



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2009
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Foremost Farms Appleton Employees Work One-Million Hours With No Lost Work Time; *Receive Award from National Safety Council*

APPLETON, WIS. — The employees of Foremost Farms USA at Appleton, Wis., recently celebrated 1 million hours without an accident requiring lost-time or time away from work. The milestone occurred on Dec. 8, 2009. A lost-time incident is an injury that requires time spent away from work. Appleton hit five years this fall, and just achieved another milestone with 1-million work hours.

“This plant has been an inspiration to the rest of our facilities for their safe working culture,” said Dave Fuhrmann, Foremost Farms president. “To our cooperative, it is as simple as getting employees home to their families safely after each work day. Appleton employees have set a great example for their Foremost Farms colleagues and the industry they work in.”

But that’s not the only achievement for employees. Foremost Farms’ Appleton plant is one of four companies across the globe to be honored with the National Safety Council’s (NSC) Safety Leadership Award. Recipients of this award have achieved five consecutive years without lost employee work days. NSC recognizes that when employees are encouraged and recognized for safe behavior, companies can build strong corporate safety cultures.

Foremost Farms has a sophisticated plant system that requires strict adherence to safety protocols. The cooperative has dramatically improved its lost-time and safety incident rate in recent years – going from double digits to an incident rate of 2.0 today. Appleton’s incident rate is 1.0.

The Appleton plant and its 94 employees produce 60 million pounds of award-winning mozzarella cheese per year. The plant currently handles approximately 1.2 million pounds of milk per day.

Foremost Farms USA is a dairy cooperative headquartered in Baraboo, Wis., and is among the top-ten dairy cooperatives in the U.S. based on milk volume. Its 2,300 dairy farmer-members live in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio and marketed 5 billion pounds of milk in 2008. The cooperative has 17 dairy processing plants, one milk transfer station, and a regional office in Indianapolis, Ind. In 2008, the cooperative’s revenues were \$1.6 billion.

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