



**Press Release:** For Immediate Release

### **Rural King to Bring North American Import and Expand Operations in Waverly, Ohio**

**Waverly, Ohio: October 6, 2021** — Rural King, ‘America’s Farm and Home Store’, based in Mattoon, Illinois, today announced plans to expand current operations in southern Ohio, alongside JobsOhio, Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE), the Ohio Development Services Agency, and Pike County Economic & Community Development. The family-owned business will invest more than \$33 million to purchase and renovate the Jackson Building, a 1 million-square-foot warehouse located outside of Waverly in the Zahn’s Corner Industrial Park, along with the purchase of new machinery and equipment.

Company officials say 200 new jobs will be created with the expansion of operations in Pike County. Rural King currently employs over 500 non-retail employees in its Waverly operations. The company will be expanding their distribution capacity and RK Tractor manufacturing operations in Pike County. This expansion will also make southern Ohio the home to Rural King’s North American Import Facility. Rural King currently operates 128 stores in thirteen states.

“We are appreciative of the strong support we have received from JobsOhio, Pike County, the City of Waverly, OhioSE, and SODI since establishing operations in the County in 2015”, Blake Pierce, Director of Real Estate for Rural King indicated. “The continued support from State and Local authorities is meaningful for undertaking and operating the proposed project, but several other items must be addressed in the coming months for the project to move forward. We are confident this will be accomplished.”

Mr. Pierce also stated, “The solid workforce and work ethic of Pike County employees has contributed greatly to our success and we feel will do so for this expansion, as well.”

JobsOhio and OhioSE worked collaboratively with Rural King on the expansion of operations in Waverly providing an \$800K Revitalization Grant. The JobsOhio Revitalization Program offers loans and grants to companies to redevelop underutilized properties and put them back into productive use. This funding lessens the financial risk and increases the speed at which sites are redeveloped. Today the company was awarded a Job Creation Tax Credit by the Ohio Tax Credit Authority. The Job Creation Tax Credit will grant the company benefits based on the new payroll they create in Pike County.

“Since locating to Pike County several years ago, Rural King has continued to reinvest in southern Ohio due to our excellent distribution channels and skilled, available workforce,” said OhioSE President, Mike Jacoby. “This project will bring Rural King to 715 well-paying jobs in Pike County, which will make the company one of the largest employers in the OhioSE region.”

Waverly is located in Pike County, Ohio. Pike County is classified by the Appalachian Regional Commission as “distressed” with a June, 2021 unemployment rate of 7.4%.

“Rural King’s entry to Pike County has been a boon for Pike County,” Gary Arnett, the Director of the Pike County Office of Community and Economic Development said. “Rural King located in Waverly in 2015 and now will occupy nearly 3,000,000 square feet and employ hundreds. We are very thankful for

the partnership with Rural King, OhioSE, JobsOhio, the Joint Economic Development Initiative of Southern Ohio (JEDISO) and the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI) to help make this happen.”

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**Rural King** started as a small, family-owned farm store in Mattoon, IL in 1960. 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).

**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).

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