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AMERICAN FOODS GROUP TO EXPAND GIBBON, NEBRASKA PACKING PLANT COMPANY WILL ADD 50 JOBS

FOR RELEASE July 15, 2008: The American Foods Group announced today the expansion of employment at the company's Gibbon Packing plant located in Gibbon, Nebraska. The plant presently employees over 500 and with the expansion, total employment will surpass 550. The Gibbon plant specializes in kosher processing standards. This expansion will allow the company to boost production to meet the growing needs of that market.

“American Foods Group has been in operating in Gibbon 3 years and we are pleased to announce our intentions to expand production at the plant. While we don't presently plan any capital expansion, we have purchased 3.5 acres of land adjacent to the plant in order to give us options for the future” said Wes Hodge, vice president of operations at Gibbon Packing.

The 50 new jobs are in various positions in the plant and start at \$11.80 per hour and those working in de-boning earn over \$17 per hour with jobs in production maintenance ranging from \$13 to \$18 per hour. The company provides health, dental and vision insurance in addition to paid vacation, life insurance and a 401K plan.

“We are very pleased with the decision of Gibbon Packing to increase employment at a time of uncertainty in the American economy” said Monte Standage, mayor of Gibbon. “Gibbon Packing is a good corporate citizen of our community and we are pleased their business continues to do well” concluded Mayor Standage.



The Gibbon Packing plant was constructed in 1971 and has gone through several refinements and expansions since that time and is today a modern, state-of-the-art plant. Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) owned the plant for a period of time and donated it to Gibbon Housing Development Corporation. Rosen Diversified, Inc. then purchased the plant and later merged with American Foods Group in 2005. The fact that the plant operates on kosher standards is somewhat unique in Nebraska and means companies specializing in kosher foods can purchase their products.

Representing Buffalo County and Kearney, the Buffalo County Economic Development Council (BCED) has been in existence for 22 years and provides economic and industrial development services for existing and new primary employers. The Council is overseen by a 15 member board of directors who's chairman for 2008 is Dale Pohlmann and vice chairman is Tom Henning. Deb VanMatre of Gibbon is on the board as is Gibbon City Manager Chris Rector as an ex-officio member of the board. More information, including existing buildings and industrial/commercial land sites in Gibbon and Buffalo County can be found at www.ci.kearney.ne.us.

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