



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PINE RIVER WINS BIG AT AMERICAN CHEESE SOCIETY AND WISCONSIN STATE FAIR CHEESE & BUTTER CONTESTS**

NEWTON, WI August 16, 2018- Pine River Pre-Pack took first and third place for the Cold Pack Cheese Food category at the American Cheese Society (ACS) Judging & Competition held in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and earned first, second and third at the Wisconsin State Fair Cheese & Butter Contest held in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Widmer's Aged Brick Cold Pack Cheese Food, a gourmet spread crafted by Pine River using Widmer's Washed Rind Aged Brick, took home the first place ribbon at the ACS Competition. "We're honored to partner with Widmer's Cheese Cellars to create the winning Brick spread," said Philip A. Lindemann Jr., President/CEO of Pine River Pre-Pack, Inc., Newton, Wisconsin. "The combination of Wisconsin Grade A cheddar with the aged brick creates a flavorful spread, great on a hearty sandwich or your favorite cracker."

Pine River's Chunky Bleu and Cheddar Cold Pack Cheese Food took home third place for the second year in a row. "Chunky Bleu is steadily growing in popularity," said Lindemann. "Bolder and more unique flavors are drawing a lot of attention when we exhibit at tradeshow around the country." Chunky Bleu was also awarded a silver medal at the 2017 US Championship Cheese Contest.

This year, 259 cheesemakers entered 1,954 different products in the ACS competition, with winners announced at the annual awards ceremony held on Thursday, July 28.

Pine River swept the Cold Pack Cheese Food category at the Wisconsin State Fair Cheese & Butter Contest for the fourth year in a row, with Swiss & Almond earning the blue ribbon the last three years.

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Aged Asiago took second place and Garlic & Herb Cold Pack Cheese Food took home third.

“It’s always an honor to win at the Wisconsin State Fair Cheese & Butter Contest,” said Lindemann. “Wisconsin is home to so many talented cheesemakers, it means a lot to be recognized amongst this prestigious group.”

A record number 411 entries in 37 classes were submitted in the contest this year. Winners were recognized at the Blue Ribbon Cheese & Butter Auction held on Thursday, August 9 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, Wisconsin. The auction raised \$42,730 for student scholarships and dairy promotions.

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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](http://pineriver.com).