



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PINE RIVER WINS TOP SPOTS AT 2019 U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP CHEESE CONTEST

NEWTON, WI April 23, 2019 - Pine River Pre-Pack earned top spots for the Cold Pack Cheese Food and Cold Pack Cheese Spread classes at the 2019 United States Championship Cheese Contest held in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Garlic & Herb took first in the Cold Pack Cheese Food class with a score of 99.7 out of 100 total points. “Garlic & Herb is a personal favorite of mine,” said Mary Lindemann, Marketing Director of Pine River Pre-Pack, Inc., Newton, Wisconsin. “The combination of creamy white Wisconsin Cheddar accented with garlic, parsley, oregano, and chives gives a fresh-tasting zing to your pasta or wrap.”

Aged Asiago was a close second in the Cold Pack Cheese Food Class with a score of 99.6. “We searched multiple cheese factories throughout the state to find the right aged Asiago for this spread,” noted Phil Lindemann, President and CEO of Pine River. “We needed a specific flavor profile that would blend well with the Wisconsin Cheddar to create a sharp nutty flavor with a sweet finish.”

Pepper Jack topped the Cold Pack Cheese Spread class with a score of 99.25. “The ingredients in Cold Pack Cheese are blended without the use of heat,” said Pine River’s General Manager, Ian Behm. “This specialized blending technique allows us to maintain the delicate, spicy Pepper Jack flavor, while transforming it into a convenient spread to be enjoyed on pretzels, tacos, or a sandwich.” Pepper Jack also took first place at the 2018 World Championship Cheese Contest.

This year the United States Championship Cheese Contest, hosted by the *Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association*, had a record-setting 2,555 entries from 35 states. The highly competitive biennial contest is the largest technical evaluation of cheese, butter and yogurt in the country. Over the course of two days, judges evaluate entries across 116 classes on flavor, body and texture, salt, color, finish, and packaging. Awards were presented at a ceremony held on April 18 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI.

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About Pine River Pre-Pack

Pine Rive Pre-Pack has been crafting award-winning gourmet cheese spreads and confections for over fifty years. Our Cold Pack Cheese Food is available in the refrigerated dairy case of select grocery and gourmet food stores across the United States and sold nationally through school and civic group fundraisers, and corporate gift programs. For more information, visit pineriver.com.