.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Sweeney
Senior Director of Programs and Policy