Prairie Farms Continues "Best of the Best" Tradition at World Dairy Expo

Premium Chocolate Milk is the Grand Champion

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (August 27, 2018) – Farmer Owned Prairie Farms Dairy continued their winning tradition of multiple first place finishes at the World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Product Contest in Madison, Wisconsin. The Prairie Farms family of companies, including Hiland Dairy, won a combined 39 awards including: 13 first place championship trophies; 12 second place medallions; 14 third place medallions; and a grand championship. The companies were awarded two perfect and six near-perfect scores at one of the most prestigious dairy judging competitions in the country. The awards ceremony will be held at the World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Product Contest Auction on October 2, 2018.

"Every year we face the best that the dairy industry has to offer at the World Dairy Expo. I'm extremely proud that Prairie Farms brought home some big wins across multiple categories," said Rebecca Leinenbach, Vice President of Marketing and Communication for Prairie Farms. "Our customers deserve the highest quality products, so I'm happy to say on our 80th anniversary that we remain committed to bringing the best of the best from our farm families to their tables."

There was a lot of chocolate delight at this year's contest where Prairie Farms swept the competition with first place wins in all chocolate milk categories culminating in a grand championship for its Premium Whole Chocolate Milk. Other big wins included Prairie Farms' Cream Cheese Loaf and Caves of Faribault AmaGorg® Gorgonzola Cheese taking top honors in the (Plain Cream Cheese) and (Blue Veined/Cheeses) categories. Prairie Farms'Swiss Block cheese took second place in the Swiss Styles category. To cap off a day of great wins, Prairie Farms' Ice Cream Specialties division took first place in the Open Class Ice Cream category with their North Star® Lemon & Wild Cherry Pucker Powder Sour Bars.

In addition to big wins with cheeses, chocolate milk, and ice cream novelties, Prairie Farms and Hiland Dairy made strong showings in the Cultured Milk, Half and Half, Heavy Whipping Cream, Blueberry Yogurt, Low fat and No Fat Cottage Cheese, Sour Cream Based Dips – Southwest, Open Sour Cream Based Dips, Regular Chocolate Ice Cream, and Whey Permeate categories.

The World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Product Contest, sponsored by the Wisconsin Dairy Products Association, is a prestigious all-dairy judging contest for North America. Over 1200 product entries from across the country competed in 81 contest classes including cheese, fluid milk, yogurt, butter, sour cream, dairy dips, ice cream, cottage cheese and whey products. Products that win awards at the World Dairy Expo are given

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unique opportunities to market themselves as "best of the best." To see the full list of 2018 top-three winners at the World Dairy Expo, click on this link.

Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. is one of the largest and most successful dairy cooperatives in the Midwest, with over 900 farm families, 5700 employees, 44 manufacturing plants, over 100 distribution facilities and annual sales of over $3 billion. Prairie Farms is a nationally recognized leader in the dairy industry and is known for setting the standard for milk flavor innovations and producing award-winning milk, cheese, and cultured dairy products. With headquarters in Edwardsville, Ill., the Prairie Farms distribution footprint covers over 30 percent of the United States; products are available in grocery chains, mass merchandiser stores, club stores, convenience stores, dollar stores, drug stores, schools, food service outlets and warehouse distribution centers. Prairie Farms charitable giving program, Our Caps, Your Cause, supports a variety of non-profit organizations. Prairiefarms.com