



Product Competition Winners Promotional Guide

2024



Congratulations!



Congratulations on being awarded a medal in one of our illustrious DIAA Dairy Product Competitions!

The DIAA hosts annual National and State dairy product competitions that offer entrants many commercial benefits that are contained later in this guide. The competitions are based on the entries' technical merit and are judged by industry-leading experts selected for their specific dairy product knowledge.

Carl Partridge
CEO

Guidelines: How to use medal artwork



As a Gold or Silver medal winner, you can use official DIAA images of the medals on your winning products' packaging.

These guidelines are for using the official DIAA Dairy Product Awards medals on winning products' packaging, your website and email sign-offs.

On request, the DIAA will provide Gold and Silver Medals artwork for on-pack and electronic promotion.

Only the products and brands awarded Gold and Silver may display the DIAA Gold or Silver Medal endorsement on the packaging or electronically.

Medal artwork is available electronically from the marketing team in JPEG and EPS formats.

marketing@diaa.asn.au

The PMS colours used in the medal are Reflex Blue, PMS 871 for the gold medal and PMS 877 for the silver medal. The gold and silver are metallic inks, but the CMYK and the RGB breakdowns will still give a good representation of the gold and silver.

Guidelines: How to use medal artwork



The medals should always sit on a white circle to give maximum impact, as demonstrated in the on-pack image on the next page.

The medals can be used as large as required, but no less than 25% of the medal size (as shown in the 'medal size' image), or less than 20mm in diameter (as shown in the 'minimum size' image), to keep type at a legible size.

If Gold or Silver is awarded in a State Divisional Competition, the medal must also include the Division name.

For website promotion, the above rules apply, and the image of the medal must be clearly and unambiguously linked to the product to which the medal has been awarded.

For e-mail signature sign-off promotion, the same rules apply as for website promotion.

Medal images



Publicising your win on socials



It's your win, celebrate it on social media!

Medal and trophy winners are encouraged to post their wins on their social media networks.

To help the DIAA help you gain traction, please use the hashtag #DIAAawards



@AustDairyFoods



@Dairy Industry Association of Australia
@Australian Dairy Foods



@AustDairyFoods
@DIAA Member Services



@Dairy Industry Association of Australia

Publicising your win in the papers



As the official DIAA magazine, “Australian Dairy Foods” will include stories on medal and trophy winners. The DIAA also aims to get publicity for medal and trophy winners in mainstream media.

On top of this, we strongly encourage you to contact your local or regional paper.

These publications love publishing stories about successes in the local community. If you’re not familiar with how to do this, here are a couple of tips:

- If you don’t know the name of a specific journalist, go to the newspaper’s website to get contact details; choose either the Chief of Staff (this person is the “information traffic controller” and generally directs what news goes into a publication), or a journalist or the editor.
- Keep your email short and to the point: explain that you’ve won a medal/trophy in a DIAA Dairy Product Competition, which is prestigious and highly sought after. It’s a good idea to also send a photo of you with your medal certificate or trophy and winning products – either holding them or in the background.

Keeping in touch



You are welcome to cc editor@diaa.asn.au in your email. Include a link to your website, give your phone number and say you'll be happy to have a quick chat or supply any further information they need. Most will prefer to do an interview over the phone, but you can also extend an invitation to the journo to visit you on-site for a tour of your operation.

Feel free to follow the newspaper up with a phone call.

NB: Companies not complying with these guidelines may be disqualified from entry in future competitions

If you have any questions about the use of the medal on packaging or on the web please contact the Competition Administrator at competitions@diaa.asn.au



Benefits of Award Competitions

It's not just about winning



- Some businesses and individuals, are hesitate to submit an awards program application because they doubt their chances of winning.
- Of course, winning a prestigious business award comes with significant value. However, simply participating can also be rewarding.
- The benefits of entering an award, even if you don't win, shouldn't be underestimated.

Brand awareness



- If your business is new or not particularly large, you may struggle to generate awareness of your brand in the eyes of your target audiences.
- This is a typical situation in which participating in an awards program can help. The program's organisers and sponsors will have processes in place for promoting the finalists and winners. When you add your own marketing and public relations activities to this, you can achieve exponential promotional results.
- Being a finalist in an award category that includes established brands among the other finalists can instantly increase the accepted status of your business. It gets your name in front of audiences that count. It's something worth telling the world about. The potential exposure is priceless.

Positioning



- Winning, or even just entering, a prestigious awards program can position your brand and your business as an industry leader in the eyes of customers, prospects and other stakeholders.
- It can give you an immediate competitive advantage over those competitors who fail to participate. The third-party endorsement of an awards program gives you credibility that they lack. When an independent arbiter – in the form of an awards judging panel – has reviewed, assessed and approved your work, other stakeholders (including customers and prospective customers) will likely view it as a seal of authority.
- The higher the prestige of the awards you enter, the more status you will attain in the process. This builds your target audience’s trust and confidence in your ability to deliver the products and services you sell. They will see your business as a leader in your industry or profession.
- Positioning is also important in terms of the award categories you enter. For example, if you’re in a company that wants to promote its innovation, it would make sense to enter the ‘innovation’ categories rather than others.
- Whether the strength of your business lies in customer service standards, product quality, innovation, sustainable practices or employee welfare, there’s an awards program and category that will enable you to position your company accordingly and stand out from your competitors.

Strategic alignment and direction



- The process of positioning your business in the market can also help your internal strategic alignment and direction. Once you articulate your company's strategic vision in your award submission, it becomes easier for you and your people to believe in, and act on, that vision.
- An award submission will require you to explain what you do in a clear, concise, logical way within a specific framework. It gives you a clearer perception of your company's strengths and weaknesses. It reveals your achievements from the previous year and helps you to set new goals for the coming year.
- The result (whether you win or not) can also be enlightening in terms of confirming or questioning your overall strategic direction.

Customer acquisition and retention



- The ultimate benefit of entering an awards program, generating brand awareness and enhancing your brand positioning is the potential boost to sales, customer acquisition, customer retention, revenue and profit.
- In an era where most buyers devote considerable time to detailed comparison shopping online, your business association with a prestigious award may be the factor that tips their purchasing decision in your favour.
- Winning an award (or even being a finalist) offers social proof to prospective customers that your business can deliver everything it promises. The leading companies in any industry attract prospects.
- This should make it much easier for your sales people to create new connections, build effective relationships, and win more business.
- Existing customers are also likely to be reassured that their original choice of supplier is justified. If you receive an award, they tend to feel they have also been awarded for a wise choice of supplier. They may be almost as proud as you are. The process reinforces their trust in you, your products and/or your services.

Customer acquisition and retention



- This should make it easier for your account managers to fulfil customer expectations.
- With increased customer acquisition and retention comes increased revenue and, potentially, profit. In fact, a study of over 600 quality corporate award winners showed they had 37 per cent higher sales growth and a 44 per cent higher share price return than their peers.
- Awards participation can, therefore, translate directly to an improvement in bottom-line results.

Networking



- Whether you win or not, simply participating in an awards program can be justified by the networking benefits.
- For a start, your application will be seen by at least one awards judge, likely to be a senior industry practitioner. This judge will get to know your company and its achievements in detail.
- If you are an award finalist and can attend the presentation event, you have a further chance to network with the judges (who also usually attend) and with other leading companies and individuals. This can be an excellent opportunity to establish relationships and forge invaluable alliances.
- It also enables you to observe your competitors at close quarters. And the better you know them, the less intimidating they are likely to appear.
- In addition, many awards events attract the most influential industry journalists, bloggers and other influencers. Developing a productive relationship with these individuals can prove invaluable for your business's reputation and success.
- It's one thing to contact people online. It's another to meet the same people, face-to-face, at an awards event where you and/or your business are among the stars.

Marketing costs



- Not many marketing or promotional tactics are as cost-effective as participating in an awards program.
- Paid advertising may require an outlay of many thousands of dollars. Media relations requires a long-term commitment to building relationships with journalists – or an expensive payment to a specialist PR firm. Content marketing and social media marketing take time to achieve your desired results.
- Awards program participation, however, can be relatively inexpensive – if you choose the right awards to enter. They also potentially offer a significant return within a relatively short time period, especially if you win.
- Another cost-efficiency to be derived from entering awards is that the content of your application can be repurposed in other marketing collateral, such as your website, articles, case studies, brochures, emails, newsletters and social media updates.

Recruitment



- If your business has ever had problems in attracting the best candidates for advertised positions, the recognition of an award win can help. Promoting your company as an ‘award-winning enterprise or product’ in job advertisements doesn’t hurt.
- The best people generally want to work with the best organisations. It looks impressive on their resumes. One way for them to identify the best potential employer is by seeing the awards they have won or have been in contention for.
- Not only will a better quality of candidates apply for your advertised positions, but outstanding candidates may begin approaching your business even when no position is formally available.
- Specific award category participation can also help you attract the types of candidates you value most. For example, winning an innovation award can help you attract innovation-minded candidates, or winning a diversity award can help you attract candidates from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Employee morale and retention



- When your company wins an award, your existing employees will likely experience a surge of pride and increased loyalty.
- Even the process of entering an awards program is a great team-building exercise. Writing your submission or choosing which products to submit may require brainstorming among internal stakeholders. Promoting your participation will involve input from your marketing and PR staff. You might also take some of your people to the awards presentation event.
- Then, especially if you win a team-based award, the shared elation is likely to be more valuable than any motivational meeting you could otherwise arrange. Co-workers will feel a sense of shared achievement and camaraderie. They are also likely to have a renewed respect for the contribution of the other team members.
- The ultimate internal result of an award win – and the recognition this may bring – is happier employees. And happier employees are known to be more productive. They can also serve as effective advocates of your brand.
- It's all part of building a winning company culture and an engaged workforce.

Product and/or service quality



- Once you've been through the process of crafting a winning submission for an awards program, you and your team are likely to be inspired to focus even more on the quality of your product or service offering described in the submission.
- When you describe the attributes of your brand and business in glowing terms, you'll thereafter want to live up to that description – through enhanced quality, greater innovation, a more intense attention to detail, improved service standards and better value.
- You'll be forced to compare your products and services directly with those of your competitors. This, in turn, will encourage you to improve all aspects of your business continually



**Dairy Industry
Association
of Australia**