



Producers Honored for Their Commitment to Milk Quality

Major Sponsor



Recipients of the 2015 National Dairy Quality Awards (NDQA) were announced during the National Mastitis Council (NMC) 55th Annual Meeting, January 31 - February 2, 2016 in Glendale, Arizona.

Now in its 22nd 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. National Mastitis Council, Hoard's Dairyman, Merial, GEA Farm Technologies, Ecolab Inc., and IBA Inc. 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. More than 160 dairy farms were nominated in 2015.

Contributing Sponsors



GEA Farm Technologies
WestfaliaSurge | Houle | Norbco

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, 2016 issue of Hoard's Dairyman*, featuring the six NDQA Platinum winners and their day-to-day strategies to produce high quality milk [\[click here\]](#).





2015 NDQA Platinum Winners

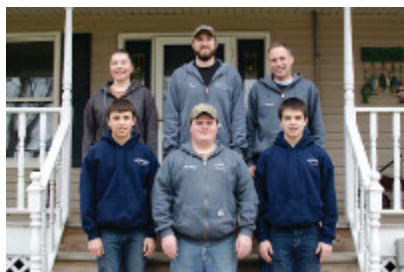
click on images for larger view



Jeremy Beebe, Whittemore, Mich. Double B Dairy, Whittemore, Mich., is one of three repeat Platinum winners in this year's contest. The dairy, owned by Jeremy Beebe, milks 148 Holstein and Jersey cows, averaging 19,572 pounds of milk with a 3.6 F and 3.1 P. Over the past year, they maintained a somatic cell count of 97,038 cells/mL. Beebe sends cultures of all cases of mastitis to a lab, noting that it has enabled him to treat fewer cows and improved profitability. Shown front row (L to R): Johnny Knoellinger, Deanna Booth, Jeremy Beebe, Ali Beebe. In the middle row (L to R): Alex Knoellinger, Lynn Stelter, Joanne Beebe. Back row (L to R): Tylor Murringer, Eric Knoellinger, Garrett Beebe, Josh Lanning, George Coiner, Bob Lieber, Tom Rivers, Roger Beebe, Eric Beebe. Missing from the photo are farm team members Lexie Muckenthaler and Mike Weir.



Roger, Sandy and David Grade, and Travis and Janet Clark, Eldorado, Wis. Among the Platinum winners, Vision-Aire Farms LLC had one of the lowest somatic cell count averages in this year's contest at 58,000. The dairy is owned by Roger and Sandy Grade, David Grade, and Travis and Janet Clark. The Eldorado, Wis. farm milks 151 Holsteins with a 26,782 pound rolling herd average. The dairy has a low line milking system and switches postdips during the winter months. Their nominator, Mary Schuster with BelGioioso Cheese Inc. explained, "This family prides themselves in providing optimum cow comfort and has a healthy herd that produces top-quality milk. Their attention to detail is reflected in their daily practices from the calves through the milking herd." Shown (L to R): Travis Clark, Corey Tavs, Janet Clark, David Grade, Sandy Grade and Roger Grade.



Michael Kleinhans, Kiel, Wis. A 63,000 SCC put Kleinhans Dairy Farm in the 2015 National Dairy Quality Awards winners' circle for the second year in a row. The 147-cow Holstein dairy owned by Michael Kleinhans, Kiel, Wis., averaged 28,125 pounds of milk across the nomination year. The herd is milked in a flat barn parlor and a J-5 vaccine is given to every heifer before calving. Their nominator, Emma Watry with Land O'Lakes, noted, "Their excellent production of top-quality milk is due to consistency in the milking routine, feeding, cow comfort and strict monitoring." Front row (L to R): Ryan Kleinhans, Tanner Duchow and Alex Kleinhans. Back row (L to R): Judy Schema, Tore Loritz and Mike Kleinhans.



Gregg Trierweiler and Matthew Keilen, Westphalia, Mich. Owned by Gregg Trierweiler and Matthew Keilen, K&K Dairy Farms LLC's 510 Holsteins averaged 29,810 pounds of milk and a 90,000 SCC in the application year. The Westphalia, Mich. dairy milks in a double-10 parallel parlor and they perform parlor maintenance on a bi-monthly basis. K&K Dairy was nominated by Rosemarie Stieg with Dairy Farmers of America. She said, "Gregg and Matt are a pleasure to work with. They are always looking for ways to improve their operation from quality to production. They take the extra steps to make this operation a showplace to be proud of." Shown (L to R): Diane Keilen, Bob Keilen, Kristi Keilen, Matthew Keilen holding son Brody, Alex Trierweiler, Gregg Trierweiler, Kristin Trierweiler holding daughter Ashleigh, and Matthew Spitzley.



David and Karen Vander Zanden, Casnovia, Mich. The third Platinum winner from Michigan is Vander Zanden Farms, owned by David and Karen Vander Zanden of Casnovia, Mich. The herd's 53 organic cows maintained an average SCC of 54,167 cells/mL over the application year. The dairy's Holsteins and Jerseys are milked in a stanchion barn and have a rolling herd average of 13,355 pounds of milk. The herd was nominated by Lyndsay Earl of the Michigan Milk Producers Association and Steve Gilland of Organic Valley. Earl said, "The Vander Zandens strive to produce excellent quality milk for the organic milk market year after year. Their attention to detail during milking helps them to produce the highest quality of milk possible." Pictured (L to R): Cameron Funk, Riley Starr, Jalyn Ranger, Graham, David, Karen and Jacob Vander Zanden.



Brent, Nancy, Tyler and Ben Wilson, Carson City, Mich. Much like last year, Wilson Centennial Farm LLC had the highest herd average at 30,252 pounds per cow. The Carson City, Mich. dairy, which is this year's third repeat Platinum winner, is owned by Brent, Nancy, Tyler and Ben Wilson. Sarah Michalek with the Michigan Milk Producers Association nominated the dairy noting, "Their attention to detail in their pursuit of top-quality milk is reflected in their day-to-day practices of caring for their cows." Pictured, front row (L to R): Lucerito Alonso, Kaitlynn Card, Adalberto Torrez. Middle row (L to R): Tomas Pacheco, Nancy Wilson, Angel Escobar, Victor Pacheco, Billamar Alonso. Back row (L to R): Jeremy Gillson, Tyler Wilson, Brent Wilson, Ben Wilson, Butch Blackmer.

Overall Results from the 2015 National Dairy Quality Awards Program

2015 NDQA Platinum Winners

Jeremy Beebe, Whittemore, Mich.

Nominated by: Ashley Herriman, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Roger, Sandy and David Grade, and Travis and Janet Clark, Eldorado, Wis.

Nominated by: Mary Schuster, BelGioioso Cheese

Michael Kleinhans, Kiel, Wis.

Nominated by: Emma Watry, Land O'Lakes

Gregg Trierweiler and Matthew Keilen, Westphalia, Mich.

Nominated by: Rosemarie Stieg, Dairy Farmers of America

David and Karen Vander Zanden, Casnovia, Mich.

Nominated by: Lyndsay Earl, Michigan Milk Producers Association/Organic Valley

Brent, Nancy, Tyler and Ben Wilson, Carson City, Mich.

Nominated by: Sarah Michalek, Michigan Milk Producers Association

2015 NDQA Gold Winners

Mike, Jean, Brent, Brock and Nelda Bailey, Tomah, Wis.

Nominated by: Bob Zielsdorf, Swiss Valley Farms

Darren Charles, Lancaster, Pa.

Nominated by: Brittnei Treichler, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

James and Karen Davenport, Ancramdale, N.Y.

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

Anne Marie Fraser, Beloit, Ohio

Nominated by: Don Mihoci, Dairy Farmers of America

Andy and Laura Hecht, Cumberland, Wis.

Nominated by: David Nyberg, Associated Milk Producers

James M. and Joseph L. Hertzler, Elverson, Pa.

Nominated by: Terry Messner, Land O'Lakes, Inc.

Michael and Andrew Hogan, Muir, Mich.

Nominated by: Sarah Michalek, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Jeremy and Maren Holst, Lake City, Minn.

Nominated by: Don Schweisthal, Land O'Lakes

Brad and Debbie Kartes, West Branch, Mich.

Nominated by: Ashley Herriman, Michigan Milk Producers Association

David Miller, Millersburg, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Smith Dairy Products Co.

Lowell and Karen Piper, and Matt and Marsha Hamilton, Embden, Maine

Nominated by: Bob Fortin, Dairy Farmers of America

Larry, Therese, Brent and Emily Simon, Westphalia, Mich.

Nominated by: Sarah Michalek, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Dan Stuart, Lowell, Mich.

Nominated by: Don Aldrich, Dairy Farmers of America

Philip and Carol Uhlenhopp, Sumner, Iowa

Nominated by: Brian Gomer, IBA

Duane, Laurie, Ken and Anna VanPolen, Marion, Mich.

Nominated by: Deb Gingrich, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Jim Winkel, McBain, Mich.

Nominated by: Dave Clark, Dairy Farmers of America

2015 NDQA Silver Winners

Charles, Susan, Albert and Peter Anscheutz, Tawas City, Mich.

Nominated by: Ashley Herriman Michigan Milk Producers Association

Ralph, Diane, Andy and Katie Boehlen, Iron Ridge, Wis.

Nominated by: Pamela Giese, Dairy Farmers of America

Kevin and Katie Carlson, Peshtigo, Wis.

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

Christian Chupp, Sugarcreek, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Smith Dairy Products Co.

Randy and Cindy Dragt, Howard City, Mich.

Nominated by: Dirk-Thomas Okkema, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Steve Gillins, Minersville, Utah

Nominated by: Brian Ercanbrack, Dairy Farmers of America

Jacob and Elaine Jahfetson, Baraga, Mich.

Nominated by: Frank Brazeau, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Jesse Mast, Sugarcreek, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Smith Dairy Products Co.

Mark and Robert Rau, West Branch, Mich.

Nominated by: Ashley Herriman, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Stanley and Sandra Tucker, Jefferson, Md.

Nominated by: Ed Wurmb, Mid-Md. Dairy Vet. PA

Marco Verhaar, Bad Axe, Mich.

Nominated by: Steve Steely, Dairy Farmers of America

Milan Weaver, Navarre, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Smith Dairy Products Co.

Doug, Jacob and Andrew Wirth, Evart, Mich.

Nominated by: Deb Gingrich, Michigan Milk Producers Association

Allen Yoder, New Philadelphia, Ohio

Nominated by: Will Moore, Smith Dairy Products Co.