Dicover 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]
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.

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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**

**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 Neklie, 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