

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release

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CELEBRATING ARTISAN CHEESE - MAY IS AMERICAN CHEESE MONTH

DENVER, Colo. – May 6, 2022 – American Cheese Month is a grassroots celebration of North America's artisan and specialty cheeses. Throughout the month of May, cheesemakers, dairy farmers, retailers, cheesemongers, and chefs will highlight the diverse and delicious array of American cheeses and the community who bring them to the table.

This is the third year the annual observance takes place in May. Originally in October, the date shift took place to better support the needs of cheesemakers and retailers.

Throughout the month, the American Cheese Education Foundation (ACEF), the American Cheese Society (ACS), and the cheese industry endeavor to:

- Recognize and raise awareness of the quality and diversity of American cheeses
- Support and promote great cheese, local foods, family farms, traditional methods, and sustainable production models
- Generate funding for education, scholarships, and research initiatives through the American Cheese Society

Some of the funds raised this month help support scholarships for ACS members to attend the organization's annual conference. The benefits are far-reaching as attested to by previous scholarship recipients.

"What a great opportunity to be able to participate in the ACS conference and take advantage of the professional networking opportunities."

"The financial support to attend the conference was amazing. I learned so much from the educational programming and got so much inspiration from sharing experiences with so many other cheese professionals."

Many professionals affected by the pandemic also found great value in the scholarship opportunities, "All the scholarship recipients really appreciated the funding support, especially those impacted economically by the pandemic over the past two years," noted Tara Holmes, Executive Director of the ACS.

Cheese lovers and industry members are asked to help spread the love of American cheese throughout the month in a variety of ways:

ACS member cheesemakers, retailers, and specialty food distributors are encouraged to donate a portion of their sales to ACEF. Visit the ACEF website to download <u>American Cheese Month</u> graphic assets to use in your own ACM promotions

Individuals can also easily donate funds to help build the cheese community's future by clicking the 'donate' button. Any amount is welcome.

About American Cheese Society

ACS is the leading organization supporting the understanding, appreciation, and promotion of artisan, farmstead, and specialty cheeses produced in the Americas. At 2,300 members strong, ACS provides advocacy, education, business development, and networking opportunities for cheesemakers, retailers, enthusiasts, and the extended industry. ACS strives to continually raise the quality and availability of cheese in the Americas. Since its founding in 1983, ACS has proudly hosted the foremost annual educational conference and world-renowned cheese judging and competition in North America. ACS is a 501(c)6 nonprofit association headquartered in Denver, CO. To learn more about ACS, please visit www.cheesesociety.org or contact 720-328-2788.

About American Cheese Education Foundation

The American Cheese Education Foundation, known as the ACE Foundation, is the charitable arm of the American Cheese Society, dedicated to creating access to education and raising funds for food safety and industry research. It is the ACE Foundation's vision to further excellence in the quality, safety, and art of the cheese industry in North America. The ACE Foundation's fundraising efforts provide crucial support to the American artisan cheese industry and the communities who make their livings from the industry. ACEF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit association also headquartered in Denver, CO. To learn more about ACE Foundation, please visit www.cheesefoundation.org

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