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**QUALITY CHEKD NAMES SMITH DAIRY PRODUCTS CO. PLANT
AS A FINALIST FOR PRODUCTION EXCELLENCE AWARD
IN THE MILK CATEGORY**



LISLE, Illinois (March 18, 2015)—Quality Chekd Dairies announced today the selection of Smith Dairy Products Company (Orville, OH) as one of 5 finalists competing for the 2015 Production Excellence Award in the Milk Category, which recognizes the best single plant for production quality excellence of Milk.

When informed of the honor, Steve Schmid, president of Smith Dairy Products Co., stated that “Our team works hard day in and day out to enhance quality product throughout our plant. Being named a finalist for the Production Excellence Award tells us we are making the right moves.”

Selection criteria for the Production Excellence Award in the Milk Category include results of unannounced plant visits, an evaluation of a plant’s process and systems for assuring product quality, and laboratory test scores. Quality Chekd, a member-owned organization of independent dairy processors, will announce the winner at its 2015 QCS Leadership Conference being held April 19-21 at the Red Rock Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

“Overall production quality is a very important matter to every Quality Chekd member” says Peter Horvath, president of the organization. “The Production Excellence Award in the Milk Category acknowledges top production, and this year Smith Dairy Products Company has earned this status as an award finalist through their effort to place a high priority on production quality.”

The annual Production Excellence Award in the Milk Category recognizes the Quality Chekd member dairy that achieves the highest annual scores for lab tests, plant assessments, customer communications, quality standards, and quality measurement and control.