



Producers Honored for Their Commitment to Milk Quality

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Recipients of the 2013 National Dairy Quality Awards (NDQA) were announced during the National Mastitis Council (NMC) 53rd Annual Meeting, January 26 - 28, 2014, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Now in its 20th year, the NDQA program's goal is to honor dairy producers from across the United States who have successfully placed top priority on producing milk of the highest quality. NMC, Hoard's Dairyman, Merial, GEA Farm Technologies, Ecolab Inc., IBA Inc., and Select Sires 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. Over 200 dairy farms were nominated in 2013.

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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. 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, 2014 issue of Hoard's Dairyman*, featuring the six NDQA Platinum winners and their day-to-day strategies to produce high quality milk [\[click here\]](#).





2013 NDQA Platinum Winners

click on images for larger view



RKB Dairy is owned by Randy and Kathy Bauer and family of Faribault, Minnesota. The 96-cow Holstein and Jersey dairy averaged a 35,222 somatic cell count in the application year. Kathy and son, Glen, take the lead in managing milk quality and Kathy is in the parlor for every milking. The family milks in a double-9 parabone parlor, where they routinely change inflations and vigorously maintain milking equipment. To prevent mastitis, they vaccinate cattle, focus on putting clean milkers on clean cows and watch teat end condition closely. "The Bauer family makes milk quality the number one priority on their dairy. Through exceptionally high standards, attention to detail and, most importantly, follow through day in and day out, they put the best product possible in the bulk tank every day," noted nominator Brandon Balzer with IBA.



As repeat winners, **Beattie Farms**, Holton, Michigan, maintains milk quality success while producing 24,776 pounds of milk per cow, with an average somatic cell count of 77,677. Don Beattie, owner, is pictured with herdsman Jennifer Saxton, who is the farm's milk quality lead. The farm has a double-16, rapid-exit, herringbone parlor. The cows are housed in a sand-bedded freestall barn, with dry cows in a 50- by 80-foot pack barn with access to a dirt lot. Sand is added to stalls weekly. Their nominator, Lyndsay Earl, with Michigan Milk Producers Association, stated, "Beattie Farms does a great job of managing their farm to ensure safe, quality milk leaves the farm every day. They are able to maintain excellent quality by paying close attention to animal health and properly maintaining their milking equipment."



A 75,000 SCC put **Dick Haven Farms LCC** in the 2013 National Dairy Quality Awards winners' circle. The 220-cow Holstein dairy owned by Gordon Dick, McBain, Michigan, averaged a 1,000 SPC across the nomination year. Cows are milked in a double-6 herringbone and milking equipment is maintained twice a year. A two-row, sand-bedded freestall is used for housing and stalls are dusted once a month with hydrated lime. "Dick Haven Farms is a very progressive operation. They strive to achieve good udder health and quality by engaging in management practices that focus on the needs of the cows versus the convenience of the management team and employees," added Michigan Milk Producers Association nominator Deb Navarre.



Owned by Duane and Janet Molhoek, **End Road Dairy's** 151 Holsteins averaged 28,217 pounds of milk and 70,000 SCC in the application year. The dairy milks in a double-4 herringbone and they work with their milk equipment dealer so parlor maintenance is done on a life expectancy basis. Before treated cows are returned to the bulk tank, they must come back negative on a Delvo test. In the freestall barn, alleys are scraped three times a day and sand is added every 10 to 14 days. Molhoeks were also nominated by Deb Navarre, who said, "End Road Dairy is very particular with their management practices. They maintain good habits while working on the farm and around the cows, and they expect their employees to practice and maintain good habits, as well."



From the Empire State, Melissa Murray and Sean Quinn's **Easton Dairy** averaged 71,000 SCC over the application year. The 90 Holsteins, Jerseys, Brown Swiss and Guernseys that call the Greenwich, New York dairy home are milked in a double-5 herringbone. At Easton Dairy, rubber inflations are changed every two months, milk hoses every six months, pulsator hoses every year, and they check the parlor according to National Mastitis Council recommendations every six months. Nominator Ruth McCuin, with Agri-Mark, noted, "Sean and Melissa are committed every day to do whatever it takes to achieve a lower SCC. Attention to detail no matter how big or small is what makes this dairy work. Record keeping is a priority. Their goal is to improve all the time and keep making high-quality milk."



The fourth Michigan herd named a 2013 Platinum winner is **Tubergen Dairy Farm, LLC**, Ionia, Michigan. The 700-cow operation is owned by Dennis, Doris, Kurt and Todd Tubergen. Milkers wear gloves at all times and change gloves three times during each shift. Cows are milked in a double-12 herringbone milking parlor, using triangle Impulse vented liners to reduce teat end pressure. The Tubergens cultured half of their clinical mastitis cases last year and used the results to determine appropriate treatments. Nathan Lippert, nominator from Dairy Farmers of America, said that, "Tubergen Dairy Farm is a farm that continues to excel in all aspects of the dairy industry. They are always looking for ways to make their farm more efficient and strive to produce the highest quality milk possible."

Overall Results from the 2013 National Dairy Quality Awards Program

2013 NDQA Platinum Winners

Randy and Kathy Bauer, Faribault, Minnesota

Nominated by: Brandon Balzer, IBA

Donald Beattie, Holton, Michigan

Nominated by: Lyndsay Earl, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Gordon Dick, McBain, Michigan

Nominated by: Deb Navarre, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Duane and Janet Molhoek, Falmouth, Michigan

Nominated by: Deb Navarre, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Sean Quinn and Melissa Murray, Greenwich, New York

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

Dennis and Doris Tubergen, Ionia, Michigan

Nominated by: Nathan Lippert, Dairy Farmers of America

2013 NDQA Gold Winners

Kevin Cavanaugh, Leslie, Michigan

Nominated by: Dave Brady, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Brett Danyow, Ferrisburg, Vermont

Nominated by: Tom Gates, St. Albans Co-op Creamery, Inc.

James and Karen Davenport, Ancramdale, New York

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

Randy and Becky Dreier, Norwalk, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms

Brian, Kevin, Terry and Diane Getty, Granville, New York

Nominated by: Bob Ceglowski, Rupert Veterinary Clinic

Floriada Gorham and Mike, Jean, Brent, Brock and Nelda Bailey, Tomah, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms

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

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

Taylor and Alan Henderson, Schaghticoke, New York

Nominated by: Jessie Vandergrift and George Pfeiffer, Archdale Agricultural Products / IBA, Inc.

Kevin Huber, Lyons, New York

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

Brad and Deborah Kartes, West Branch, Michigan

Nominated by: Violet Lombard, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Bob and Terri Ketchum, Utica, Minnesota

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms

Michael and Nancy Kleinhans, Kiel, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Roger Hallberg, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

William McMahon, Randle, Washington

Nominated by: Scott Benedict, Organic Valley

Charles and Julie Nelkie, West Branch, Michigan

Nominated by: Violet Lombard, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Andrew, Michele and Steven Nienhuis, Zeeland, Michigan

Nominated by: Kendra Kissane, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Arnie and John Peterson, Lena, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Tom McCaulley, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Walter and William Selke, Dakota, Minnesota

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms

Vaughn, Susan, Jeremy and Ryan Sherman, Freeville, New York

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

Donald, David and Michael Telaak, Little Valley, New York

Nominated by: Robert Herren, Upstate Niagara Co-op, Inc.

Philip and Carol Uhlenhopp, Sumner, Iowa

Nominated by: Brian Gomer, IBA

Timothy and Sandy Ver Hage, Allegan, Michigan

Nominated by: Kendra Kissane, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Brent Wilson, Carson City, Michigan

Nominated by: Lindsay Santure, Michigan Milk Producers Association

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Nominated by: Craig Jones, Agri-Mark, Inc.

2013 NDQA Silver Winners

Roger and Teresa Aldinger, Winona, Minnesota

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms

Charles Bockhahn, East Concord, New York

Nominated by: Robert Herren, Upstate Niagara Co-op, Inc.

Michael Bosscher, McBain, Michigan

Nominated by: Deb Navarre, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Jack and Lisa Burke, Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Nominated by: Alex Beard, Dairy Farmers of America

Josh Cline, Keene, New Hampshire

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

Bill and Tina Deetz, Sugarcreek, Ohio

Nominated by: Luke Mast, IBA of Ohio

Mark Diemer, McBain, Michigan

Nominated by: Deb Navarre, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Jim and Steve Fontaine, Strykersville, New York

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

Larry, Brent and Ross Greden, Altura, Minnesota

Nominated by: Joel and Sarah Pettit, Pettit's IBA, LLC

Norman, Steve and Phil Gross, Weidman, Michigan

Nominated by: Ben Chapin, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Leonard and Joanne Hammond, Newport Center, Vermont

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

Robert Hecker, Sheldon, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Jim and Gwen Kauffman, AMPI

Paul and Ken Hoelzel, Kaukauna, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Scott Munes, Dairy Business Milk Marketing Co-op

Devin and Elena Johnston, Tillamook, Oregon

Nominated by: Scott Benedict, Organic Valley

Jerome Kostanciak, Akron, New York

Nominated by: Rick Locke, Upstate Niagara Co-op, Inc.

Mike and Cheryl Meier, Glen Haven, Wisconsin

Nominated by: Randy Heisel, Swiss Valley Farms

Edward and Kurt Rau, Winchester, Ohio

Nominated by: David Moore, Dairy Farmers of America

Robert and Mark Rau, West Branch, Michigan

Nominated by: Violet Lombard, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Jim, Jeff and Mark Rupp, Sterling, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Dairy Farmers of America

Dan Stuart, Lowell, Michigan

Nominated by: Nathan Lippert, Dairy Farmers of America

Robert Troy, Ossineke, Michigan

Nominated by: Violet Lombard, Michigan Milk Producers Association

David Vander Zanden, Casnovia, Michigan

Nominated by: Steve Gilland, Organic Valley; and Lyndsay Earl, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Marco Verhaar, Bad Axe, Michigan

Nominated by: Steve Steely, Dairy Farmers of America

Anthony and Mary Weber, Dorr, Michigan

Nominated by: Kendra Kissane, Michigan Milk Producers Association
