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Dairy

Glanbia, Southwest Cheese win awards

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Glanbia Nutritionals and Southwest Cheese scored 14 medals at the 2017 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest in Green Bay, Wis., in April.

The awards include five gold, five silver and four bronze medals, Glanbia reported in a press release.

This year's competition saw a record-setting 2,303 cheese entries from 33 states.

Southwest Cheese in New Mexico was awarded medals in the following categories:

- Gold — Fresh Asiago, Pepper Jack Medium Heat, Pepper Jack Ghost Pepper and Habanero Cheddar.



Courtesy of Glanbia

Accepting awards for Southwest Cheese and Glanbia Foods at the 2017 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest are, back row from left, Ricardo Rivas, David North, Rudy Jozelic, Dave Perry, Matt Vanic, Shawn Harrison and, front row from left, Victor Vazquez, Eric Denton and Danny Clayton.

- Silver — Monterey Jack Medium Heat and Habanero Cheddar.

- Bronze — Habanero Cheddar and Pepper Jack Medium Heat.

The Glanbia Nutritionals' Twin Falls plant and Cheese Innovation Center were awarded medals in the following categories:

- Gold — Gouda Green Olive and Pimento.
- Silver — Colby Jack.
- Bronze — Reduced Fat Cheddar and Havarti Garlic.

Their gold medal Gouda Green Olive and Pimento Cheese submission landed Glanbia in the category of the 20 best overall entries for the top U.S. Champion award. This is the first time Glanbia has qualified for additional judging from over 2,300 entries.

Southwest Cheese swept the Pepper Jack Medium

Heat and Habanero Cheddar categories receiving gold, silver and bronze medals in both flavors.

"These results show how collaboration and respect from our farmers to our operations, commercial team and innovation center can deliver fantastic results that make us the customer's champion," said David North, senior site director of Southwest Cheese in Clovis, N.M.

Southwest Cheese is a joint venture between Glanbia and dairy cooperatives Dairy Farmers of America, Select Milk Producers and Greater Southwest Agency.

Glanbia's cheeses are available for purchase at the Glanbia Cheese Marketplace at 131 Main Ave E. in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Dairy Markets
Lee Mielke



Dairy prices climb out of doldrums

By LEE MIELKE
For the Capital Press

Most dairy prices moved higher last week despite a lot of product coming to Chicago.

Cash cheddar blocks closed the first Friday of May at \$1.60 per pound, up 12 cents on the week, 29 1/2-cents above a year ago, and the highest price since Feb. 15.

The barrels finished at \$1.45, up 3 1/4-cents on the week, 15 cents above a year ago when they plunged 11 1/4 cents, but were a much higher than normal 15 cents below the blocks. Four cars of block traded hands on the week at the CME and a whopping 54 cars of barrel.

Monday saw the blocks lose a penny and hold there Tuesday at \$1.59. The barrels were unchanged Monday but gained a penny Tuesday, advancing to \$1.46 on 10 trades.

FC Stone's May 4 Early Morning Update stated, "It's not shocking that heavier volume is being brought to the exchange as heavy milk flows and ramped-up cheese production are testing capacity levels and have pushed inventories into record territory."

Dairy Market News reported that milk remains readily available for cheese producers in the Midwest. Inventories are generally reported as long. Ample milk supplies are placing pressures on some Western manufacturers. Inventories are also heavy, especially for barrels.

Butter closed May 5 at \$2.1075 per pound, up a quarter-cent on the week and 5 3/4-cents above a year ago, with 43 cars sold last week, the highest total since August 2014.

The butter ticked up 2 cents Monday but gave back 2 1/4-cents Tuesday, slipping to \$2.1050.

California FMMO will stabilize milk production, analyst predicts

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Moving from a state marketing order to a federal order will likely stabilize California's milk production, which has been falling about 2 percent a year, a bank analyst says.

James Williamson, assistant vice president and analyst with the RaboResearch food and agribusiness team, also said the FMMO would raise the price for milk — although not by the 48 cents per hundredweight that USDA is projecting through 2025.

The increase would come from a change in the base formula used to calculate



Tim Hearden/Capital Press File

Cows are milked at VanderWoude Dairy near Merced, Calif. An analyst says a new federal milk marketing order would increase prices paid for California milk but not as much as USDA predicts.

prices, he said.

He doesn't have a hard number but said the milk price would increase slightly because proces-

sors will have the ability to pool and depool their milk.

That "will change how milk is handled in the state,"

he said.

Under the current state order, the vast majority of milk is pooled and processors must pay minimum regulated prices on that milk.

Rabobank's analysis shows USDA's projection for milk prices is "probably optimistic" because a federal order would give processors much more flexibility, with the ability to pool and depool on a more opportunistic basis, said Roland Fumasi, RaboResearch senior analyst.

When processors depool, they are no longer required to pay minimum regulated prices and can essentially pay any price for the milk they are buying, Williamson said.

Early on, the loss of mandatory pooling was a deal-breaker for producers, but that no longer seems to be the case, he said.

The ability to depool milk could be beneficial to both producers and processors in the long run, he said.

The pool includes milk for all uses, such as Class I fluid milk and Class III cheese milk, and produces a weighted average price, or blend price, that is paid to producers.

If a minimum regulated price on a certain class of

milk is higher than the blend price, processors might choose to depool their milk.

For example, if the blend price were \$15 per hundredweight and the Class III regulated price was \$18 per hundredweight, a cheese processor could depool his milk and instead pay his milk producers \$16 per hundredweight.

In that scenario, both the processor and the producers win.

Another reason Williamson thinks USDA's milk price estimate is too high is the vast majority of California milk goes through the hands of cooperatives, which don't have to pay their producers minimum regulated prices.

That's a rare occurrence now but could happen more often if the cooperatives sell excess milk to processors outside the pool who aren't paying regulated minimum prices, he said.

While he's considered other impacts of a federal order for California as well, overall he thinks the increase in milk prices will stabilize milk production and help offset the rising costs of labor and environmental regulations, he said.



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