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**QUALITY OPERATIONS EARN BOTH HILAND DAIRY FOODS AND
HILAND ICE CREAM COMPANY SPOTS AS FINALIST FOR TOTAL QUALITY
PERFORMANCE AWARD**

The prestigious Irving B. Weber Award presented by Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc.

LISLE, Illinois (February 11, 2013) — Quality Chekd Dairies announced the selection of both Hiland Dairy and its ice cream division – Hiland Ice Cream Company – as finalists for the 2013 Irving B. Weber Distinguished Award for Quality Excellence. Named for Quality Chekd’s first board president, the invitation-only Weber Award is modeled after the esteemed Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

“All of our employees at both Hiland Dairy and Hiland Ice Cream Company are dedicated to the continued success of our business,” said Gary Aggus, President and General Manager of Hiland Dairy Foods. “Being named a finalist for the Weber Award means that we, as a whole, are doing things right – from plant assessments, quality and food safety, our customers and our employees. We are very proud to have both Hiland Dairy Foods and our ice cream division, Hiland Ice Cream Company named as finalists for this prestigious award.”

The Irving B. Weber Award recognizes those member dairies that have earned the highest annual scores from Quality Chekd in the areas of production quality, business ethics and leadership, customer satisfaction, marketing communications and staff development. Quality Chekd, a member-owned organization of independent dairy processors, will announce the winner at its 2013 QCS Leadership Conference taking place April 21 - 24 at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Peter Horvath, president of Quality Chekd, states that “The Irving B. Weber Award indicates that the winner is operating at the highest levels of performance; there is no greater honor. We are pleased Hiland Dairy and Hiland Ice Cream Company are among the finalists.”

To be eligible for the Irving B. Weber Award, Quality Chekd member dairies must surpass requirements in each of the following categories: leadership and commitment to total quality improvement; human resource development and management; facility improvement projects; customer and employee satisfaction programs; inventory efficiencies and loss control programs; and outstanding plant sanitation.

About Hiland Dairy

Hiland Dairy is proud to be farmer-owned by families who are committed to preserving the land and their way of life for future generations. For more than 100 years, Hiland Dairy has served the Midwest - delivering pure, wholesome milk and dairy products, fresh from our farms to your table. 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. Hiland Dairy remains committed to delivering naturally nutritious and wholesome dairy products to its customers, always free of artificial growth hormones, and always fresh and delicious. For more information, visit www.hilanddairy.com.

About Hiland Ice Cream

Hiland Ice Cream is made with fresh milk and cream from local dairy farms. The company is a division of Hiland Dairy and is proud to be farmer-owned by families who are committed to preserving the land and their way of life for future generations. Hiland Ice Cream is available in supermarkets and convenience stores in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado and Texas. For more than 100 years, Hiland Dairy has served the Midwest - delivering pure, wholesome milk and dairy products fresh from our farms to your table. Hiland Ice Cream is manufactured in Norfolk, Nebraska and Springfield, Missouri. For more information, visit hilandicecream.com.