



**Press Release: For Immediate Release**

## **Rural King Cites Exceptional Business Climate for Expansion in Pike County**

**Waverly, Ohio: May 19, 2020** — Rural King today announced it will expand its distribution center operations in Waverly, creating 75 new jobs in this newest expansion. Headquartered in Mattoon, Ill., Rural King operates more than 120 farm and home stores in 13 states.

The Waverly distribution facility opened in 2015 and currently operates with approximately 370 associates at the location. This facility services a majority of Rural King stores, fulfills e-commerce orders, and completes assembly for Rural King tractors. Rural King chose Ohio for its work ethic and talent in the region. Ohio's logistical advantages also help the company reach a broad area of the Midwest and Southeastern US.

"We're excited to continue expanding our distribution center and adding more jobs into the community here in Waverly," said Rural King CEO, Alex Melvin. "This facility has helped us to streamline our operations and increase our supply chain efficiency, and increased space will allow our company and this community to continue improving."

For this expansion, Rural King has obtained and will occupy an additional 800K square feet of the former Mill's Pride building adjacent to their current operation. This project will put three vacant buildings back into productive reuse. Rural King will invest nearly \$17 million at the site, which includes significant improvements to the building.

JobsOhio and OhioSE worked collaboratively with Rural King representatives on the project, which will receive a \$400,000 JobsOhio Economic Development Grant. Pike County Community and Economic Development, JEDISO, the Village of Waverly, and Pike County Community Action also each assisted in the project.

"Rural King has had a tremendous positive impact on Waverly, and we and our partners at JobsOhio are thankful to have been part of their growth story," said OhioSE Project Manager, Taylor Stepp. "Economic development efforts have repopulated the Mill's Pride campus bringing new revenue, tax dollars, and opportunities to Pike County."

"Rural King has been a great asset to Pike County and the region. We are excited about the expansion and the creation of more jobs for Pike County," said Gary Arnett, Development Director of the Pike County Office of Community and Economic Development. "And we would like to thank JobsOhio and OhioSE for all of their support."

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**JobsOhio** is a private nonprofit economic development corporation designed to drive job creation and new capital investment in Ohio through business attraction, retention, and expansion. The organization also works to seed talent production in its targeted industries and to attract talent to Ohio through [Find Your Ohio](#). JobsOhio works with six regional partners across Ohio: Dayton Development Coalition, Ohio Southeast, One Columbus, REDI Cincinnati, Regional Growth Partnership, and Team NEO. Learn more at [www.jobsohio.com](http://www.jobsohio.com). Follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

**Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE)** is the JobsOhio Network Partner for southern, eastern, and southeastern Ohio, providing economic development work and resources in 25 rural counties; they are the newest and geographically the largest of the six regions across the state. OhioSE partners closely with regional development districts, local economic development offices, state agencies, and other entities to expand, retain, and attract businesses in the counties they serve. Learn more at [OhioSE.com](http://OhioSE.com).

**Rural King:** In 1960, Rural King started as a small, family-owned farm store in Mattoon, IL. The passion and dedication of its associates pushed the company further than ever imagined. Now, the company is one of the fastest growing family-owned companies in America and has added over 120 stores in a thirteen-state area. All store locations have a large variety of products, such as livestock supplies, clothing, hardware, and compact RK tractors from 19-74HP at select locations. Rural King is proud to provide all customers with the lowest prices every day, free coffee and popcorn in every store, and a friendly smile. To find more information about Rural King Supply and the products they carry, visit [Ruralking.com](http://Ruralking.com) or a Rural King store near you.

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