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Dutch Gold Honey and McLure's Honey & Maple Products Achieve SQF Certification

First US Honey and Maple Syrup Facilities to Earn Certification

Dutch Gold Honey, Inc. of Lancaster, PA and its division, McLure's Honey & Maple Products, of Littleton, NH both achieved Safe Quality Foods (SQF) Certification after a rigorous audit of their quality programs and systems. The SQF Program is an inter-national food safety system, designed not only to elevate the requirements of the food industry, but to focus on the safety of the food. The Food Marketing Institute (FMI) has brought this program to the US, with the support of key retailers such as Hannaford, Ahold, Kroger and Wal-Mart.

Dutch Gold Honey and McLure's Honey & Maple Products are the first honey and maple syrup companies in the US to have achieved this certification. "Our employees have invested a great deal of time and effort to achieve this goal. I am very proud of their accomplishments, as the commitment to quality has always been the foundation of our business," stated Nancy Gamber, CEO of both the companies.

In addition to their branded honey and maple syrup items, Dutch Gold and McLure's are key suppliers of private label products throughout the country. "Several of our primary store brand customers challenged us to meet these all encompassing certification expectations," reflected Joe Semmelman, the company's Vice President of Operations. "Our quality team, lead by Quality Assurance Supervisor, Mark Doll, reached out to all the employees and he was very encouraged by the positive feedback he received."

To maintain this level of SQF certification, annual audits are required to ensure the quality programs are not only maintained, but improved from year to year. "Standing still is not an option," remarked Doll. "We already have plans for continued improvement in 2009."

Dutch Gold Honey celebrates its 63rd anniversary in 2009. Founded by Ralph and Luella Gamber, this family-owned and operated business is now under the leadership of their daughter, Nancy Gamber Olcott. McLure's Honey & Maple Products was acquired in 1997. The company is also a Certified Women Owned Business.

For more information about Safe Quality Foods certification visit: www.sqfi.com



Quality, a family tradition since 1946