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PRESS RELEASE

2023 Comté Scholarship Winner Announced!

The Comté Cheese Association is delighted to announce that Hayley Pingree has won the 11th annual Comté Scholarship for American Cheese Society *Certified Cheese Professionals*[™] (ACS CCPs[™])! Pingree won an all-expenses-paid trip to the Comté region to explore the cheese and its culture first-hand, and a \$750 cash stipend.



Hayley Pingree, co-owner of The Napa Table, LLC, upon learning the news replied, “This is amazing, what an incredible surprise! I’m honored to have been selected by the judges for this fabulous trip to the Jura! I can’t wait to try all the Comté! ”

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Lisa Ueltschi, cheese specialist at Murray's Cheese in Long Island City, New York, was named runner-up. She will receive a special gift for her effort.

The essays were judged on the basis of knowledge and creativity by a panel of three renowned cheese experts: **Cathy Strange**, WFM Ambassador of Food Culture, Whole Foods Market, Inc.; **Laura Werlin**, Author and Cheese Educator; and **Nora Weiser**, Principal of non-profit consulting firm 12 Flavor and Director Emeritus of the American Cheese Society.

This year the essay question applicants were asked: "In your opinion, what makes Comté different from other cheeses?" Pingree's winning essay may be read here: <https://media.comte-usa.com/essays/23-H-Pingee-essay.pdf>

The Certified Cheese Professional™ (CCP) Exam was established by the American Cheese Society in 2012 to encourage high standards of comprehensive cheese knowledge and service for professionals in all areas of the cheese world. The exam is based on the knowledge and skills required to successfully perform cheese-related tasks in jobs across the board.

Made exclusively in the Jura Mountain region of France, Comté is an artisanal cheese with AOC (Controlled Appellation of Origin) and PDO (European Protected Denomination of Origin) designations. Each wheel of Comté reflects a unique terroir, a season of production, and centuries of cheesemaking and affinage traditions.

For further information, please contact:
Comté Cheese Association
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The Comté Cheese Association – Comité Interprofessionnel de Gestion du Comté – was set up by decree on 11th June 1963. It represents all those who are involved in the production of Comté—dairy farmers, cheese-makers, affineurs—and carries out activities in all fields of interest to the trade, including research and technical issues, economics, information and communications, marketing, law and promotion of the Comté appellation, defense of local traditions and protection of the environment.

Carbonnier Communications represent the Comté PDO in the United States.

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