

2026 JUDGING PANEL

Avril Molloy Founder, Irish School of Cheese
Carlos Yescas Cheese Judge, Educator and Author (UK)
Dónal Flynn Food and Wine Buyer, Fallon & Byrne
Emi Kinoshita Cheese Manager, Neal's Yard Dairy (UK)
Emma Young Cheese Consultant and Author (UK/France)
Finbar Deery Head of Retail, Sheridan's Cheesemongers *Head Judge*
Gráinne Whalley Managing Director, Traditional Cheese Co.
Johnny McDowell MBE Founder, Indie Fūde
Jon Thrupp Director, Mons Cheesemongers (UK)
Laurent Dubois, MOF Fromagerie Laurent Dubois (France)
Dr Matthew O'Callaghan Chair, Artisan Food Awards (UK)
Nick Bayne Head Cheesemonger, The Fine Cheese Co. (UK)
Patricia Michelson Founder, La Fromagerie (UK)
Patrick McGuigan Cheese Writer, Educator and Author (UK)
Tim Rowcliffe Founder, Tim Rowcliffe & Son (UK)

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CHEESE
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CÁIS

THE ASSOCIATION OF IRISH FARMHOUSE CHEESMAKERS
www.irishcheese.ie



Irish Cheese Awards 2026

CLOUGHJORDAN HOUSE
CO TIPPERARY

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026

AWARD WINNERS





Irish Cheese Awards 2026

— BEST IN CLASS WINNERS —

AWARDS PRESENTATION LUNCH
CLOUGHJORDAN HOUSE, CO TIPPERARY
WEDNESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER 2006

PRODUCER CLASSES

1 Best New Cheese St Tola Beag St Tola Cheese	2 Raw Milk Award Coolattin Mature Cheddar Coolattin Cheddar	3 Fresh / Soft Cheese Cáisóg Dingle Farm	4 Goats Milk Fresh/Soft Cnoc Liatroma Leitrim Hill Creamery
6 Soft/Semi Soft Bloomy Rind St Tola Karst St Tola Cheese	7 Washed Rind Cheese (Semi Soft) Washed Rind Gubbeen Gubbeen Farmhouse Products	8 Blue Cheese Young Buck Mike's Fancy Cheese	9 Smoked Cheese Smoked Provola Barbavilla Dairy
10 Flavour Added Killeen Goat with Fenugreek Killeen Farmhouse Cheese	11 Hard/Semi Hard < 6 months Killeen Goat Mature Killeen Farmhouse Cheese	12 Mature Hard Killeen Goat Extra Mature Killeen Farmhouse Cheese	13 Mature Farmhouse Cheddar Coolattin Mature Cheddar Coolattin Cheddar

RETAILER CLASSES

14 Creamery Cheddar Simply Better West Cork Co-op Smoked Drinagh Cheddar Dunnes Stores Produced by Bandon Vale	15 Retail Soft / Semi Soft Simply Better Irish Original Cream Cheese Dunnes Stores Produced by Killowen
16 Retail Hard /Semi Hard Irish Farmhouse Smoked Gubbeen Extra Mature Dunnes Stores Produced by Gubbeen Farmhouse Products	17 Retail Soft / Semi Soft Whisky Milleens Sheridans Cheesemongers Produced by Milleens

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

John and Sally McKenna

For their continued promotion of Irish farmhouse cheese and celebration of our cheesemakers

SUPREME CHAMPION 2026

Cnoc Liatroma

Leitrim Hill Creamery

An exceptional cheese with a delicate, perfect texture.