



401 South Main Street, Westby, WI 54667

For Immediate Release

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Shovels In The Ground For Expansion At Westby Cooperative Creamery

Sept. 29, 2011 (Westby, WI) --- Ground was broken on Sept. 28, 2011, by the Board of Directors of Westby Cooperative Creamery, for a new Distribution Center and Offices located on Hwy. 14/61, just northwest of the namesake city of Westby, WI. The Distribution Center will total 10,000 square feet of refrigerated warehouse space for manufactured dairy food products, and the Offices will contain 6000 square feet of space for business operations.

According to Pete Kondrup, General Manager, "This new Distribution Center is the result of continuous growth in our business over the past five years. Our production and sales volumes have steadily increased for Westby Brand products, private label manufacturing, and food service and ingredients distribution.

We are wall-to-wall within the physical confines of our current milk-receiving and dairy foods production facility on Main Street in Westby. Property and roadway limitations on Main Street, and the need for increased product manufacturing capacity, meant that a new Distribution Center was needed as a separate facility to better serve our customers."

"We explored every option, and could not make things work by adding on to our current creamery structures," says Kondrup. "By locating finished product warehousing, customer shipments, and business offices to a new facility, we will be able to further improve production efficiencies and expand production within our Main Street plant. With growth comes jobs, and we expect to add several new positions at our production facility and new Distribution Center."

The Distribution Center is expected to be completed by January, 2012, and will include 1000 pallet spaces in five-high racking. Wieser Brothers General Contractors, Inc., in La Crescent, MN, will supervise overall construction. Financing is provided by Associated Bank, with financial assistance from the City of Westby TIF District #3.

Mark Levendoski, Board President, states: "Our 100 year history as a cooperative of family dairy farms is rooted here in Westby. This is where our forefathers built for the future, and this is where we are building for the future. Our membership has been growing, just as our business has been growing, and together we will grow into our second century of producing the highest quality dairy food products from the milk supplied by our member-owners.

This new Distribution Center is a significant capital investment in our business, and can occur now because we have built a solid financial foundation on a track record of growth. The location will be easily accessible for all vehicle traffic, and be highly visible within our community. We hope it will be another source of pride for our members and employees. And, the property has historically been associated with our cooperative as the Ekern family farm; former and longtime members of Westby Cooperative Creamery."

Westby Cooperative Creamery is the only producer of Cottage Cheeses in the state of Wisconsin, and also manufactures Sour Creams, Dairy Dips, Yogurts, Cream Cheeses, Hard Cheeses, Cheese Curds, Butter and Organic dairy food products.



Photo by Dorothy Jasperson

On Sept. 28, 2011, the Board of Directors of Westby Cooperative Creamery broke ground on a new Distribution Center and Offices in Westby, WI. (Left to right) Pete Kondrup (General Manager), Loren Oldenburg (Board Vice President), Chuck Fremstad, Tom Schaub, Mark Levendoski (Board President), Kay Yanske (Board Secretary), Ralph Peterschein, and Ryan Dunnum.



Photo by Dorothy Jaspersen

The Board of Directors and other member-owners of Westby Cooperative Creamery at the groundbreaking event.



Photo by Dorothy Jaspersen

Westby Cooperative Creamery employees, local representatives, and members of the construction firm participate in the groundbreaking ceremony.



Architectural rendering of the new Distribution Center and Offices of Westby Cooperative Creamery.

The refrigerated warehouse will total 10,000 square feet and 1000 pallet spaces in five-high racking. The office area is 6000 square feet for business operations staff. The milk receiving and dairy foods production facility, and Cheese Store, will remain on Main Street in downtown Westby, WI.