



Producers Honored for Their Commitment to Milk Quality

Winners of the 2004 **National Dairy Quality Awards** (NDQA) program were honored during the NMC 44th Annual Meeting, January 16-19, 2005 in Orlando, Florida..

Now in its 11th year, the goal of the NDQA program is to honor dairy producers who successfully have placed high priority on producing milk of the highest quality. The [NMC](#), along with [Hoard's Dairyman](#), [DTN Dairy](#), [Fort Dodge Animal Health](#), [WestfaliaSurge, Inc.](#), [Alcide Corporation](#), [IBA, Inc.](#) and [QMI](#), sponsored the awards.

Dairy farms are nominated for the award by professionals in the dairy industry who work with producers, such as dairy plant field representatives, veterinarians, DHI supervisors, or extension personnel. Finalists from this year's program were judged by a panel of milk quality experts who looked at quality indicators such as somatic cell count, bacteria count and incidence of mastitis. The judges looked beyond just numbers however -- applications were also evaluated for milking routine, systems of monitoring udder health, protocols for detecting and treating clinical and subclinical cases, record keeping, and strategies for overall herd health and welfare. Silver, Gold and Platinum winners were designated from the group of finalists.

The top-rated Platinum award winners, honored during the NMC Annual Meeting, are pictured below.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of all Silver, Gold, and Platinum winners and nominators.

[Click here](#) to read the "round table discussion" article in the *January 10, 2005 issue of Hoard's Dairyman*, featuring the seven NDQA Platinum winners and their day-to-day strategies to produce high quality milk [file size 300 KB].

2004 NDQA Platinum Winners



EMILY AND GLENN BELLER consider "attention to detail not a chore, but what's required to meet the basic needs of cows and produce a quality product," said nominator Mark Thomas, D.V.M. From use of sand in free stalls to keep cows clean and dry to the use of a Lactocorder to monitor individual milkings, this northern New York couple goes all out to stay ahead of mastitis. Their practices include checking heifers for mastitis three weeks before calving.



HELEN AND GARY LISOWE are repeat Platinum winners. This Gillett, Wis., pair "make cow health and comfort their first priority," reported Jessica Pagenkopf, D.V.M., who nominated them. The Lisowes culture suspect cows and treat appropriately using a written protocol based on severity of the case. Treatments and the outcomes are recorded in a notebook to provide a permanent record. Milking equipment is checked monthly by a dealer representative.



THE NATHES are repeat Platinum winners. From left: Virginia, John, Brenda (holding Payton) and Jeron Nathe, with milker, Andy Van Havermoot. Jeron Nathe credits his trip to last year's NMC annual meeting for sharpening his milk quality skills. Seven different people, including four nonfamily employees, have helped milk this 220-cow, Melrose, Minn., herd in the double-8 parallel. Last year, the Nathes began using on-farm culturing to speed up use of proper treatment when they find clinical cases. Cows are pre-dipped twice as part of the farm's meticulous milking routine.



THE SELKES are shown in their new double-8 parallel. Bill Selke (right) and his wife, Sue, and Bill's father, Walter, switched cows in and out of their old stanchion barn during the 12 months of the competition. Overflows were housed on sand-free stalls and a bedded pack. They culture routinely to determine best choice of antibiotics. Treated cows are isolated from the rest of the herd, and the Selkes test treated cows for antibiotics before putting them back in the tank. Their DHI records provide a permanent record of treatments. All milking is done by family members.



DEAN AND PATTI TOHL (right), shown with key employees Salvador Estrada and Joanna Johnson, have a passion for caring for animals and producing quality milk. Their SCC averaged just 55,000 on 120 head of Holsteins and Jerseys. Nominator Richard Steel, V.M.D., cites the Tohls' commitment to humane treatment of all animals, sound nutrition, fastidious cleanliness, and careful record keeping as contributing to their long list of dairy quality awards, including being Platinum winners two years in a row.



DOUG AND LOUISA WESTENDORP (dark shirts) have 95 Holsteins that produce nearly 30,000 pounds of milk and a SCC level of only 55,000. Nearly all milking is done by family members, including their children (from left) Troy, Brittany, Tina (top), Eric, Levi, and Carlyle. Only nine cows were culled last year, just one for mastitis. Besides excelling in quality milk production, the Westendorps host many open houses at their Nashville, Mich., farm to project a positive image of dairy farming to the public. The Westendorps are repeat Platinum winners.



JACK (LEFT) AND JIM WINKEL, McBain, Mich., had clinical cases in the equivalent of just 10 percent of their cows. Yet, they culled less than 3 percent of their 715-cow herd for mastitis. Coliform mastitis had plagued the Winkels until they revamped their manure storage and switched to sand-bedded free stalls. There is a definite, written milking procedure for the 12 different people, both family and nonfamily, who milked at Winkel Dairy last year. Treated cows in milk are separated from the herd; dry cows wear leg bands for identification. Winkel Dairy is a repeat Platinum winner.

Overall Results from the 2004 National Dairy Quality Awards Program

2004 NDQA Platinum Winners

Glenn and Emily Beller, Beller Farms, Carthage, NY

Nominated by: Mark Thomas, Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Lowville, NY

Gary and Helen Lisowe, Northhill Swiss, Gillett ,WI

Nominated by: Jessica Pagenkopf, Northwoods Veterinary Center, Gillett, WI

John Nathe, Nathe Dairy, Melrose, MN

Nominated by: Gabe Gieske, Minnesota DHIA, Sauk Centre, MN

Walter and William Selke, Selke Farms, Dakota, MN

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms, Davenport, IA

Patti and Dean Tohl, Chasin-Rainbows Dairy, Tillamook, OR

Nominated by: Rick Steel, Evergreen Veterinary Reproductive Services, Tillamook, OR

Doug and Louisa Westendorp, Westvale-Vu Dairy, Nashville, MI

Nominated by: Ed Nichols, Northstar, Battlecreek, MI

Jim, Harvey, and Jack Winkel, Winkel Dairy LLC, McBain, MI

Nominated by: Ron Baziun, Dairy Farmers of America, Grand Rapids, MI

2004 NDQA Gold Winners

Larry and Linda Disch, Shan - Tell Holsteins, New Glarus, WI

Nominated by: Randy Hardyman, Grande Milk Marketing, Lomira, WI

Robert and Patricia Horst, Grand Central Farm, Bristow, IA

Nominated by: Roger Lenius, Swiss Valley Farms, Davenport, IA

Ruby and Ken Meekhof, Meekhof Dairy, McBain, MI

Nominated by: Ron Bazuin, Dairy Farmers of America, Grand Rapids, MI

Greg and Shelly Messing, Messing Dairy, Bad Axe, MI

Nominated by: Steve Good, Vita Plus, Gagetown, MI

Charles and Julie Nelkie, Lemajru Dairy Farm, West Branch, MI

Nominated by: Gerry Volz, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Fair View, MI

Alvern Poest, Daisy-Row Dairy, Zeeland, MI

Nominated by: Steve Beroza, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Delton, MI

John Rademacher, Melrose, MN

Nominated by: Darryl Droogsma, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Melrose, MN

Dan and Jolene Schlangen, Lakeside Dairy, Eden Valley, MN

Nominated by: Harold Shepersky, First District Association, Eden Valley, MN

Philip and Carol Uhlenhopp, Uhlenhopp Dairy, Sumner, IA

Nominated by: Marlin Madery, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., New Ulm, MN

2004 NDQA Silver Winners

Jon Gilbert and Bill Morgan, Scipio Springs Dairy, Union Springs, NY

Nominated by: Donna Walker, Dairylea Cooperative, Wayland, NY

Taylor and Alan Henderson, Henderson Farms, Schaghticoke, NY

Nominated by: George Pfeiffer, Archdale Agricultural Products, LLC, Greenwich, NY

Filbert Johnston, Spring Valley Farms, Tillamook, OR

Nominated by: Bryan Gibson, Tillamook County Creamery Association, Tillamook, OR

Rodney and Kevin Kussow, Golden Rail Dairy, DePere, WI

Nominated by: Tim Boeck, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Green Bay, WI

Randy Lewis, Ran - Lew Dairy, Snow Camp, NC

Nominated by: Reid Crouse, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers, Denton, NC and Joe Briscoe, North Carolina Dept of Env. and Natural Res., Winston Salem, NC

Mike and Cheryl Meier, Glen Haven, WI

Nominated by: Mark Pinch, Swiss Valley Farms, Dubuque, IA

Gary and Carlyne Overmann, Earlville, IA

Nominated by: Kara Koopman, Swiss Valley Farms, Epworth, IA

Mel and Pat Pittman, Me-Pa-Ni-Tro Farm, Inc., Plum City, WI

Nominated by: Erica Hoven and Eric Schaffner, Foremost Farms USA, Wilson, WI

Robert and Fawn Staub, Mozeppa, MN

Nominated by: Don Schweisthal, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Morristown, MN

Clint and Heidi Zank, Ridge Place Holsteins, Neillsville, WI
Nominated by: Jay Bowman, Bowman Dairy Supply, Alma Center, WI

This Program was Made Possible by These Sponsors' Commitment to Milk Quality

