



**Press Release:** For Immediate Release

**Walnut Creek Foods Announces Plans to Construct a 17,000 Sq. Ft. Building Addition; \$1.7 Million Investment at Holmes County Manufacturing and Distribution Site**

**Millersburg, OH: August 26, 2020** — Walnut Creek Foods, a leader in food distribution, manufacturing, retail and logistics, located in Millersburg, announced today a plan to invest \$1.7 million in a new 17,000 sq. ft. building addition at its Holmes County manufacturing and distribution site. Walnut Creek Foods employs 280 individuals in Ohio. The company serves over 2,000 stores with 3,000 quality food items in over fifteen states from its distribution center located in Holmes County and operates two retail locations.

The company has experienced significant growth since Mark Coblentz started the business in 1977 as a “cheese route.” According to Julian Coblentz, the company’s COO, “We operate in the food industry, but we’re really in the people business, and our growth comes from the dedication of our team members and customers.” Walnut Creek Foods plans to start construction on the building addition during the summer with the goal of having it completed by the end of the year. The investment will position the company to continue to support the expansion of out-of-state business from the Holmes County facility. Officials project 13 new jobs will be created from the investment resulting in nearly \$500,000 in incremental wages.

The company has acquired local manufacturing businesses and added to its own manufacturing and distribution network in recent years. “The focus of our growth plan, both organic and through acquisitions, has been to make life better for our customers,” stated Julian Coblentz. Last year Walnut Creek Foods acquired Cloverdale Warehouse in Wisconsin to serve customers in the upper Midwest. The acquisition of the Cloverdale Warehouse represented the company’s first ‘bricks and mortar’ distribution center outside of Ohio.

“Walnut Creek Foods is a growing, Ohio-based company, so helping them invest and add jobs in the local community rather than out-of-state was the goal,” said Mike Jacoby, OhioSE president. “The Holmes County Economic Development Council brought this opportunity forward to OhioSE, and by working in partnership with the local development professional JobsOhio, the company chose to grow in Ohio.”

The JobsOhio-OhioSE team worked closely with Walnut Creek Foods representatives on the project, which will receive a \$50,000 JobsOhio Economic Development Grant to assist with building construction costs.

“We appreciate OhioSE’s hard work on this project and their advocacy on behalf of Walnut Creek Foods,” said Mark Leininger, Executive Director of the Holmes County Economic Development Council. “We are grateful for JobsOhio’s support and are pleased with its recognition of the value of investing in the growth of small businesses,” Leininger added.

**Contact:** Matt Keeler, Walnut Creek Foods: 330.893.3895, Matt Englehart, JobsOhio Communications Manager: 614.300.1152 and [englehart@jobsohio.com](mailto:englehart@jobsohio.com) or Heather Church, OhioSE Director of Marketing: [heather@ohiose.com](mailto:heather@ohiose.com).

**Walnut Creek Foods:** Walnut Creek Foods, founded in 1977, is a family-owned food distributor and manufacturer located in Holmes County, Ohio. Through numerous acquisitions and organic growth, the company has become a leading supplier of quality foods to markets and grocery stores throughout the Midwest. Walnut Creek offers an ever expanding line of products including bakery, bulk food, cheese, dairy, deli, frozen foods, grocery, and meat. With operations based in Walnut Creek, OH and Curtiss, WI, the company is well-positioned to continue offering quality homestyle foods at reasonable prices that help their customers succeed in the marketplace.

**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 Economic Development](#), [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).

**Holmes County Economic Development Council (HCEDC)** was formed in 2004 by a group of community leaders to promote business investment in Holmes County. Since its formation, HCEDC has evolved and refined its offering of services, but its objective remains the same – to improve the quality of life for Holmes County citizens by supporting strategic business growth and investment to create living wage jobs. Learn more by contacting Mark Leininger, Executive Director at [mleininger@hcedc.com](mailto:mleininger@hcedc.com) or visit [hcedc.com](http://hcedc.com).

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