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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dairy Processing Manufacturers Recognized for Commitment to Quality and Production Excellence

Quality Chekd names finalists from the United States and South America for its highest awards.

LISLE, Ill., September 19, 2017 — 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 eight finalists for the Quality Chekd Production Excellence Award.

The Irving B. Weber Award, which Quality Chekd developed and modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige Award, represents the highest honor for overall quality throughout the Quality Chekd organization. Finalists are judged based on effective implementation of quality focus 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 Weber Award:

- Alqueria Dairy, Santa Marta, Colombia
- Umpqua Dairy Products, Roseburg, Oregon
- United Dairy, Inc., Charleston, West Virginia

Although the finalist processors operate in very different regions, 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 2017 QCS Leadership Conference in November at the Hilton Orlando Buena Vista Palace at Disney Springs.

In addition, the three Weber Award finalists and five other dairy processors are finalists for the Production Excellence Award, which recognizes outstanding processors 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:

- Alqueria Dairy: Fluid milk category
- Belfonte Ice Cream and Dairy Foods, Kansas City, Missouri: Ice cream category
- Hiland Dairy Foods Company, Springfield, Missouri: Ice cream category
- Lochmead Dairy, Junction City, Oregon: Fluid milk category
- Prairie Farms Dairy, Quincy, Illinois: Cultured dairy category
- Sunshine Dairy Foods, Portland, Oregon: Cultured dairy category
- Umpqua Dairy: Cultured dairy products category, ice cream category
- United Dairy, Inc.: Fluid milk category

Quality Chekd extends warm congratulations to each of the Weber Award and Production Excellence Award finalists for their continued commitment to outstanding production processes.

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News Release

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.qchekd.com.

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