

Iowa Quality Dairy Products Contest

Agriculture Building

Superintendent - Stephanie Clark, Iowa State University

Awards Ceremony - Time and Date to be announced

RULES

- Eligibility.** Every dairy product entered must be produced in a licensed Iowa facility and must currently be available for sale in the market (not experimental recipes).
- Entry options.** Each plant/facility may enter up to 10 different total products, but no more than 6 per category (i.e., YOGURT: Swiss-style strawberry, peach and mango-passion fruit, plain Greek). Entry classes include:
 - Butter (all species; sweet cream, cultured, unsalted, flavored, etc.)
 - Cultured Dairy Products (all species; buttermilk, yogurt, kefir, sour cream, Neufchatel, cream cheese, etc.)
 - Goat and/or Sheep Cheese (fresh chevre, ripened, feta, plain, ashed, flavored, etc.)
 - Cow Cheese (Cheddar, Gouda, Maasdam, Monterey Jack, Swiss-style, etc.)
 - Cheese Curds (plain or flavored, any species)
- Letter of "Intent to Enter".** A letter of intent to enter must be received by Stephanie Clark (milkmade@iastate.edu) by June 28. The letter of intent to enter must include Company name, contact, address, phone and the following information, for EACH ENTRY:
 - Entry class name
 - Product name
 - Name of cheese maker or yogurt maker
- Entry fee.** An entry fee is required at the time of entry. Checks should be made out to: Iowa State Fair. Entry fees are based upon the following scale:
 - 1 to 4 products entered: \$25
 - 5 to 7 products entered: \$40
 - 8 to 10 products entered: \$50
- Submission of Entries.** Entries must be received, at or below 50°F, in original retail packaging, by Thursday, July 12. All entries should be sent to the attention of Stephanie Clark (Iowa State University, 536 Farmhouse Ln., Ames, IA 50011-1061; 515-294-7346).
 - For the butter class, if your product is sold in quarters, you may send ONE package of 4. If your product is sold in 1-lb wraps, please send TWO packages. One will be sampled; the other will be placed on display at the Fair.
 - For the cultured dairy products category, send TWO intact (in original retail packaging) single-serving containers (i.e., 4- to 12-oz) or ONE bulk container (i.e., 16-oz or larger). The original container will be washed and the empty container will be placed on display at the Fair.
 - For fresh curds, please send TWO cartons or bags. One will be opened; one will be frozen and then placed on display at the Fair.
 - For small-format cheeses (i.e., 4 – 6-oz feta, chevre, wedges of cheese), send TWO intact (in original retail packaging) products (i.e., 2 tubs, 2 logs, 2 pyramids). Send TWO medium-weight cheeses (8-oz to 16-oz). One will be labeled for competition; the other will be frozen and then displayed at the Fair.
 - For large-format cheeses, send ONE package of original retail format (i.e., loaf Swiss), or ONE un-plugged 10-lb block or wheel (i.e., Manchego, Cheddar or Swiss-style cheeses). The product will be sampled, vacuum packaged, and placed on display at the Fair.

We want to showcase Iowa cheeses in their best condition. If there is a particular way you want your product displayed (i.e., with or without a vacuum seal bag; or if you want to send fresh product for display), please let us know.
- Judging.** Judging will not be open to the public. At least two experienced dairy products judges from Iowa (and possibly two adjacent states Minnesota and South Dakota) will evaluate the technical and aesthetic merit of every product, using standard criteria for the given category/class. Completed evaluation forms and ribbons will be provided for all entries at the conclusion of the Iowa State Fair.
- Awards.** Cheeses do not compete "against" each other for ribbons within categories. Standards of excellence apply to all entries. Winning products, along with corresponding rosettes, will be displayed at the Iowa State Fair. Assuming minimum scores are met, ribbons will be awarded for up to three products per class (though ties can be awarded if equal scores are attained):
 - 1st in class AND superior quality (> 95 points), BLUE RIBBON (\$20 award premium)
 - 2nd in class AND at least high quality (> 90 points), RED RIBBON (\$10 award premium)
 - 3rd in class AND at least good quality (> 85 points), WHITE RIBBON (\$5 award premium)
 - ONE Best In Show will be awarded upon judges' discretion (\$30 award premium)

Premium checks will be mailed following the conclusion of the Iowa State Fair.

Contributors:

Midwest Dairy Association

Iowa State University Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition