

24th Annual Dairy Industry Scholarship

Southwestern Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association Announces

The Southwestern Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (SWCMA) is announcing its **2026 Dairy Industry Scholarship**. Cheese making in Wisconsin is a longstanding tradition with a rich history of which SWCMA is proud and seeks to support. The dairy industry is a critical element of Wisconsin's agriculture and overall economy affecting feed mills, dairy farms, veterinarians, equipment firms, dairy plants, and many other types of companies whose impact ripples throughout the entire state. To encourage continued success of the industry, this scholarship is intended to reward and cultivate students of multidisciplinary backgrounds who are pursuing continued education and may later serve as the next generation of leaders. This year's scholarship amount will be up to \$3,000 for a single recipient or \$2,500 for up to 4 recipients to further attract, empower, and advance the future of our industry.

Eligibility Requirements:

- High school seniors, returning adult learners, and university or technical school undergraduates
- Enrollment in related educational program including but not limited to
 - 2 and 4-year degree programs in Dairy Science, Food Science, Agricultural Business Management, Life Science Communication, and related fields
 - UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course
 - Wisconsin Technical College System Farm Business and Production Management at Blackhawk, CVTC, Fox Valley, Mid-State, Northeast, Southwest, and Western

How to Apply:

1. Application form (Page 2)
2. High school transcript (please include college transcript if applicable)
3. Resume (1 page) listing work experience and extra-curricular activities such as membership in academic, youth, or civic organizations and leadership positions or honors achieved
4. Letter of recommendation
5. Personal statement (250 – 500 words) describing your background, interest, and experience within the dairy industry. Include your career aspirations and how the SWCMA Scholarship would assist you in meeting your goals

Selection Criteria:

- Academic performance
- Apparent commitment to a career in dairy
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Leadership ability, initiative, character, and integrity
- Preference may be given to students connected to the SWCMA area, members, or producers

Announcement and Award

The scholarship winner will be announced by May 4, 2026. The stipend will be sent to the awardee upon proof of their enrollment for the Fall 2026-2027 term at an accredited school.

Submissions:

SWCMA
Attn: Linda Lee
910 Mound View Rd
Platteville, WI 53818

or
SWCMA2024@outlook.com

DEADLINE
MARCH 31, 2026

Questions:
Linda Lee
SWCMA2024@outlook.com
563-340-3827

24th Annual Dairy Industry Scholarship

SWCMA Scholarship Application Form – please type

| Applicant Information: | |
|---|--|
| Name: | |
| Home address: | |
| Phone number: | |
| Email address: | |
| High School Attended: | |
| Dairy Plant or Producer Farm Affiliation: (optional) | |
| Continuing Education: | |
| Name of University or Technical College: (where scholarship is to be used) | |
| Department / Program Head: | |
| Address: | |
| Phone number: | |
| Expected degree or certification: | |
| Anticipated Date of Graduation/Completion: | |

| Cheese Company Name | Address | City | Zip Code | Contact Name | Number |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|--------------|
| Carr Valley Cheese Company | 1675 Lincoln Ave | Fennimore | 53809 | Sid Cook | 608-986-2716 |
| Chalet Cheese Cooperative | N4858 County N | Monroe | 53566 | Michael Hlubek | 608-325-4383 |
| Decatur Dairy | W1668 Hwy F | Broadhead | 53520 | Steve Stettler | 608-897-8661 |
| Edelweiss Creamery | W6117 Cty Hwy C | Monticello | 53570 | Bruce Workman | 608-938-4094 |
| Emmi Roth USA, Inc. | PO Box 319 | Monroe | 53566 | Steve Herbst | 608-415-0724 |
| Klondike Cheese | PO Box 542 | Monroe | 53566 | Luke Buholzer | 608-325-3021 |
| Meister Cheese Company, LLC | 1050 East Nebraska | Muscoda | 53573 | Scott Meister | 608-739-3134 |
| Mexican Cheese Producers | 11718 State Rd 23 | Darlington | 53530 | Hector Larraga | 608-630-5791 |
| Moundview Dairy | 1540 Vision Drive | Platteville | 53818 | Jake Niffenegger | 608-630-5575 |
| Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. | 110 Miner Way | Shullsburg | 53566 | Ray Downes | 563-329-1312 |
| Roelli Cheese Factory | 15982 Hwy 112 | Shullsburg | 53566 | Chris Roelli | 608-965-3779 |
| Shullsburg Creamery | 208 W Water Street | Shullsburg | 53566 | Gabe Wand | 608-965-4485 |
| Sabrosura Foods | 114 E. Coates Ave | Monticello | 53570 | Damien Penniston | 608-938-1602 |
| V&V Supremo Foods, Inc | 2923 Mayer Rd. | Browntown | 53522 | Ben Workman | 608-439-5211 |
| Zimmerman Cheese Inc. | N6853 Hwy 78 | South Wayne | 53587 | Mark Witke | 608-968-3414 |

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