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Hiland Dairy Foods Company Honored with the Irving B. Weber Award for Quality Excellence

Company demonstrates quality excellence in customer satisfaction, production quality, business ethics, leadership, development and communications

LISLE, Illinois (May 2, 2013) — Quality Chekd Dairies is proud to announce Hiland Dairy Foods Company of Springfield, Missouri as the 2013 recipient of the Irving B. Weber Distinguished Award for Quality Excellence. In earning the highest scores of all Quality Chekd members in customer satisfaction, production quality, business ethics, leadership, staff development and marketing communications, Hiland Dairy received a distinctive trophy and a \$25,000 check for their efforts.

“What an honor. We could not be more proud to be this year’s Weber Award winner,” said Gary Aggus, president of Hiland Dairy. “Every department played a role in earning this prestigious prize, and it clearly signifies the importance we place on delivering top quality products and superior service day in and day out. Winning this award was a total team effort.”

Quality Chekd, a member-owned organization of independent dairy processors, presented the Weber Award to Hiland Dairy Foods Company at its 2013 QCS Leadership Conference held April 21st – 23rd at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, Louisiana. Named for Quality Chekd’s first board president, the Weber Award is modeled after the esteemed Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Peter Horvath, president of Quality Chekd said, “The Irving B. Weber Award is the highest award we present to our members as it represents a comprehensive review of an entire business operation. We want to extend our sincerest congratulations to Hiland Dairy for their obvious commitment to excellence that resulted in this award. We are pleased to count Hiland Dairy as one of our members.”

Hiland Dairy is an 11-plant operation with locations in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. As a full-service dairy, Hiland’s quality products include milk, ice cream, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream and dips, half and half, whipping cream, orange juice, butter and cheese. The company serves customers in several states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming.

Eligibility for the Irving B. Weber Award requires Quality Chekd member dairies surpass benchmarks in each of the following categories: leadership and commitment to total quality improvement; human resource development and management; facility improvement projects; marketing and customer satisfaction programs; inventory efficiencies and loss

control programs; and outstanding plant sanitation.

About Hiland Dairy

For more than 75 years, Hiland Dairy has been delivering fresh, wholesome dairy products to the Midwest. Hiland is proud to be farmer-owned, producing dairy products with milk from local dairy farms, most located within 100 miles of our 11 Hiland Dairy plants in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. As a full-service dairy, Hiland's quality products include milk, buttermilk, eggnog, ice cream, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream and dips, half and half, whipping cream, butter and cheese. Hiland also produces fresh orange and apple juice, lemonade and fruit punch. In addition, Hiland Dairy produces and distributes Red Diamond Tea, Health Wise Probiotic Yogurt and YoPhoria Smoothies. The company serves customers in several states, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming and Texas.

Hiland Dairy is committed to delivering wholesome dairy products from milk that is naturally delicious and full of important nutrients – with no artificial growth hormones. We care deeply about preserving our water, land and natural resources for future generations. To that end, we also reduce waste, reuse resources and recycle what we can so that those same future generations will be able to enjoy the same high quality milk you enjoy today. For more information, images and photos, visit our media center at <http://www.hilanddairy.com/company/media-center>.