

Southwest Cheese, Glanbia shine at world cheese contest

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Southwest Cheese and parent company Glanbia won a record-breaking 18 awards at the 2016 World Championship Cheese Contests in Wisconsin last week, including six gold, eight silver and four bronze medals.

The awards represent the most medals for any country entered in the world contest, according to a Glanbia press release.

"The record-breaking recognition from the World Championship Cheese Contest shows the world what we at Glanbia are capable of," Wilf Costello, Glanbia's chief commercial officer, said in the release.

"We continue to produce outstanding, flavorful cheeses and we are embracing innovation in the range of cheese we can produce. We are proud of sweeping the fresh Asiago category and excelling in the pepper cheese category, he said.

"I'm particularly proud that the efforts of our employees, and the dairy farms that supply us with superior quality milk, are recognized on a global stage," he said.

Between Glanbia, headquartered at Twin Falls, Idaho, and its joint venture Southwest Cheese, Clovis, N.M., the company processes approximately 23 million pounds of milk a day into cheese and whey products.



Courtesy of Southwest Cheese & Glanbia Food
Accepting Southwest Cheese & Glanbia Food's awards at the 2016 World Championship Cheese Contests are, back row from left, Shawn Harrison, Ricardo Rivas, Matt Vanic, Cormac O'Kelly, Karl Walthers, Joey Pittman and Tina Young. Front row from left are Victor Vazquez, Ram Kumar, Danny Clayton and Nijaz Heric.

Cheese prices continue to slip; March milk up nearly 2 percent

By LEE MIELKE
For the Capital Press

Traders must not have liked what they saw in the March Milk Production report or Friday's Cold Storage report.

CME cash block Cheddar cheese closed the fourth Friday of April at \$1.4225 per pound, down a half-cent on the week and 18 3/4-cents below a year ago.

The barrels closed at \$1.4250, up a penny and a half on the week but 19 1/2-cents below a year ago. Four cars of block traded hands at the CME last week and 15 of barrel.

Dairy Markets
Lee Mielke



The blocks inched a quarter-cent lower Monday and dropped 4 cents Tuesday, to \$1.38 per pound, as 12 loads traded hands on the day. This is the lowest CME block price since Jan. 10, 2011.

The barrels were unchanged Monday but lost 4 1/2-cents Tuesday, also dipping to \$1.38, the lowest CME barrel price since Jan. 10, 2011.

Central cheese production continues to be very active, according to Dairy Market News, and many plants are running full schedules to match the high level of milk.

"This is resulting in storage facilities filling up quickly although many central producers feel sales are keeping up with the high production while some manufacturers reported difficulties moving cheese," according to DMN.

Western cheese output remains active with plenty of milk available. Export opportunities are somewhat limited and imports are ahead of last

year's volumes but domestic retail and food service demand remain relatively strong.

March milk up 1.8 percent

U.S. dairy cows are filling bulk tanks and processing plants around the country. March milk production in the top 23 states hit 17.2 billion pounds, up a surprising 1.8 percent from March 2015, according to USDA's preliminary data, the highest year over year increase since last May.

Output in the 50 states to-

taled 18.4 billion pounds, also up 1.8 percent.

Revisions added 4 million pounds to the original February estimate, now put at 15.8 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from a year ago.

However, February 2016 had an extra "Leap Day" than February 2015. First Quarter milk output is up 2.1 percent from 2015.

March cow numbers in the top 23 states totaled 8.64 million head, up 9,000 from February and 19,000 more than a year ago. Output per cow averaged 1,993 pounds, up 31 pounds from a year ago and the highest

output per cow for March since the series began in 2003.

California output was down 2.4 percent, due to 5,000 fewer cows and 45 pounds less per cow. It's the 16th consecutive month output was below a year ago in the Golden State. Wisconsin more than made up for the shortfall, up 5.3 percent from a year ago, thanks to a 95-pound gain per cow and 4,000 more cows.

New York was up 5.5 percent, thanks to a 95-pound gain per cow and 3,000 more cows. Idaho was up 2.4 percent on a 20-pound gain per cow and 8,000 more cows.

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