



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2015
Contact: Kayla Heise
Phone: (608) 355-8694
Kayla.Heise@foremostfarms.com

Foremost Farms USA® Brings Home the Hardware at Illinois State Fair & World Dairy Expo

BARABOO, WIS. — Foremost Farms USA continues to come out on top during recent competitions at the Illinois State Fair and the 2015 World Dairy Expo. Several of Foremost Farms’ processing plants put their top tier cheese, butter and whey to the test in various judging categories, while giving the “Wisconsin Dairyland” reputation a boost.

Foremost Farms not only had the Grand Champion aged cheddar and mozzarella at the Illinois State Fair last month, but has now walked away with three, first-place awards and several top-three finishes at the 2015 World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Products Contest.

Dirk Tachick, senior vice president of supply chain operations, extended his profound appreciation for all who participated in these events. “These accomplishments represent Foremost Farms in the best light and are prominent in every customer review,” said Tachick.

An aged cheddar from Marshfield was named Grand Champion at the Illinois State Fair and a mild cheddar from Marshfield also picked up a second place. A mozzarella from Chilton was named Grand Champion in the mozzarella category. The aged cheddar sold for \$800 and the mozzarella for \$650.



Shown from (l-to-r): Sara Griesbach, Marshfield quality control supervisor; Jesse Thompson, Chilton production supervisor; Illinois County Dairy Princess Sadie Gassman; and Steve Rukamp, Chilton plant manager; pose in front of the award-winning cheeses at the 2015 Illinois State Fair.

-more-

“Contests are not always viewed as a priority, given all that we have going on each day. But, we continue to win without changing our processes from day to day,” Tachick said. “We make award-winning products everyday which is a testimony to the operational excellence we strive for.”

The cheeses were auctioned Aug. 18 during the Governor’s Sale of Champion event at the Illinois State Fair. This contest is known to be one of the largest events hosted during the fair, making competition all the more aggressive. The event was hosted by renowned farm broadcaster Orion Samuelson. The Governor’s Sale of Champions event raised a total of \$275,450 for junior exhibitors and state 4-H and FFA youth education programs.

Meanwhile, awards have been announced for the 2015 World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Products Contest and the cooperative’s Clayton, Reedsburg and Plover plants earned first place in their categories. Here is a list of contest winners:

- 1st & 3rd place – Foremost Farms’ Clayton, Wis. – reduced fat provolone
- 1st & 3rd place – Foremost Farms’ Reedsburg, Wis. – salted butter
- 1st place – Foremost Farms’ Plover, Wis. – whey protein concentrate (34%)
- 2nd place – Foremost Farms’ Milan, Wis. – whole milk mozzarella
- 2nd place – Foremost Farms’ Chilton, Wis. – provolone
- 3rd place – Foremost Farms’ Marshfield, Wis. – white sharp cheddar
- 3rd place – Foremost Farms’ Plover, Wis. – demineralized sweet whey

The first-place entries will be auctioned Sept. 29, during World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. “Congratulations, to all the winners and thanks for bringing home the hardware,” said Tachick.

Foremost Farms USA (www.foremostfarms.com), headquartered in Baraboo, Wis., is a farmer-owned milk processing and marketing cooperative with annual sales of \$2 billion. The nation’s sixth-largest cooperative and number 25 in annual sales among the Top 100 U.S. dairy processors, Foremost Farms is a leading manufacturer and marketer of cheese, specialty whey ingredients, butter and bulk fluid milk to customers around the world.

-###-