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WILL AREKLETT JOINS VALLEY QUEEN AS VICE PRESIDENT-FINANCE AND BUSINESS ANALYSIS

MILBANK, SD -- Will Areklett is the new Vice President-Finance and Business Analysis for Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc., South Dakota's largest dairy processing company. He is responsible for finance, accounting, business analysis and information technology. He assumed his new role on March 4.

An accomplished senior finance and operations professional, Areklett brings extensive experience in finance, operations management and information technology in both dairy/food processing and mid-size and larger professional services companies.

Doug Wilke, Valley Queen's CEO, said, "I am pleased to have Will join our growing company as a vice president. His passion for operational excellence and unwavering focus on driving shareholder value will help us identify key drivers of our business performance and profitability, support product pricing and analyze future growth opportunities for Valley Queen."

Most recently, Areklett was Vice President-Financial Planning & Analysis for Eagle Foods, Richfield, Ohio. Before that, he co-founded Paragon Capital Group, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, where he was President, Chief Financial Officer and Managing Director. Areklett has also worked for FBR Group, Beachwood, Ohio; KeyCorp/McDonald Investments, Cleveland, Ohio; and Arthur Andersen & Co., New York, N.Y.

Areklett graduated with distinction from Stanford University, Stanford, Calif., where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in quantitative economics. He received his Master of Management (MBA) from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, Ill.

Areklett and his wife, Heather, have been married for 24 years and will be making their home in Milbank. They have two children – Catherine, 19, and Eric, 16.

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.