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California State Fair Announces Winners of the 2024 Commercial Cheese Competition

SACRAMENTO — The California State Fair today announced the winners of the 2024 Commercial Cheese Competition, showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and the rich diversity of California's cheese production.

Best of Show Winners:

- **Cow's Milk:** Cowgirl Creamery for Wagon Wheel
- **Other Milk Type:** Shooting Star Creamery for Aries

"The excitement for the 2024 Commercial Cheese Competition has been growing, and we're thrilled to keep celebrating the great work of our cheesemakers," said Tom Martinez, CEO of California State Fair & Cal Expo. "This event stands as a tribute to the skill, passion, and commitment of California's cheesemakers."

2024 Best of California Cheese Awards:

Cow Milk Category:

- **Soft Cheese:** Sierra Nevada Cheese Gina Marie Farmer Cheese
- **Semi-Soft Cheese:** Cowgirl Creamery Wagon Wheel
- **Semi-Hard Cheese:** Point Reyes Farmstead Toma Rashi
- **Hard Cheese:** Point Reyes Farmstead Aged Gouda
- **California Originals:** Point Reyes Farmstead Toma

Other Milk Type Category:

- **Cultured Cheese:** Cypress Grove Fromage Blanc
- **Soft Cheese Other:** Laura Chenel Original Fresh Goat Cheese
- **Semi-Soft Cheese:** Cypress Grove Fog Lights
- **California Originals:** Shooting Star Creamery Aries



A panel of 12 judges, led by Chief Judge Mary Dedrick, evaluated over 130 entries based on appearance, aroma, texture, and taste. The competition attracted 15 cheese companies, from artisanal to large-scale producers.

The award presentation will take place at the California State Fair on July 22, 2024, where these exquisite cheeses will be showcased in the California Kitchen Exhibit Building B, from July 12 through July 28, 2024.

For more details and a complete list of winners, please visit CalExpoStateFair.com.

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