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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

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

**ORLANDO, Florida, Nov. 14, 2017** — QCS Purchasing and Quality Chekd wrapped up the three-day 2017 QCS Leadership Conference, where food and beverage manufacturers and suppliers from throughout the United States and South America learned new information, ideas and strategies for remaining competitive in the consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry. The conference featured educational sessions and business meetings discussing how innovating for and adapting to this rapidly changing market can help them overcome industry challenges.

In addition to attending educational sessions, 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 Umpqua Dairy Products of Roseburg, Oregon 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:

- Sunshine Dairy Foods, Portland, Oregon: Production Excellence Award, Cultured Dairy Category
- Umpqua Dairy: Production Excellence Award, Ice Cream Category
- United Dairy, Inc., Charleston, West Virginia: Production Excellence Award, Fluid Milk Category

The 2017 QCS Outstanding Marketing Awards recognized member and supplier organizations that launched effective creative efforts and campaigns over the past 18 months. QCS awarded Outstanding Marketing Awards to the following category winners:

- Alquería Dairy, Bogotá, Columbia, Outstanding Integrated Marketing Campaign (tie)
- Excel Bottling Company, Breese, Illinois, Outstanding Integrated Marketing Campaign (tie)
- Tetra Pak, Inc., Denton, Texas, Outstanding Trade Show or Event Marketing
- Hiland Dairy Foods, Springfield, Missouri, Best Brand Print Collateral
- Alquería Dairy, Best Use of Social Media
- Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc., Edwardsville, Illinois, Best Website
- Producers Dairy Foods, Inc., Fresno, California, Best New Packaging
- Cargill, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, Best Digital Collateral
- Evergreen Packaging, Memphis, Tennessee, Best Print Collateral

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Finally, the 2017 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 2017 QCS Leadership Award was given to two member companies: Franklin Foods, Inc., Boca Raton, Florida, and Darigold, Inc., Seattle, Washington. The supply partner QCS Leadership Award went to Merieux NutriSciences, Chicago, Illinois

Next year's QCS Leadership Conference will be held in Austin, Texas, Nov. 4–6, 2018. 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.

## **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.qchedk.com](http://www.qchedk.com).

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