



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Lactalis Wins 20 Medals for Dairy Production Expertise at 2023 United States Championship Cheese Contest

*Premier Lactalis brands Galbani<sup>®</sup>, Président<sup>®</sup>, Kraft Natural Cheese<sup>®</sup>, Cracker Barrel<sup>®</sup>, Knudsen<sup>®</sup>, Karoun<sup>®</sup> and Gopi<sup>®</sup> win honors*

**CHICAGO, Feb. 24, 2023** – Lactalis USA was recognized this week for dairy production expertise with 20 medals at the [United States Championship Cheese Contest](#) conducted by the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA). The contest is considered the country's premier technical contest for cheese, butter, yogurt and dry dairy ingredients. Product entries are judged by a team of highly qualified dairy processing experts on attributes such as flavor, body, texture, salt, color, finish, packaging and others.

"We are honored to receive this industry recognition for our premier brands enjoyed by our customers and consumers," said Esteve Torrens, chief executive officer of Lactalis USA. "This recognition highlights the dedication and hard work of our talented team of U.S. employees who strive every day to bring nutritious and quality products to the American consumer."

Lactalis USA received medals for several products from its broad range of premier brands, including [Galbani](#), [Président](#), [Kraft Natural Cheese](#), [Cracker Barrel](#), [Knudsen](#), [Karoun](#) and [Gopi](#). Lactalis USA received five gold medals, including for its Galbani Low Fat Ricotta, Président Double Crème Brie, Cracker Barrel Aged Reserve Cheddar Cheese, Karoun Greek Style Honey Yogurt, and Whey Protein Isolate.

"The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association is proud to recognize Lactalis USA's award-winning product brands," said John Umhoefer, executive director, WCMA. "Our competition received more than 2,000 product entries from 35 states. We're proud to



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honor the finest dairy producers in the United States and congratulate Lactalis USA for an impressive 20 medals this year.”

### **Awards Received by Brand**

#### Kraft Natural Cheese

Kraft Natural Cheese and Cracker Barrel received three medals, which were the brands' first since joining Lactalis USA's product portfolio in 2021. In addition to winning “Best Of Class” in the Aged Cheddar division, Cracker Barrel Aged Reserve Cheddar Cheese was recognized among the top 20 cheeses of any variety in the competition. Kraft Grated Parmesan & Romano Cheese received a silver medal, while Kraft Grated Three Cheese Blend won a bronze medal.

#### Galbani

Galbani products won four medals. Galbani Ricotta cheeses won gold, silver and two bronze medals. The Galbani global brand recently celebrated its 140th anniversary in 2022.

#### Président

Président Brie cheeses won both gold and bronze medals, while Président Wee Brie was recognized with a silver medal. Président cheeses have been enjoyed by U.S. consumers and customers for more than 40 years.

#### Karoun Dairies

Karoun Greek Style Honey Yogurt won gold in the Flavored Yogurt division. Karoun's Honey Vanilla Yogurt and Whole Milk Yogurt won silver medals, and Karoun Bulgarian Style Yogurt was recognized with bronze.

#### Lactalis Ingredients

Lactalis USA's Ingredients team won four medals in the dry dairy ingredients categories. Whey Protein Isolate instantized 90 percent won gold and Whey Protein Isolate 90 Percent Low Lactose, which is a new product line, won a silver medal. Whey Permeate powder won silver and bronze medals.

Below is the full list of award medals received by Lactalis USA.



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### Awards Received by Category

<b>GOLD</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Low Fat Cheese	Galbani Low Fat Ricotta	Buffalo, N.Y.
Brie & Camembert	Président Double Crème Brie	Belmont, Wisc.
Cheddar, Aged One to Two Years	Cracker Barrel Aged Reserve Cheddar	Weyauwega, Wisc.
Yogurt, Cow's Milk, Flavored	Karoun Greek Style Honey Yogurt	Turlock, Calif.
Whey Protein Isolate 90 Instantized	Whey Protein Isolate instantized 90%	Nampa, Idaho

<b>SILVER</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Open Class, Grated Cheeses	Kraft Grated Parmesan & Romano Cheese	Wausau, Wisc.
Ricotta	Galbani Double Crème Ricotta	Buffalo, N.Y.
Pasteurized Processed Cheese Spread	Président Wee Brie	Merrill, Wisc.
Whey Protein Isolate 90	Whey Protein Isolate 90 Percent Low Lactose	Nampa, Idaho
Whey Permeate	Whey Permeate Powder	Buffalo, N.Y.
Reduced Sodium Cheeses	Gopi Paneer	Turlock, Calif.
Yogurt, Cow's Milk	Karoun Whole Milk Yogurt	Turlock, Calif.
Yogurt, Cow's Milk, Flavored	Karoun Greek Style Honey Yogurt, Vanilla Flavor	Turlock, Calif.

<b>BRONZE</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Open Class, Grated Cheeses	Kraft Grated Three Cheese Blend	Wausau, Wisc.
Cottage Cheese, Flavored	Knudsen Low Fat Cottage Cheese & Pineapple	Tulare, Calif.
Brie & Camembert	Président Triple Cream Brie	Belmont, Wisc.



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Ricotta	Galbani Whole Milk Ricotta	Buffalo, N.Y.
Low Fat Cheeses	Galbani Low Fat Ricotta	Buffalo, N.Y.
Yogurt, Cow's Milk	Karoun Bulgarian Style Yogurt	Turlock, Calif.
Whey Permeate	Whey Permeate Powder	Buffalo, N.Y.

### About Lactalis USA

Lactalis USA is committed to enriching lives by producing nutritious and great tasting dairy products. The company offers a broad portfolio of strong dairy brands including [Galbani](#)<sup>®</sup> Italian cheeses, [Président](#)<sup>®</sup> specialty cheeses and gourmet butters, [Kraft](#)<sup>®</sup> natural, grated and international cheeses, [Cracker Barrel](#)<sup>®</sup> cheese, [Breakstones](#)<sup>®</sup> cottage cheese, ricotta and sour cream, [Black Diamond](#)<sup>®</sup> cheddar cheese, [Parmalat](#)<sup>®</sup> shelf-stable UHT milk, [siggi's](#)<sup>®</sup> and [Stonyfield Organic](#)<sup>®</sup> yogurt brands, [Karoun](#)<sup>®</sup>, [Gopi](#)<sup>®</sup> and [Arz](#)<sup>®</sup> ethnic dairy products, in addition to several beloved brands imported from our affiliates in Europe. Lactalis USA has approximately 3,500 employees and is present in eight states with 11 manufacturing facilities and six corporate offices located in New York City and Buffalo, NY, Chicago, IL, Londonderry, NH and San Fernando, CA. Lactalis USA is part of Lactalis Group, the world's leading dairy company, a French family business founded in 1933 in Laval, France.

For more information, visit <https://lactalisamericangroup.com/>, [www.lactalisheritagedairy.com](http://www.lactalisheritagedairy.com), [www.stonyfield.com](http://www.stonyfield.com), [www.siggis.com](http://www.siggis.com) and [www.karouncheese.com](http://www.karouncheese.com). Follow Lactalis USA on [Instagram](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

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