



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**Prairie Farms Clinches Big Wins at NMPF Cheese and Yogurt Contest**

*18 Total Ribbons Awarded Including Four Category Sweeps and Best Cottage Cheese!*

**EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (November 1, 2022)** – The annual National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) Cheese and Yogurt Contest just concluded. Prairie Farms was unstoppable with sweeps in the Swiss Cheese, 2% Cottage Cheese, Flavored Cottage Cheese, and 1% Yogurt categories. Prairie Farms was also awarded “Best Cottage Cheese” for Regular Small Curd 4% made in Carbondale, Illinois. Prairie Farms received 18 awards – the most of any company competing in this year’s contest.

This year’s competition featured 11 NMPF member dairy cooperatives from multiple states submitting cheese and yogurt samples for a chance to be tops in 24 categories. After NMPF member judges tallied the votes, Prairie Farms won seven 1<sup>st</sup> place, five 2<sup>nd</sup> place, five 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards, and the top award for cottage cheese. A full list of the awards includes:

1. Swiss Cheese Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Baby Swiss Wheel, Shullsburg, Wisconsin; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Baby Swiss, Luana, Iowa; 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Swiss, Luana, Iowa
2. Open Class Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Neufchatel, Luana, Iowa; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Cream Cheese, Luana, Iowa
3. Cottage Cheese Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Small Curd 4%, Carbondale, Illinois; 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 4% Small Curd, Wichita, Kansas
4. Reduced Fat Cottage Cheese Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – 2% Small Curd, Wichita, Kansas; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 2% Small Curd, Fort Wayne, Indiana; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 2% Small Curd, Quincy, Illinois
5. Flavored Cottage Cheese Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Garden Veggie; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Zesty Fiesta; 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Pineapple (all produced by the Fort Wayne, Indiana plant)
6. Yogurt Plain Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Lowfat Plain, Wichita, Kansas
7. Yogurt Flavored Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> place – 1% Strawberry 1%; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 1% Vanilla; 3<sup>rd</sup> place 1% Blueberry (all produced by the Quincy, Illinois plant)

"Prairie Farms is honored to again be recognized by NMPF for our efforts in making the finest cheese and yogurt in the marketplace. Quality is at the core of what we do, and from our dairy farms to our processing facilities, we rely on the expertise of our farmers and team members at various stages of the farm-to-table journey," said Matt McClelland, CEO of Prairie Farms Dairy. "They all give wholeheartedly, and we are delighted that their efforts were acknowledged with 18 awards, including the top award for Best Cottage Cheese."



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The NMPF Cheese and Yogurt Contest Awards conclude another year of big wins for Prairie Farms. This includes twelve 1<sup>st</sup>-place finishes and a Grand Championship at the World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Product Contest; eight awards at the American Cheese Society Judging and Competition; four awards and two top finishes at the Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Products Contest; a bronze award for Caves of Faribault St. Pete's Select® Blue Cheese at the International Cheese and Dairy Awards; and a Best in Class for Prairie Farms' 4% Small Curd Cottage Cheese at the World Championship Cheese Contest. Since 1938, consumers have come to rely on the consistent quality of Prairie Farms dairy products. For more information about our farmers, products, and promotions, visit [www.prairiefarms.com](http://www.prairiefarms.com). For more information about our cheese, please visit <https://prairiefarmscheese.com>.

**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 600 farm families, 7,000 team members, 50 manufacturing plants, over 100 distribution facilities, and annual sales of over \$3.6 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.

**Photo Captions From Left to Right:** Prairie Farms Board Members Sam Schwoeppe, Pat Schroeder, Toby Probst, Paul Schallberger, Craig Meng and NMPF President/CEO, Jim Mulhern. On the right is NMPF Chairman, Randy Mooney; Prairie Farms Board Member, Robert Horst; Prairie Farms CEO & Executive VP, Matt McClelland; Prairie Farms Board Members Frank Doll, Luke Haywood, and Tony Graves.



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