

## VINELAND, NJ: A GREAT PLACE FOR FOOD PROCESSING

Selecting the right location is a key component of any strategic business model. Companies have to look for the right blend of resources, workforce, and business climate. The City of Vineland, NJ offers these advantages and more to food production, processing, and related industries looking for a place to expand or relocate.

Home to some of the world's most recognizable brands, including Tyson Foods, Archer Daniels Midland, and Hanover Foods, Vineland food processing operations produce a variety of products, from Italian meatballs, Philly cheese steaks, and European pastries, to soups, foodservice bases, stews, and gravies.

At more than 69 square miles, it is the largest city in New Jersey, with a unique mix of urban and rural settings.

"Vineland offers both an affordable business location and an excellent quality of life," Mayor Anthony Fanucci said. "Our accessibility to major markets, city-owned municipal utilities, support services, state and local incentives, and competitive operating costs provide the necessary ingredients for a healthy and profitable business climate."

Vineland offers a prime location between New York and Washington, DC, and easy access to a network of major roadways within a day's drive of 40% of the U.S. population. With competitive rail service, several well-known third-party logistics and cold storage providers operating from the city, and air freight service and port facilities just a short drive away, food processing companies considering Vineland have cost-effective domestic and international supply chain options.

For companies doing business internationally, FlexXray recently opened a temperature-controlled, USDA- and FDA-registered inspection facility in Vineland that provides the fastest, safest, and most accurate foreign material inspection and QA hold resolution services.

"Our new facility in Vineland was designed in partnership with Americold, an industry leader in cold chain, to provide increased capacity and reduce freight costs for customers and facilities in the Northeast portion of the country," said FlexXray Vice President Chris Keith.

Vineland Economic Development Director Sandy Forosisky said business development is a "collaborative effort."

"The Department of Economic Development offers what we like to call, 'Business Concierge Service,' which is designed to make expansion and relocation proj-

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**Vineland Department of Economic Development**  
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Artist rendering of the new 68,000 square-foot Maestri d'Italia, Inc. production facility to be constructed in Vineland, NJ

ects easier as we help guide developers smoothly through the permitting process," Forosisky said.

Most recently, Italy-based Rovagnati opened its first overseas production location in Vineland. The 64,000 square-foot facility, with plans to expand even further, supplies more than 2,000 retail stores with premium Italian specialty meats. According to company officials, the Vineland facility "is capable of preserving and combining Italian quality and tradition with the most innovative technological practices to ensure we always meet the highest standards with our products."

Existing operations are also growing. Trucco, a globally sourced, nationwide distributor of fresh produce, is nearing completion on a 67,000 square-foot expansion to their Vineland distribution center.

City officials are currently working with representatives from another imported meat distributor, Maestri d'Italia Inc, on a new, two-phased project. Phase One will include construction of a 68,394 square-foot production facility, and Phase Two will add an additional 69,498 square feet.

"Maestri d'Italia Inc, will be a perfect complement to our existing food processing operations," Fanucci said. "The business philosophy of building strong, long-lasting relationships is the model we

like to follow. We are thrilled that they have selected Vineland to become a hub for their United States distribution."

For more information, visit <https://www.vinelandcity.org/>.

## MISSOURI FOOD, BEVERAGE INDUSTRY: INVESTMENT MAGNET

Nestled in the center of America's agricultural heartland, Missouri stands as a beacon of opportunity for companies in the food and beverage industry.

Missouri is attracting significant investments from both established players and newcomers. With the second-highest number of farms in the nation and a robust \$94 billion agriculture industry, Missouri is emerging as a prime destination for companies looking to expand and thrive in the competitive food and beverage market. Industry leaders such as American Foods Group (AFG), Chick-fil-A Supply, and Principe Foods have recognized the strategic advantages of setting up shop in Missouri.

AFG is currently building a new \$800 million state-of-the-art beef processing facility in Warren County, MO. AFG is family owned and employs more than 4,500 people across the U.S. The company evaluated multiple locations for its newest facility, where it plans to process 2,400 cattle per day.

"When AFG first approached our team about this project via the Harvest Group, we knew it would be extremely competitive," said Subash Alias, CEO of Missouri Partnership. "However, we were confident Missouri's history in food processing, strengths in agriculture, and our central location would help us win AFG for our state. AFG is a leading beef processing company with an impeccable reputation. I'm looking forward to watching them grow here in Missouri."

Chick-fil-A Supply is opening a new market distribution center in Maryland Heights, MO.

The company is a subsidiary of Chick-fil-A Inc., a leading restaurant chain with more than 2,600 restaurants across the U.S. The company is investing \$16 million in the new facility, which is its fourth location in the U.S.

"Our newest investment in the St. Louis area provides us the opportunity to grow our business and uniquely serve our franchise operators, licensees, and their teams across the region," said Josh Grote, Executive Director of Chick-fil-A Supply. "It's exciting for us to expand our operation and create jobs that we know will attract exceptional talent from Missouri's diverse and skilled workforce."



American Foods Group breaks ground in September 2022 on its new facility in Missouri. The company plans to be fully operational by the end of 2024.

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