Dear Cheesemaker:

We hope to see your entry in the 2019-2020 Cheese Contests coordinated by UMDIA. Note that for this cycle of contests we have moved to three contests which include the: Fall; Spring; and Minnesota State Fair (in July) contests. Entries must be delivered to Bongards’ Creameries at 13200 County Road 51, Norwood, MN 55368. **The entry deadline for the Spring Contest is Friday, March 6, 2020.**

Please e-mail Lisa Ramacher lisa.ramacher@state.mn.us and umdiabuttercheesecontests@gmail.com with the following information: plant name; competitor 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.

**New address!!** All Cheddar Barrel entries require a $50 entry fee for each entry, please send the entry fee to:

UMDIA Treasurer Scott Stude, Agropur, 719 North Main Street, LeSueur, MN 56058

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 2020 Champion Cheesemaker, the Fall contest; the Spring contest held in March is the second contest (entry deadline will be in March 6, 2020). The third and final contest of the cycle, the Minnesota State Fair Contest, sponsored by the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, will be held in July (entry deadline will be in July 2020). 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. **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 Lisa.

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

**Please Note: Contest Entries will be sold at the Central Plains Dairy Expo to raise funds to support our contests and scholarships. Please see the following page for more information about this opportunity.**
UMDIA will be hosting a cheese sale at the Central Plains Dairy Expo to raise funds to support our contests and scholarships.

If you would like to donate additional cheese for these fundraising efforts you may send it to Bongards (the same address you use for the contest). Please make sure that it is clearly mark it for the Expo Cheese Sale. Cheese for the Expo should arrive at Bongards on or before March 16, 2020.

The cheese sold out last year and allowed us to fund an additional scholarship. Cheese Curds sold particularly well as people grabbed those to eat during the Expo.

Smaller packages of cheese – curds, string or blocks would be particularly appreciated.

We appreciate your support of our efforts to raise additional scholarship funds.

Donations of additional cheese will be highlighted in the on the UMDIA website. We would also welcome your donated cheese to have your company’s label on it for additional recognition at the Expo.

Thank you for your consideration.