



VITAL FARMS TO ESTABLISH NEW FACILITY IN SEYMOUR

Vital Farms has announced Seymour will be the site of its new facility.

Speaking to local leaders in Seymour on June 26, representatives of Vital Farms revealed expansion plans to construct its second world-class egg washing and packing facility to grow its supply chain for ethically produced foods nationwide.

"This is an exciting milestone for Vital Farms. We continue to invest in our robust and resilient supply chain to expand our network of family farmers and continue our mission to bring

ethical food to the table," said Russell Diez-Canseco, president and CEO of Vital Farms. "We are grateful for the outpouring of support we've received from the city of Seymour, Jackson County Industrial Development Corp. and Indiana Economic Development Corp., and we look forward to deepening our relationship and building an even stronger connection to southern Indiana and its surrounding communities in the years ahead."

Vital Farms, a publicly traded company (Nasdaq: VITL) based in Austin, Texas, has purchased a 72-acre site at the Eastside Industrial Park, where it will construct Egg Central Station Seymour to build upon key successes from the brand's first facility in Springfield, Missouri.

The new facility will enable Vital Farms to continue growing its pasture-raised egg business and create 150-plus jobs for the Jackson County/south central Indiana area in its first phase and is expected to help generate more than \$350 million in additional revenue for the brand as the company pushes to its 2027 target of \$1 billion in company revenues.

Putting down roots in Seymour for Vital Farms' second facility allows the brand to continue to expand its strong network of more than 300 family farms to support new farm development within a day's drive of the new facility. Vital Farms expects this new facility in its first phase will support approximately 165 family farmers producing the leading U.S. brand of pasture-raised eggs by retail dollar sales.

"Indiana boasts a rich tradition of agriculture, one that continues to grow and evolve thanks to the vision and commitment of companies like Vital Farms," said Ann Lathrop, chief strategy officer for Indiana Economic Development Corp. "This investment will not only result in increased economic activity, bolstering a statewide ecosystem that generates \$4.6 billion in annual exports, but it will support Hoosier farmers, accelerate rural development and support continued quality of place enhancements in Seymour and the surrounding south central region for years to come."

ECS Seymour will build upon the foundational key learnings and successes from Vital Farms' award-winning egg washing and packing facility in Springfield, which opened in 2017 and whose expansion achieved LEED Gold Certification in 2024. The facility will feature similar environmental stewardship goals incorporated into the site plans in addition to a flow-through design to improve safety and efficiency of the overall operation. Similar to its operation in Springfield, ECS Seymour will utilize industry-leading automation for processing equipment to improve overall production efficiency and quality and will employ a world-class crew to lead the way in bringing this new facility to life.

ECS Seymour is expected to break ground in mid-2025 and be fully operational at the beginning of 2027.



Vital Farms CEO Russell Diez-Canseco addresses the community during a press conference in June.

JACKSON COUNTY INDUSTRIES ESTABLISH NEW RECORD

Several Jackson County companies announced growth plans during the second quarter of 2024 and when combined with earlier announcements of expansions have established a new record high of promised investment.

At the April 22 meeting of the Seymour City Council, new investment plans from Aisin USA Mfg. Inc., Valeo, FosTech Inc. and Nippon Steel Pipe America were announced and abatements were granted.

Aisin USA announced plans to invest \$26.79 million at its two locations at the Eastside Industrial Park. No new jobs are planned, but the investment will help the company retain its current workforce of 1,895 associates. The investment is related to the Toyota announcement in April that the company is investing \$1.4 billion for production of EVs in Princeton.

Valeo announced plans to invest \$29.25 million in new equipment that will create up to 192 jobs and retain its current labor force of 1,365 at its Freeman Field Industrial Park locations.

In addition, FosTech will invest \$635,000 in new equipment and create two new jobs and retain its current labor force of 29, and Nippon Steel will invest \$923,000 in equipment to help retain its workforce of 439.

These announcements follow earlier abatement requests from Dicksons Inc. at Freeman Field to add more than 58,000 square feet of space to its facility and the news from Cummins to invest just over \$17.4 million in new investment as well as the \$100 million investment from Walmart for equipment upgrades at its distribution center in Seymour. Although the project was announced in 2023, work did not start until the beginning of this year.

These announcements have driven promised industrial investment in Jackson County to \$187.2 million so far in 2024, which exceeds the previous overall best year of promised investment of \$177.1 million in 2013.

JCIDC AWARDED MARKETING GRANT FROM DUKE ENERGY

Duke Energy awarded more than \$125,000 in grants to 26 local and regional economic development organizations, including JCIDC, to spur new jobs and investment in Indiana communities. The grants are through Duke Energy's Partnership Program, which funds marketing and strategic efforts to grow cities and towns.

"We believe that when our communities thrive, we thrive," said Erin Schneider, managing director of Midwest economic development for Duke Energy. "That's why we work hand in hand with local and regional economic development organizations to bring new jobs and capital investment to the communities we serve, and our Partnership Program is one example of that."

Grant dollars are used to support marketing campaigns and promotional materials, website development and updates, conference and trade show registrations and continuing education.

"Duke Energy continues to be one of our best partners in economic development," said Jim Plump, executive director of JCIDC. "They have supported Jackson County in numerous projects throughout many years."

Kylie Foster is Duke Energy's representative on the JCIDC board of directors.

In addition to a \$5,000 grant to JCIDC, Duke awarded a grant to South Central Indiana Economic Development, of which Jackson County was a founding member and includes 10 counties in the area.



During the recent Indiana Global Economic Summit in Indianapolis, Seymour Mayor Matt Nicholson, right, and Jim Plump, executive director of JCIDC, were invited to meet with Hideaki Ohmura, governor of Aichi Prefecture in Japan. Aichi Prefecture is home to a number of Japanese companies that have located in Indiana, including Aisin.



Tammy Hamp, administrative director at JCIDC, pictured here with her Leadership Jackson County team after presenting their project on graduation day May 30.

Tammy completed the 10-month leadership training program designed to develop and enhance community leadership. Class members are given a chance to learn about Jackson County, focusing on a new area each month. The larger group is broken into smaller groups to complete community projects. Tammy and her team collaborated with Healthy Jackson County's 5210 program to create videos promoting healthy habits to Jackson County elementary students.

GEARING UP AT ROBOTICS CAMP

Seymour Community School Corp.'s annual summer robotics camp, powered by JCIDC, was June 3 to 6 at Seymour Middle School.

Students who just completed grades 3 through 7 could take the two-day camp. One session was June 3 and 4, and another session was June 5 and 6. The camp was divided into grades 3 and 4 and grades 5, 6 and 7.

The high school robotics team also had summer camp that week.

On June 7, an open house gave the kids' family members and the public an opportunity to see what they learned and did, meet the coaches and try out the technology.



EXTERNSHIP HELPS TEACHERS HELP STUDENTS

On four dates in June, Jackson County educators had a chance to check out the local industrial scene through the annual Educator Externship.

Each week, around 10 were selected to tour two local industries to find out what they do and learn about employment opportunities. Educators are required to submit a report explaining how they will take their experience back to their school and share with their students.

Participating industries were Dicksons Inc., Lannett Co. Inc., Schneck Medical Center, Guardian Bikes, Cummins Seymour Engine Plant, Pet Supplies Plus Distribution LLC, Aisin Drivetrain Inc. and Walmart Distribution Center.

JCIDC COLLABORATES WITH SHS SUMMER CLASS

In June, Seymour High School gave incoming freshmen an opportunity to take the Preparing for College & Careers summer class. They can take it in the summer or during the school year.

This summer's class ran weekdays from June 3 to 28 and was taught by Kelly Reasoner and Laura Handloser. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week, JCIDC partnered with SHS to provide programming on various topics. "It was exciting being part of this program in my first year with JCIDC," said Zach Spicer, Workforce Partnership coordinator and social media director. "There are a lot of great opportunities for local high school students, and JCIDC is proud to be a partner in some of these initiatives."

We brought in guests to talk about interviewing skills and finance and conducted entrepreneur and Jackson County graduate panels. Also, the students got to visit the school's consumer science department, Owl Manufacturing lab, ag-science facility and construction trades area, and they toured a local industry, Pet Supplies Plus Distribution LLC, and visited the local hospital, Schneck Medical Center.

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