



SD DAIRY PRODUCERS NEWS

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Valley Queen Cheese Families Named Governor's Ag Ambassador



DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

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Conference Website: <https://danr.sd.gov/AgSummit/>

Nef and Gonzenbach Families Named 2023 Governor's Ag Ambassador

PIERRE S.D. – The Nef and Gonzenbach families of Milbank, South Dakota have been named the 2023 Governor's Ag Ambassador Award recipients. They will be recognized on Tuesday, July 18, as part of the annual Governor's Agricultural Summit (Ag Summit) in Watertown.

In 1929, Alfred Nef and Alfred Gonzenbach founded Valley Queen Cheese in Milbank, South Dakota. Today, their families continue to operate the company as a privately held enterprise, committed to growth and development in the state. The Nef and Gonzenbach families' unwavering commitment to innovation and willingness to take calculated risks has spurred South Dakota's dairy industry into a world-class destination for producers, one that many other states aspire to emulate. Over 90 years of commitment to South Dakota has paved the way for a thriving dairy industry, supporting the northeast corner of the state, providing jobs, and generating over 2.4 billion dollars in economic activity for the region.

Governor Noem highlighted Valley Queen's success in her 2023 State of the State address, and you can find footage of those comments [here](#).



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Valley Queen Cheese Families Named 2023 Governor’s Ag Ambassador (Continued):

“The Nef and Gonzebach families have been true leaders in South Dakota’s dairy industry,” said DANR secretary Hunter Roberts. “Their commitment to investing in the community continues to create jobs, grow dairy herds, and increase production.”

The 2023 Ag Summit is hosted by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) and is being held on the Lake Area Technical College campus on July 18 and 19. The event is free, and attendance is open to all, however pre-registration is required. To learn more, visit the [Ag Summit website](#).

Past Governor’s Ag Ambassador recipients include Walt Bones, Jeff Lakner, Paul Casper, Roger Scheibe, Lake Area Tech, Michelle Rook, Dr. Bob Thaler, Brad Greenway, Mike Held, Jim Woster, and Dr. Dan Gee.

SDDP Applauds the 2023 SD Governor’s “Dairy Focused” Ag Summit

SDDP worked closely in coordination with the SD Department of Ag and Natural Resources to help support this year’s Summit which showcases a significant portion of dairy features in the agenda. The Governor’s Ag Summit celebrates all production agriculture in South Dakota, but this year the dairy industry and farmers are front and center beginning with the Ag Ambassador Family, Valley Queen Cheese, a digester feature, and a panel with participants specific to dairy sustainability and **positive dairy messaging**. Look for recognition in all of the event materials July 18th and 19th in Watertown.

The screenshot shows the SDDP website with the URL www.sddairyproducers.org. The main banner reads "Assure and Enhance a Sustainable Dairy Environment in South Dakota". Below the banner are four navigation tabs: POLICY, EDUCATION, GROWTH, and CONSUMER CONFIDENCE. Each tab has a brief description of its focus.

 <p>POLICY The voice of dairy families with legislative and policy leaders in Pierre and in Washington D.C.</p>	<p>EDUCATION Providing information to dairy farmers through SDSU Extension, the I-29 Moo-University and at the State Annual Meeting.</p>
 <p>GROWTH By cooperating with other agricultural groups and stakeholders, South Dakota Dairy Producers is encouraging growth and opportunities for dairy in South Dakota.</p>	<p>CONSUMER CONFIDENCE WORKING TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support policy initiatives • Build sales and trust in dairy • Protect your license to operate



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New memberships updated as 2023 Dues Come In

Thank you to our *2023 Industry Sponsors—Strength in Partnerships!

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