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Food Export–Midwest Honored with 2024 Service to Exporters Award by North Dakota Trade Office

CHICAGO, IL (May 21, 2025) – Food Export-Midwest is proud to announce that it has been awarded the 2024 Service to Exporters Award by the North Dakota Trade Office (NDTO), recognizing the organization’s long-standing commitment to helping North Dakota food and agricultural companies expand into international markets.

The award was presented on May 14 at the Global Business Awards luncheon in Fargo, North Dakota—an event that brought together nearly 100 leaders from across the state’s international business and trade community. Lieutenant Governor Michelle Strinden delivered remarks and participated in honoring this year’s recipients, which also included Crary Industries Inc. and the Economic Development Association of North Dakota.

“This award means a great deal to our entire team—and especially to those of us who work closely with the North Dakota Trade Office and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture,” said Paul Weiss, Liaison Manager for Food Export-Midwest, who accepted the award on behalf of the organization. “We’ve always said that the best partnerships are built on trust and shared purpose. Our work here in North Dakota is a shining example of that.”

Food Export-Midwest has been a strategic partner to North Dakota for decades, delivering USDA-funded export assistance to small- and medium-sized food and agricultural businesses across the state. Through programs like the Branded Program, Food Show PLUS!, and individualized export consultations, Food Export–Midwest provides companies with the tools and knowledge needed to reach new markets and scale their export operations.

“In 2024 alone, 10 North Dakota companies participating in our Branded Program reported more than \$8 million in export sales,” said Weiss. “That includes standout companies like Giant Snacks and Red River Commodities—both of whom leveraged our support to expand into markets like Canada and Mexico.”

Weiss emphasized that the award is not only a testament to the strength of the organization’s partnerships, but also to the drive and determination of the state’s businesses.

“What really inspires us are the companies themselves. Over the past year, we’ve had the privilege to support 17 North Dakota companies—many of them deeply rooted in their communities,” he said. “This award belongs to them—and to the many other North Dakota companies striving every day to share what this state produces with the rest of the world.”

The Global Business Awards also honored Crary Industries Inc., which was named the 2024 Exporter of the Year for its expansion into new global markets and strong international sales growth, and the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND), which received the 2024 NDTO Global Ambassador Award for its advocacy and support of international business development throughout the state.

Food Export-Midwest extends its gratitude to the North Dakota Trade Office and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture for their continued collaboration and support.

“We’re proud to stand alongside you in supporting North Dakota’s global success—and we look forward to the work ahead,” Weiss concluded.

About Food Export:

Food Export Association of the Midwest USA (Food Export–Midwest) is a non-profit organization that assist U.S. companies looking to start or expand export sales. Food Export aims to maximize their success through programs and services in Export Education, Market Entry, and Market Promotion. The organization cooperates with the agricultural promotion agencies of its 13 member states to facilitate trade between suppliers and worldwide importers, and to promote the export of food, agricultural and seafood products from those states. The organization is funded through the Market Access Program (MAP), administered by the USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). To become a supplier or to learn more, please visit foodexport.org or email info@foodexport.org.

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