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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dairy Processing Manufacturers Recognized for Commitment to Quality and Production Excellence

Quality Chekd Dairies names finalists for its highest awards.

LISLE, Ill., August 12, 2019 — Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc., a member-owned organization of independent dairy processors, has named three outstanding dairy processors as finalists for the Quality Chekd Irving B. Weber Award and nine finalists for the Quality Chekd Production Excellence Award.

The Irving B. Weber Award, which Quality Chekd developed and modeled after the Association for Manufacturing Excellence Award, represents the highest honor for overall quality throughout the Quality Chekd organization. Finalists are judged based on effective implementation of quality in all areas, from processes and products to customer service and satisfaction at a single plant location. The following dairy processors have been named finalists for the 2019 Weber Award:

- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Kansas City, Missouri
- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Umpqua Dairy Products, Roseburg, Oregon

Although the finalist processors operate in very different states, all have one thing in common: demonstrated commitment to quality excellence in the categories of leadership, culture, production, sustainability and business ethics.

Quality Chekd will present the Weber Award at the 2019 QCS Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in October.

Quality Chekd also announced the finalists for its Production Excellence Awards, which recognize outstanding processors in three categories: fluid milk, cultured dairy and ice cream. The winners in each category will be decided based on selection criteria that includes a plant audit, evaluation of all plant processes and systems for assuring product quality evaluation results. The following processors are finalists for the Production Excellence Award:

Fluid Milk Category

- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Kansas City, Missouri
- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Prairie Farms Dairy, Anderson, Indiana

Cultured Products Category

- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Wichita, Kansas
- Prairie Farms Dairy, Quincy, Illinois
- Umpqua Dairy Products, Roseburg, Oregon

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Ice Cream Category

- Belfonte Ice Cream & Dairy, Kansas City, Missouri
- Lochmead Dairy, Junction City, Oregon
- Umpqua Dairy Products, Roseburg, Oregon

Winners of the Production Excellence Awards will also be announced at the 2019 QCS Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in October. Quality Chekd extends warm congratulations to each of the Weber Award and Production Excellence Award finalists for their continued commitment to outstanding production processes.

About Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc.

Quality Chekd works on behalf of dairy processors by providing them with services to improve business success, as well as providing consumers with safe, delicious dairy products. Food safety is first, and Quality Chekd has established quality assurance (QA) measures and evaluations, laboratory resources, and employee training and planning that include and surpass government regulations. Members have access to human resource tools, marketing trends and information, and purchasing opportunities to help them maintain costs. All of these services are part of the Quality Chekd trademark, which signifies product excellence. For more information about the Quality Chekd organization or membership, please visit www.qchedk.com.

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