



Fall 2007

BREWSTER CHEESE OPENS PLANT IN RUPERT, IDAHO

Ohio-based Brewster Dairy, Inc. has purchased the former Kraft Foods cheese operation and will be the exclusive producer and supplier of skim barreled cheese (orange colored) to Kellogg Foods for their Cheez-It Crackers at this facility. Brewster's Rupert plant will be called Brewster West.

Brewster announced their plans to purchase the Kraft Food's Rupert facility just days after Kraft shutdown. When Kraft ended production in December 2006, Brewster began upgrading the facility and adding new equipment so production could begin in Fall 2007.

"We're thrilled to have Brewster here," said Sherri Miles, Rupert Community and economic development director. "It's exciting to have a similar manufacturing business coming in right behind Kraft," she said. "We compliment the way Kraft has handled shutting down their operations and their efforts to facilitate getting a company back into that plant as quickly as possible."

Miles is pleased with the caliber of Brewster as a company. "They are wonderful to work with and I am certain they will be every bit the community player that Kraft has been." While Brewster's president is from Idaho, it is unclear if that played any part in their decision to open a facility here.

Company officials have not yet announced the number of employees they will hire or the level of production.

Miles worked for several months worked closely with Kraft and Brewster to bring Brewster here. "For any community Rupert's size, to have a world-class cheese manufacturer move in is a real benefit" she said. "Over the years, the community – in particular area dairy farmers – will greatly benefit from Brewster's new Rupert operation."

More than 400 dairy farms provide milk to the plants in Ohio and Illinois, which operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and produce about 85 million pounds of Swiss cheese a year. Brewster is the nation's largest manufacturer of all natural Swiss cheese and has been in operation 40 years.