

From: "jaltemus@farms.coop%inter2" <jaltemus@farms.coop>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 09/01/2005 03:41 PM CDT
Date Sent: 09/01/2005 03:41:41 CDT
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FirstName: Jim

LastName: Altemus

Address1: Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative

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City: Belleville

State: Illinois

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Question1:

Question2:

Question3:

Question4:

Question5: Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative supports development programs that bring economic health and vitality to rural America.

The 200 farm families that make up Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative operate the newest pork processing facility in Illinois. Operating the plant in Rantoul, Illinois helps ensure the strong economic health of the local, small-town economy; the employees and the owners. Agri-businesses, through out the state, supply the goods and services needed to produce over 3-million pounds of fresh pork each week.

Since January 18, 2004 the facility, which is 100% farmer owned, has been processing pork raised on member farms. This successful example illustrates the power that results when government becomes a partner with citizens that are capable, motivated, determined and resourceful.

With the help of the Champaign, Illinois office of the USDA and the rural development Business and Industry Loan Guarantee program, Meadowbrook Farms was able to open a processing plant that is unlike any other facility. USDA support enabled Meadowbrook Farms to gather world-class technologies from around the world and assemble them in a small town in the middle of the Illinois prairie.

Cutting-edge computer programs originated in Germany. The latest harvesting technology and equipment came from The Netherlands. Meat cutting knowledge, design and installation came from French Quebec, Canada.. Architecture and project design came from Atlanta, GA and the most progressive humane animal handling system design and instruction came from Colorado.

By integrating world-class technologies, Meadowbrook offers several hundred employees the opportunity to combine their meat-cutting skills with the latest information services programs and applications; computer controlled, automated equipment, cutting edge Internet and Extranet services. Our commitment to skill-enhancing education and our policy to promote from within enable employees to enjoy a stimulating professional life while also living and raising their families in rural America.

James Burke
President & CEO
Meadowbrook Farms Cooperative
618-222-1188

Question6:

