

## **KEEP IT A WINNER**

### **Shipping Your Contest Cheese to the American Cheese Society Annual Competition**

When you ship your cheese to the ACS Annual Competition, you want it to arrive in as good shape as when it left your loving care. After it arrives, the ACS handles it with great care. But it is the transport that is tricky. Here are some ideas that will help:

1. Spend a little time thinking when your cheese must arrive and how you plan to ship as a result (overnight standard, or two day). Often, shipping overnight produces the best results. If you don't have a regular carrier, I would suggest one of the major carriers like FedEx, UPS or DHL for reliability and tracking ease.  
**WRITE DOWN YOUR PLAN**
2. Put the shipping labels where you can find them (clipped to the calendar for instance).
3. Select the cheeses you wish to enter ahead of time. You can't use a trier on them but do some Sherlock Holmes style observation. Get their surface right! This is tricky – a little drier than usual is probably better.
4. On shipping day wrap the cheese in butcher paper, or waxed paper. Do not let plastic touch the cheese! Only allow for identification!
5. Place cheese in a foam or foil-lined shipping box. Cushion with bubble-wrap preferably (avoid using peanuts). Add ice-bricks of 2-3 pounds per 5 pounds of hard cheese, protected, so they don't get the cheese damp by osmosis. Remember: the weather will probably be hot!
6. Affix proper labels, which are mailed to you from headquarters.
7. Keep your tracking information.

Pat Elliott, Everona Dairy