



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Prairie Farms Investing \$4 Million to Expand Somerset Bottling Plant**

*Expansion will bring Efficiencies and Additional Jobs*

**EDWARDSVILLE, IL.** (October 4, 2018) – Today Prairie Farms announced it is investing \$4 million dollars to expand its Somerset, Kentucky fluid bottling plant. The expansion will bring increased efficiencies that will add production capacity and an additional ten jobs. Several construction jobs will also be supported during the construction phase of the project.

The expansion will feature upgrades to the cooler house portion of the plant to allow for quicker load outs and additional volume capacity. Construction on the 6,000 square foot addition to the plant is already underway and expected to be completed by summer of 2019.

Prairie Farms' decision to expand the Somerset plant was due in part to incentives offered by the City of Somerset and the State of Kentucky as part of strategies that focus on preserving and expanding Kentucky's job base. The plant currently employees approximately 200 people.

"We're excited about this expansion and what it means for the people of Somerset as well as Prairie Farms," said Mike Chandler, General Manager, Prairie Farms Dairy Somerset, KY Division. The city and state have been very helpful to us on making this project a reality."

"We're very pleased and proud of the expansion, said Somerset Mayor, Eddie Girdler. "Prairie Farms has been a long standing partner of our community so we're happy to be able to work with them to expand the facility and create additional job opportunities."

"I appreciate Prairie Farms and all they have done to be a great big part of the community," said Kentucky State Senator, Richard Girdler. "I'm proud to be able to help with incentives that help the business and the dozens of dairy farmers that bring their milk here for processing. I'm tickled and proud that we're able to do that."

Prairie Farms Somerset has been part of the community for 67 years and is a proud supporter of many community and school events. It currently supports milk processing from 57 dairy farms across the State of Kentucky. [Premium whole chocolate milk](#) produced at the plant was awarded the Grade A Grand Championship at the 2018 [World Dairy Expo Championship Dairy Product Contest](#).



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**Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.** is one of the largest and most successful dairy cooperatives in the Midwest, with over 800 farm families, 6000 employees, 44 manufacturing plants, over 100 distribution facilities and annual sales of over \$3 billion. Prairie Farms is a nationally recognized leader in the dairy industry and is known for setting the standard for milk flavor innovations and producing award-winning milk, cheese, and cultured dairy products. With headquarters in Edwardsville, Ill., the Prairie Farms distribution footprint covers over 30 percent of the United States; products are available in grocery chains, mass merchandiser stores, club stores, convenience stores, dollar stores, drug stores, schools, food service outlets and warehouse distribution centers. Prairie Farms charitable giving program, [Our Caps, Your Cause](#), supports a variety of non-profit organizations. [Prairiefarms.com](http://Prairiefarms.com)



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