



Producers Honored for Their Commitment to Milk Quality

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Winners of the 2011 National Dairy Quality Awards (NDQA) program were announced during the National Mastitis Council 51st Annual Meeting, January 22 - 24, 2012, in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Now in its 18th year, the goal of the NDQA program is to honor dairy producers from across the U.S. who have successfully placed top priority on producing milk of the highest quality. NMC, along with Hoard's Dairyman, Merial, GEA Farm Technologies, Ecolab Inc., IBA Inc., Select Sires, Elanco 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 and Extension personnel. Nearly 200 dairy farms were nominated in 2011.

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Finalists from this year's program were judged by 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 of mastitis, record keeping, strategies for overall herd health and welfare, and adherence to drug use regulations.

Platinum, Gold and Silver winners were designated from the group of finalists.

Top-rated Platinum winners, honored during the NMC Annual Meeting, are pictured below. Scroll down or [click here for photos and brief bios](#).



For a complete list of all **Silver, Gold, and Platinum winners and nominators**, [click here](#).

Read the "[round table discussion](#)" article from the *January 10, 2012 issue of Hoard's Dairyman*, featuring the seven NDQA Platinum winners and their day-to-day strategies to produce high quality milk [\[click here\]](#).





2011 NDQA Platinum Winners

click on images for larger view



The Brooks family milks 238 Holsteins near Waupaca, Wis. Shown from left are: Tom, Kilty, Ron Brooks, Jess Thoma, Josh Claussen, Corky Newman, and Dodge Brooks. A combination of three employees and one family member handles milking chores in the farm's double-6 herringbone parlor. They predip and then strip, always wearing gloves. Only 3 percent of their cows had clinical mastitis cases between June 2010 and May 2011. The milking herd and dry cows are housed in sand-bedded free stalls. The maternity area is bedded with straw. "This dairy has not had a (monthly) SCC over 100,000 in four years," said nominator Lynn Thornton with Grande Cheese Company. "It consistently produces high-quality milk without using some of what are considered best management practices such as culturing and using teat sealants."



The Dellars, Harrisville, Mich., combine 27,000 pound-per-cow production in their 230-cow herd with an impressive 53,000 SCC. Ryan and Charina are pictured with their children Carmen and Gavin. Employees do most of the milking, following a written protocol. The herd is milked in a double-10 parallel and housed in sand-bedded free stalls. The Dellars culture all clinical cases but have not felt the need for bulk tank culturing. To control *E. coli* mastitis, their most persistent problem, they have changed their vaccination program and stepped up stall maintenance. According to nominator Preston Cole with Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Dellars "enjoy paying close attention to even the finest details while constantly researching and implementing innovative ideas, and they inspire their employees."



Udder health-related culls made up just 3.5 percent of cows leaving **the Kleinhans'** herd. They have a 141-cow Holstein herd at Kiel, Wis. They milk in a flatbarn parlor and keep their cows on sand-bedded free stalls. They were nominated by Roger Hallberg with Land O'Lakes. Dry-off at the farm involves dry treating all quarters, using a teat sealant, and vaccinating for *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. They also vaccinate heifers before they freshen for the first time. Mild and moderate clinical cases are handled by giving oxytocin and Spectramast L C or Pirsue. Pictured from left in back are: part-time milkers Tania Grouman, Carri Lisowe, Tore Loritz, Judy Schema, and Gerry Ditter. In front are Ryan, Alex, Nancy, and Mike Kleinhans.



Five-time Platinum Award winners, **Dean and Patti Tohl** milk 90 Holsteins and Jerseys near Tillamook, Ore. They again were nominated by Bryan Gibson, with Tillamook County Creamery Association, who said, "The record of high-quality milk produced by this couple year after year may never be matched." The Tohls had a SCC average of 44,000 with no month over 53,000. Only 10 percent of their cows left the herd during the year, and there were no udder health-related culls. Only 3 percent of their cows had a clinical mastitis case. The herd is housed in free stalls with kiln-dried shavings as bedding. Patti and Dean do all of the milking in the herringbone parlor. Cows are pastured about seven months of the year.



The **VanPolen** team members are repeat Platinum winners. Shown in front (from left) are Beth and Laurie VanPolen, Kristin Hamacher, and Mike VanPolen. The back row includes Rick, Duane, and Ken VanPolen, and Alex Hamacher. The VanPolens milk 215 Holsteins near Marion, Mich. Their herd is housed in sand-bedded free stalls and milked in a double-5 herringbone parlor. In addition to having a low SCC, 72,000, the farm had an average standard plate count for the year of 1,000. Katie Pierson with Michigan Milk Producers Association nominated them. She credits the VanPolen team with patience and extremely close attention to every detail involved in managing their herd.

Overall Results from the 2011 National Dairy Quality Awards Program

2011 NDQA Platinum Winners

Ron and Terri Brooks, Waupaca, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Lynn Thornton, Grande Cheese Company

Ryan and Charina Dellar, Harrisville, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Michael and Nancy Kleinhans, Kiel, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Roger Hallberg, Land O'Lakes

Dean and Patti Tohl, Tillamook, Oregon

Nominated by: Bryan Gibson, Tillamook County Creamery Association

Duane and Laurie VanPolen, Marion, Michigan

Nominated by: Katie Pierson, Michigan Milk Producers Association

2011 NDQA Gold Winners

Michael C. Balonek, Mumford, New York

Nominated by: Donna Walker, Dairylea Cooperative

Don Beattie, Holton, Michigan

Nominated by: Lyndsay Stakenas, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Mark and Andrew Boehm, Rawson, Ohio

Nominated by: Jeff Rohlf, Dairy Farmers of America

Richard and Janice Brill, Wellington, Ohio

Nominated by: Brian Funk, Dairy Marketing Services

Tom, Shirley, and Eric Carson, Hesperia, Michigan

Nominated by: Lyndsay Stakenas, Michigan Milk Producers Association

James and Karen Davenport, Ancramdale, New York

Nominated by: Ruth McCuin, Agri-Mark, Inc.

Bill and Tina Deetz, Sugarcreek, Ohio

Nominated by: Luke Mast, Luke Mast IBA

Gordon Dick, McBain, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Randy, Mary, Nick, and Nathan Glide, Lake City, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Curt, Maren, and Jeremy Holst, Lake City, Minnesota

Nominated by: Don Schweisthal, Land O'Lakes

Brad and Debbie Kartes, West Branch, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Richard, Luann, Jerry, and Stephanie Kauffmann, Farley, Iowa

Nominated by: Kara Koopmann, Swiss Valley Farms

Kevin and Debra Kirsch, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Roger Hallberg, Land O'Lakes

Tom McClellan, Delavan, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Randy Hardyman, Grande Cheese Company

William R. McMahan, Randle, Washington

Nominated by: Scott Benedict, Organic Valley/CROPP Co-op

Oral and Susan Myers, Cambridge City, Indiana

Nominated by: Justin Olson, Dairy Farmers of America

Charles and Julie Nelkie, and Abigail O'Farrell, West Branch, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Edward, Judy, and Kurt Rau, Winchester, Ohio

Nominated by: David Moore, Dairy Farmers of America

Bud, Ed, and Ron Reisbig, Ionia, Michigan

Nominated by: Bryan Stocks, Dairy Farmers of America

Kenneth J. and Ralph J. Schefers, Paynesville, Minnesota

Nominated by: Lloyd Rausch, Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Philip and Carol Uhlenhopp, Sumner, Iowa

Nominated by: Brian Gomer, IBA

Jan Vanderhoff, Clayton, Michigan

Nominated by: Bryan Stocks and Jeff Rohlf, Dairy Farmers of America

Camille VanPee, Vicksburg, Michigan

Nominated by: Mark Dvorak, Dairy Farmers of America

Lisa Wilson, St. Johns, Michigan

Nominated by: Ben Chapin, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Steve, Diane, Ed, and James Woloszyn, Delavan, New York

Nominated by: Todd Ward, Direct Dairy Nutrition Services

Clark and Lois Woodmansee, Preston, Connecticut

Nominated by: Linda Hansen, Dairy Farmers of America

2011 NDQA Silver Winners

Alice H. and Laurance E. Allen, Wells River, Vermont

Nominated by: James Miller, Organic Valley/CROPP Co-op

Nathaniel Barron, Dansville, New York

Nominated by: Donna Walker, Dairylea Cooperative

Mark Diemer, McBain, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Pete and Dorene Dykstra, Everson, Washington

Nominated by: Scott Benedict, Organic Valley/CROPP Co-op

Jim and Steve Fontaine, Strykersville, New York

Nominated by: Sara Gillette, Upstate Niagara Co-op, Inc.

Bob and Laurie Grenon, North Troy, Vermont

Nominated by: James Miller, Organic Valley/CROPP Co-op

Irvin Gresser, Sterling, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Dairy Farmers of America

Steve Guider and Charles Stendel, DeSoto, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Amanda Allert, Associated Milk Producers Inc.

Craig, Barb, Tom, and Rob Harkins, Wyoming, New York

Nominated by: Sara Gillette, Upstate Niagara Co-op, Inc.

Jacob and Elaine Jahfetson, Baraga, Michigan

Nominated by: Frank Brazeau, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Richard and Sara Larson, Alma Center, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Bob Hoeritz and Glen Woychik, Associated Milk Producers Inc.-Blair

Peter and Kelly Mahaffy, Coos Bay, Oregon

Nominated by: Scott Benedict, Organic Valley/CROPP Co-op

Meyer Family, Hardwick, Vermont

Nominated by: Tom Gates, St. Albans Cooperative Creamery

Paige Mier and Jeff Orr, Prescott, Michigan

Nominated by: Dave Clark, Dairy Farmers of America

Larry and Janay, Blake and Diane Myers, Nehalem, Oregon

Nominated by: Bryan Gibson, Tillamook County Creamery Association

Ronald Patenaude, Derby Line, Vermont

Nominated by: Tom Gates, St. Albans Cooperative Creamery

Melvin and Patricia Pittman, Plum City, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Greg Andrews, University of Wisconsin-Extension

Peter and Madonne Rainville, Fairfax, Vermont

Nominated by: Gates, St. Albans Cooperative Creamery

Robert and Mark Rau, West Branch, Michigan

Nominated by: Preston Cole, Michigan Milk Producers Association

John and Rhonda Rietkerk, Wendell, Idaho

Nominated by: Richard Norell, University of Idaho

Samuel Schmucker, Mio, Michigan

Nominated by: Steve Gilland, Organic Valley/ Michigan Milk Producers Association

Robert and Kathy Semann, Norwalk, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Ronald Brown, Foremost Farms USA

Dennis and Gail Sikkenga, Montague, Michigan

Nominated by: Lindsay Stakenas, Michigan Milk Producers Association

James and Sharon Weiker, Cashton, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Curt Horman and Glen Woychik, Associated Milk Producers Inc.-Blair

Robert, Donna, and Bryan Wilson, Dansville, New York

Nominated by: Donna Walker, Konhokton Cooperative

Rick and Dorianne Wolf, East Hampton, Connecticut

Nominated by: Linda Hansen, Dairylea Cooperative
