

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VERMONT WINS 44 RIBBONS AT AMERICAN CHEESE SOCIETY NATIONAL COMPETITION

While facing devastation on farms across Vermont, its cheese producers provide strong national presence

Waitsfield, VT (July 2023) [The Vermont Cheese Council](#) (VCC) announced today that Vermont cheeses took home 44 individual ribbons at the [American Cheese Society's](#) (ACS's) National Judging and Competition event this year. Winners were announced last week at the American Cheese Society's annual conference, held in Des Moines, Iowa. Vermont claimed 9 first, 13 second and 22 third place positions.

Awards went to Barn First, Cabot Creamery Cooperative/Agri-Mark, The Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm, Grafton Village Cheese Co., Maplebrook Farm, Mt. Mansfield Creamery, Springbrook Farm Cheese, Vermont Creamery, and Vermont Shepherd. A full table of Vermont product winners is included at the end of this release.

The American Cheese Society (ACS) is the leading organization supporting the understanding, appreciation, and promotion of farmstead, artisan, and specialty cheeses produced in the Americas. Since its founding in 1983, ACS has hosted North America's most prominent cheese judging and competition.

These awards come just one week after historic rains brought devastating flooding across Vermont, with some parts of the state receiving over nine inches of rain in a two-day period. While most cheesemakers within Vermont have avoided extensive damage to infrastructure and operations, the impact of the flooding may be felt for months to come.

Cheesemakers have dealt with temporary facility closures, lack of potable water, delays in both distribution and milk deliveries due to road and bridge closures throughout the state, and flood waters affecting hay fields and pasture. Flood waters can contaminate fields growing feed for cows, sheep, and goats and can also diminish or deplete the value of the feed so that it's no longer optimal nutritionally or viable. The impact of this on dairy operations may be felt by having to buy in feed, increasing the cost of operations and decreasing business stability and resiliency moving forward.

When at ACS' conference last week and asked how people can help, Marty Mundy, VCC's Executive Director had this to say, "The best way to support Vermont cheese producers is to buy Vermont cheese. It's immensely helpful for morale to know that the public and our community are there to support us. For those in Vermont or coming to visit, The Hunt (VCC's statewide virtual scavenger hunt that guides people to find and buy Vermont cheese) or the Vermont Cheesemakers Conference are great ways to connect in person with cheese producers and their dairy farmers. Visit them at farmers markets – to support both cheese producers – and all the farmers in our state, many of whom are all struggling together. For anyone – consumers, distributors, retail or grocery buyers – maybe add a Vermont cheese you don't normally get into your lineup of products you normally buy."

The [Vermont Cheesemakers Festival](#) will take place on Sunday, August 13 at the Highland Center for the Arts in Greensboro, Vermont. It celebrates the 40+ cheesemakers in Vermont and has opportunities for tastings and sales of cheese as well as beer, cider, wine, spirits and other Vermont-made products as well as food trucks and educational presentations. There is an industry-only portion to the day from 8:45am - 11:30am where retail, grocery, and industry buyers; food writers and media; and industry personnel have an opportunity to connect with cheese producers one-on-one before the event opens to the public from 11:30am - 4pm. Go to vtcheesefest.com for more information and tickets.

For those looking for opportunities to donate and directly aid impacted farmers in Vermont, please visit nofavt.org/ways-to-help.

Vermont Cheese Ribbon Winners from the 2023 ACS Judging & Competition

Ribbon	Product	Cheese Producer	Town/City	State
1st Place	Cabot 83 BF Sea Salted Butter	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
1st Place	Cabot 83 BF No Salt Butter	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
1st Place	Cabot Creme Fraiche	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
1st Place	Cabot Garlic Herb Cheddar	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
1st Place	Calderwood	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
1st Place	Prosecco Wash Harbison	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
1st Place	Shepsog	Grafton Village Cheese Co.	Brattleboro	VT
1st Place	Clothbound Cheddar	Grafton Village Cheese Co.	Brattleboro	VT
1st Place	Block Feta	Maplebrook Farm	North Bennington	VT
2nd Place	Cabot 10% Plain Greek Yogurt	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
2nd Place	Cabot Private Stock Cheddar	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
2nd Place	Cabot Three Year Cheddar	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
2nd Place	Cabot Extra Aged Cheddar	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
2nd Place	Cabot White Oak Cheddar I	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
2nd Place	Willoughby	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
2nd Place	Bear Hill	Grafton Village Cheese Co.	Brattleboro	VT
2nd Place	Stracciatella	Maplebrook Farm	North Bennington	VT
2nd Place	Sea Salt Cultured Butter	Vermont Creamery	Websterville	VT
2nd Place	Crème Fraîche	Vermont Creamery	Websterville	VT
2nd Place	St. Albans	Vermont Creamery	Websterville	VT
2nd Place	Classic Goat Cheese	Vermont Creamery	Websterville	VT
2nd Place	Everything Goat Cheese	Vermont Creamery	Websterville	VT
3rd Place	Valdes Blue	Barn First Creamery	Westfield	VT
3rd Place	Cowles	Barn First Creamery	Westfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot UnSalted Butter	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Sour Cream	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Vermont Style Cottage Cheese	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Legacy Farmhouse Cheddar	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT

3rd Place	Cabot Extra Sharp Cheddar	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Alpine Cheddar Extra Aged	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Triple Cream Vanilla Greek Yogurt	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Colby Cheese	Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Inc.	Waitsfield	VT
3rd Place	Cabot Clothbound	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro	VT
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3rd Place	Little Hosmer	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
3rd Place	Sherry Gray	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
3rd Place	Hartwell	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
3rd Place	Harbison Mini	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
3rd Place	Harbison	Cellars at Jasper Hill Farm	Greensboro Bend	VT
3rd Place	Maplebrook Farm Burrata	Maplebrook Farm	North Bennington	VT
3rd Place	Patrolmans Blues	Mt. Mansfield Creamery	Morrisville	VT
3rd Place	Tarentaise Reserve	Spring Brook Farm Cheese, LLC	Reading	VT
3rd Place	Coupole	Vermont Creamery	Websterville	VT
3rd Place	Invierno	Vermont Shepherd	Putney	VT

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