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Del Monte Foods Honors Top Procurement Suppliers with First Annual Supplier Excellence Awards

Inaugural awards recognize service excellence, partnership and innovation

San Francisco – November 4, 2010 – Demonstrating its focus on innovation and strong partnerships, Del Monte Foods Company’s (NYSE: DLM) procurement team today announced three recipients of its inaugural Supplier Excellence Awards. Suppliers Cargill Meat Solutions, Fort Dearborn Company and Nalco Company were each honored for demonstrating outstanding service, collaboration and partnership, and innovation in their work with Del Monte.

“Del Monte is dedicated to innovation and continuous improvement, and our partnerships with our suppliers are essential to supporting that work every day,” said Nils Lommerin, Del Monte Foods’ Chief Operating Officer. “Together, we work to find ways to increase productivity, reduce costs and most importantly, build upon Del Monte’s heritage of quality in everything we do.”

“We believe that Cargill Meat Solutions, Fort Dearborn and Nalco have each gone the extra mile in their partnership with us,” said Dave McLain, Del Monte Foods’ Vice President of Procurement. “We’re pleased to show our appreciation with our first-ever Supplier Excellence Awards.”

Recipients of Del Monte's 2010 Supplier Excellence Awards were nominated by a joint committee including representatives from both Del Monte's procurement team and its manufacturing plants. A total of 14 nominees were evaluated against a scorecard of criteria such as service, collaboration, ethical business conduct, problem solving, project management, commitment to cost management, use of technology, and innovation.

In addition to scoring high on award criteria, the three award recipients each demonstrated unique contributions to Del Monte's procurement efforts. For example, over the past two years, Nalco and Del Monte have worked together to remove nearly \$700,000 in operational costs from Del Monte's seven vegetable plants; Fort Dearborn has partnered with Del Monte to create strategic inventory management solutions; and Cargill Meat Solutions partnered closely with Del Monte to create an innovative and effective hedge strategy for key ingredients.

Award recipients will be honored with a Del Monte Foods 2010 Supplier Excellence Award honorary plaque and an awards dinner with Del Monte's senior management and the nominating representative.

About Del Monte Foods

Del Monte Foods is one of the country's largest and most well-known producers, distributors and marketers of premium quality, branded pet products and food products for the U.S. retail market, generating approximately \$3.7 billion in net sales in fiscal 2010. With a powerful portfolio of brands, Del Monte products are found in eight out of ten U.S. households. Pet food and pet snacks brands include *Meow Mix*[®], *Kibbles 'n Bits*[®], *Milk-Bone*[®], *9Lives*[®], *Pup-Peroni*[®], *Gravy Train*[®], *Nature's Recipe*[®], *Canine Carry-Outs*[®] and other brand names. Food product brands include *Del Monte*[®], *Contadina*[®], *S&W*[®], *College Inn*[®] and other brand names. The Company also produces and distributes private label pet products and food products. For more information on Del Monte Foods Company (NYSE: DLM) visit the Company's website at www.delmonte.com.

Del Monte. Nourishing Families. Enriching Lives. Every Day.[™]

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