



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prairie Farms and Hiland Dairy Win Multiple Quality Awards

Leading Quality Services Organization Recognizes both Companies for Quality and Production Excellence

Edwardsville, Ill. (November 3, 2021) - Prairie Farms and its joint venture partner, Hiland Dairy, took home multiple awards for plant, product, marketing, and dairy quality production excellence awards at the 2021 QCS Leadership Conference held virtually on October 26th – 28th. The virtual conference featured dairy industry members and supply partners, earning recognition for excellence and outstanding leadership within the QCS Purchasing Cooperative.

Eight plants within the Hiland and Prairie Farms Dairy network were winners of the Quality Checkd Merit of Excellence Awards, recognizing individual plants of member companies that consistently achieved high-quality standards as measured by monthly laboratory testing of fluid milk, cultured products, and ice cream. Those plants include Hiland Dairy, Kansas City, Missouri; Prairie Farms Dairy, Anderson, Indiana; Prairie Farms Dairy, Rockford, Illinois; Hiland Dairy, Norman, Oklahoma; Hiland Dairy, Tyler, Texas; Prairie Farms Dairy, Quincy, Illinois; Hiland Dairy, Springfield, Missouri; and Hiland Dairy, Tyler, Texas.

Prairie Farms' Anderson, Indiana plant was also a winner of the Quality Checkd Dairy Quality Excellence Award in the Fluid Milk Category. This award recognizes member company plants that achieved the top score through a compliance program in the categories of Fluid Milk, Extended Shelf Life, Aseptic Milk, Cultured Products, and Ice Cream. Prairie Farms Anderson has won the Excellence Award in Fluid Milk three times over the past six years.

The Hiland Dairy Little Rock plant was this year's winner of the Orange Juice Product Excellence Award which recognizes the member company that earns the top score for orange juice flavor based on USDA standards for orange juice from concentrate.

An Outstanding Integrated Marketing Award was given to Hiland Dairy of Springfield, Missouri. This award honors industry members and supply partner organizations whose creative integrated marketing campaigns have stood out and earned attention in the food and beverage industry.

“I could not be more proud of the quality that our producers and plants continue to provide,” said Ed Mullins, CEO and Executive Vice-President for Prairie Farms. “These awards are proof that we have quality from farm to plant, and I want to congratulate everyone involved for the wins.”



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Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. is one of the largest and most successful dairy cooperatives operating in the Midwest and the South. Elements of the cooperative include more than 700 farm families, 8100 employees, 50 manufacturing plants, over 100 distribution facilities, and annual sales of over \$3 billion. Prairie Farms is a nationally recognized leader in the dairy industry 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, foodservice outlets, and warehouse distribution centers. Prairie Farms' charitable giving program, [Our Caps, Your Cause](#), supports a variety of non-profit organizations.

About QCS Purchasing Cooperative is the largest purchasing cooperative of its kind in the food and beverage industry. By consolidating spend at a category level, QCS can provide its member companies more competitive pricing on products and services than they can typically achieve on their own. More than 200 national and regional supply partners provide members with resources and discounted pricing on equipment, ingredients, packaging, facility operations, and services specific to their industry. QCS Purchasing Cooperative is member-owned and managed as not to generate a profit. Their main focus is to help member companies save time, save money, and compete more effectively. For more information about QCS Purchasing Cooperative organization or membership, please visit QCS Purchasing.com.

About Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc. 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 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 QChekd.com.



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