



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Quality Chekd Names Hiland Dairy Foods Company of Little Rock, Arkansas, 2020 Winner of Prestigious Irving B. Weber Award**

*The Hiland Dairy plant earned high honors, including the Weber Award, Plant Excellence Award for best milk processing, and the orange juice competition.*

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo., October 23, 2020** – Hiland Dairy Foods Company of Little Rock, Arkansas, has received the highest honor for overall quality throughout the Quality Chekd organization, the Irving B. Weber Distinguished Award for Quality Excellence. The recognition distinguishes Hiland Dairy's commitment to quality excellence in leadership, culture, production, sustainability, and business ethics. The award was presented at the QCS Leadership Virtual Conference on October 15, 2020. Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc. is a member-owned organization that provides dairy processors with business improvement and product quality services.

The Little Rock operation is the oldest continuously operating dairy west of the Mississippi and managed by the legacy Coleman Dairy. Hiland Dairy won the Weber Award after a thorough scoring process that included more than 40 other Quality Chekd member operations. The plant is not new to the Irving B. Weber Award, winning in 2018. They demonstrated excellence in several areas to earn the 2020 award, including completing a significant refrigeration upgrade that enables them to cool raw milk to 33 degrees, practicing stricter environmental practices, cross-training employees and management, and creating a culture change in how they operate the plant. As a result of their continuous improvement efforts, their current pass rate for fluid milk is 88% at 30 days of code and their overall quality score is an impressive 99.3%.

"Our success can be contributed to our 250 employees," said Mike Flagg, general manager of Hiland Dairy Little Rock. "Our mantra, 'We Keep Score,' means each employee is vested in the performance of the business and desire to continually improve."

Hiland Dairy's Little Rock operation was also awarded the Production Excellence Award for the best milk processing plant among all Quality Chekd Member Organizations and won the orange juice competition for the second straight year.

The three-day QCS Leadership Conference is an annual event hosted by Quality Chekd Dairies and QCS Purchasing. The conference provides a forum where food and beverage manufacturers and suppliers





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from throughout the United States and South America learn new information, ideas, and strategies to remain competitive in the CPG (consumer packaged goods) industry.

This year's conference theme focused on connection, communication, and collaboration, addressing the challenges the member-owners have in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and providing the QCS Purchasing organization's member-owners and supply partners a virtual platform to collaboratively address these complexities.

## **About Hiland Dairy Foods Company**

Hiland Dairy, based in Springfield, Missouri, is a leading farmer-owned dairy foods company. Their widely loved products include ice cream, milk, butter, cheese, and eggnog. Hiland Dairy has expanded beyond dairy and has a wide variety of other beverages, such as Red Diamond Tea, lemonade, and fresh juices.

As a farmer-owned company, Hiland employs more than 2,500 people throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Hiland's farmer-owners are just miles from the Hiland processing plants where our milk goes from the farm to the shelves within 48 hours. This speedy process is environmentally friendly and gives the signature fresh taste to all Hiland products! Hiland strongly believes in the community and is committed to our environment. Using eco-friendly processes, Hiland continues to provide wholesome dairy to a healthy world. Learn more at <http://www.hilanddairy.com/company/media-center>

## **About Quality Chekd Dairies, Inc.**

Quality Chekd works on behalf of dairy processors by providing them with services to improve business success, and provide 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 include and surpass government regulations. Members have access to human resources tools, marketing trends and information, and purchasing opportunities to 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 [QChekd.com](http://QChekd.com).

## **About QCS Purchasing, LLC**

QCS Purchasing, LLC, is a member-owned, not-for-profit buying group for companies engaged in food and beverage production. By aggregating purchases of common supplies, QCS Purchasing provides members with access to high-quality goods and services at the lowest possible total cost. Established in 2005, the number of purchases QCS Purchasing manages has increased each year of its existence. More than 150 national supplier-partners provide solutions to a wide variety of categories. For more information about the QCS Purchasing organization or membership, please visit [QCS Purchasing.com](http://QCS Purchasing.com).

