NEWS RELEASE

US Foods Announces 2015 Vendor Of The Year Award Winners

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US Foods, one of America's most innovative food companies and leading distributors, announces the winners of its annual vendor recognition awards. US Foods vendor partners share the company's belief in Great Food. Made Easy. and consistently provide best-in-class service and innovative ideas.

"These vendors are critical to our mission of providing the highest quality products and business solutions to more than 250,000 customers around the country," said Steve Guberman, chief merchandising officer, US Foods. "Congratulations to the winning companies, who excel in all the qualities that are important to us and most importantly, our customers."

As in years past, vendor companies were recognized for their superior performance in the following categories: Innovation, Easy To Do Business With, and four product categories, Center of the Plate, Grocery, Non-Foods and Produce. Seven companies were honored:

Innovation Award: **ARYZTA** has consistently provided US Foods with cutting-edge solutions. Whether it's introducing the Croissant Donut to broadline distribution or a cinnamon roll with five centers, their committment to innovation is evident. We honor their continued creativity and commitment to joining US Foods in transforming the foodservice industry.

Easy to do Business With Award: tie between **Strauss** and **Sugar Foods**. A valued partner to US Foods for more than 20 years, Strauss embodies the principle of "Easy" when it comes to vendor relationships, and Sugar Foods has delivered consistently high service in this highly collaborative partnership. We appreciate that these vendors embrace our values while raising the bar every year to provide a competitive and "Easy" advantage for our business.

Center of the Plate Award: **Butterball** has proven itself to be a leader in poultry innovation and stepped up in an impressive way during a difficult time in the poultry industry this year, due to the Avian Influenza epidemic.

Grocery Award: From sugar and spice to butter and eggs, grocery products play a significant role in an operator's menu. **Winona Foods** provides competitive pricing, ranks top of class in FSQA compliance and maintains a strong focus on product development and innovation.

Non-Foods Award: Although food is so often the focus at US Foods, our key vendors of disposable products, such as this year's winner **Team 3 Group Limited**, also play a vital role in customers' operations.

Produce Award: **Mann Packing Company** has been a leader in innovation, continuously sustaining a full pipeline of great products, including the ever-popular Cross Valley Farms Superfood Slaw. They have supported US Foods in every aspect of the business, from on-the-ground support at the local level to strategic logistics solutions.

"Congratulations to all our vendors nominated for their daily contributions and hard work," said Guberman. "Together we will continue to make it easy to do business with US Foods and build even more value for our customers."

ABOUT US FOODS

US Foods, Inc. is a large foodservice distributor serving chefs and foodservice operators across the country. Its customers include independent and multi-unit restaurants, healthcare and hospitality entities, government and educational institutions. The company employs approximately 25,000 people in 61 locations nationwide. US Foods is headquartered in Rosemont, Ill.

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