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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Food and Beverage Manufacturers Recognized for Commitment to Production Excellence, Outstanding Marketing and Leadership**

*QCS Purchasing and Quality Chekd organizations name winners of their highest awards.*

**AUSTIN, Texas, Nov. 7, 2018** — QCS Purchasing and Quality Chekd wrapped up the three-day 2018 QCS Leadership Conference, where food and beverage manufacturers and suppliers from throughout the United States and South America learned about new product innovations, ideas and strategies for remaining competitive in the consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry. The conference featured keynote speakers, interactive group workshops, supply partner exhibits, educational sessions and business meetings discussing how adapting to this rapidly changing market and reinventing for the future can help them overcome industry challenges.

In addition, members and supply partners were recognized at an awards gala during the conference for production excellence, marketing excellence and outstanding service to the industry.

The Irving B. Weber Award, which represents the highest honor for overall quality throughout the Quality Chekd organization, was awarded to Hiland Dairy Foods Company of Little Rock, Arkansas for their commitment to quality excellence in the categories of leadership, culture, production, sustainability and business ethics.

Three dairy processors received Quality Chekd Production Excellence Awards, based on criteria that includes a plant audit, as well as evaluation of all plant processes and systems for product quality evaluation results:

- Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc., Anderson, Indiana: Production Excellence Award, Fluid Milk Category
- Umpqua Dairy Products Company, Roseburg, Oregon: Production Excellence Award, Cultured Dairy Category
- Umpqua Dairy Products Company, Roseburg, Oregon: Production Excellence Award, Ice Cream Category

The 2018 QCS Leadership Awards recognize the member companies and supply partners that, over the previous calendar year, have done the most to support the vision of QCS Purchasing. The 2018 QCS Leadership Award was given to two member companies:

- Superior Dairy, Inc., Canton, Ohio
- The Ziegenfelder Company, Wheeling, West Virginia

Two supply partner companies also were given the 2018 QCS Leadership Award:

- FedEx, Memphis, Tennessee
- LyondellBasell Industries, Houston, Texas

Finally, the 2018 QCS Outstanding Marketing Awards recognized member and supply partner organizations that launched effective creative efforts and campaigns between Aug. 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.

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# News Release

QCS awarded Outstanding Marketing Awards to the following category winners:

- Cedar Crest Ice Cream, Cedarburg, Wisconsin, Outstanding Marketing Campaign (tie)
- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Springfield, Missouri, Outstanding Marketing Campaign (tie)
- Cedar Crest Ice Cream, Cedarburg, Wisconsin, Best Print Collateral
- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Springfield, Missouri, Best Digital Collateral
- Producers Dairy Foods, Inc., Fresno, California, Best New Packaging
- ORBIS Corporation, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, Outstanding Marketing Campaign
- Forbes Chocolate, Cleveland, Ohio, Best Print Collateral
- Double H Plastics, Inc., Warminster, Pennsylvania, Best Digital Marketing

Next year's QCS Leadership Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, Oct. 27–29, 2019. For more information about the QCS Leadership Conference, please visit [www.qcsleadershipconference.com](http://www.qcsleadershipconference.com).

## **About QCS Purchasing, LLC**

QCS Purchasing, LLC, is a member-owned, not-for-profit supply-chain solutions provider for the food and beverage industry. More than 150 national supplier-partners provide solutions in a wide variety of categories. By aggregating purchases of common supplies, QCS Purchasing provides members with access to high-quality goods and services at the lowest possible total cost. QCS Purchasing has nearly 500 member companies, and, since 2005, the number of purchases QCS Purchasing manages has continually increased year over year. To learn about QCS Purchasing, please visit [www.qcspurchasing.com](http://www.qcspurchasing.com)

## **About Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc.**

Quality Chekd works on behalf of dairy processors by providing them with services to improve business success, and 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. Quality Chekd members have access to human resources 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.qcheckd.com](http://www.qcheckd.com).

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