

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Joan Behr
Voice/Text: (608) 669-3182



EVAN GRONG PROMOTED AT VALLEY QUEEN

Evan Grong has been promoted to the position of transportation and milk procurement manager at Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc. Grong will report to Jason Mischel, Valley Queen's vice president-sales and procurement. He will assume the duties held by Jody Kuper who will retire April 30 after 36 years of loyal service at Valley Queen.

Mischel said, "As Valley Queen's project manager since 2017, Evan has played a key role in managing all aspects of numerous projects including "VQ Next", the \$53 million expansion of our existing dairy processing plant, which will increase our processing capacity by 25 percent to more than 5 million pounds of milk a day."

Prior to Valley Queen, Grong was a business supervisor at Otter Tail Power Company, Big Stone City, S. Dakota, where he was responsible for the plant's administrative staff, capital, operating and maintenance budgets, financial forecasting and reporting, and plant payroll functions. From 2004-2013, Grong was the corporate accounts manager at Cliff Viessman, Inc., Gary, S. Dakota, where he handled all accounts payable and managed \$40 million in annual expenses for the transportation firm. He managed and oversaw improvement projects, fleet replacements, cost tracking and efficiency improvements.

"Evan's past experience in dairy logistics, combined with his strong project management skills, will serve him well as we implement more projects designed to increase the efficiency of our transportation network," explained Mischel.

A graduate of South Dakota State University, Brookings, Grong has a bachelor of arts degree in business economics and a minor in communications. He has been involved in the SD Leadership Academy since 2018. For the past 14 years, Grong has been an active member of the Canby, Minn., and Milbank Volunteer Fire Departments. He is a Milbank City Council member and serves on the Milbank Planning and Zoning Committee. Grong and his wife Angie live in Milbank with their two daughters Kalli, 10, and Kendra, 7.

Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Milbank, S. Dakota, was founded in 1929 by Alfred Nef and Alfred Gonzenbach. Valley Queen annually converts 1.5 billion pounds of milk into a variety of natural cheeses, dried lactose, WPC80 and anhydrous milk fat. These products are sold to some of the best-known food brands in the world. For more information, call (605) 432-4563 or visit www.vqcheese.com.