

Upper Midwest Dairy Industry Association



P.O. Box 1075, Cumberland, WI 54829 • phone 612-414-7574 • E-mail manager@umdia.org • web www.umdia.org

Dear Cheesemaker:

We hope to see your entry for the 2017 Minnesota State Fair Contest which is part of the 2016-2017 Cheese Contests coordinated by UMDIA. Entries must be delivered to Bongards' Creameries at 13200 County Road 51, Norwood, MN 55368. **The entry deadline for the Minnesota State Fair Contest is Friday, July 14, 2017.**

Please e-mail Lisa Ramacher lisa.ramacher@state.mn.us and myself at the above e-mail with the following information: plant name; competitors names; number of entries; ship date and shipping method to ensure that we are aware of your entries prior to the contest set-up and judging.

The Monday following the contest closing date Contest Superintendent, Lisa Ramacher will remove the names; number the entries, so that the judging may be completed on the merits of the cheese alone. The next day at least three qualified judges will evaluate the cheese. Results of the contest will then be tabulated and verified.

Entry Details

There are four contest categories: 1) *Cheddar Block*, 2) *Cheddar Barrel***, 3) *Artisan* and 4) *Miscellaneous*. Cheesemakers may enter more than one category and are eligible for awards in each category entered. However, a different cheese must be physically entered into each category. *For instance, a cheesemaker may enter both the artisan and miscellaneous categories with a cheese entry for each. Another example is a cheesemaker may enter the Cheddar Block and Miscellaneous categories with a cheese entry for each.* **Please note that you must specify which category you are entering your cheese into on your entry card. If you enter a flavored cheese and do not specify miscellaneous or artisan it will default into the miscellaneous category.**

**** All Cheddar Barrel entries require a \$50 entry fee for each entry, please send the entry fee to our address listed above, there are no other entry fees with the other categories.**

Please see the Cheese Contest Sheet for details on each category. It is important that no plant identification or brand name appear on the cheese packaging. All entries must include a completed cheese contest identification card with the production date of the cheese included. Please send or deliver all cheese entries to Bongards' Creameries at 13200 County Road 51, Norwood, MN 55368. **Please state clearly that the cheese is for the UMDIA Contest on the outside of the shipping container.** Entry materials are attached and will also be available on our website <http://www.umdia.org/contests.html>.

Champion Cheesemaker Award

Three contests organized by UMDIA are used to determine the 2017 Champion Cheesemaker, the Fall contest, the Spring contest held in March is the second contest. The third and final contest of the cycle, the Minnesota State Fair Contest, sponsored by the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, **entry deadline July 14, 2017.** To be awarded the title of Champion, an individual or team must enter all three contests and have the highest average score among all of the competitors who have entered all of the contests. The award is given out at the UMDIA annual conference in September 2017. **The same competitor or team name must be used throughout all three contests to be eligible for the champion award unless the competitor's name was legally changed.**

If you require clarifications on the contests you may contact Lisa Ramacher at 952-955-2570 or 952-484-1057 or e-mail at lisa.ramacher@state.mn.us. You may reach me using the contact information shown above.

Cheesemakers do not have to be members of UMDIA to enter the contests; however, we would welcome your membership. Good luck and thank you in advance for entering and encouraging others to enter.

Sincerely,
Doris Mold
General Manager Upper Midwest Dairy Industry Association