

Date: September 22, 2010

Fat Man's Beef Jerky to Break Ground

Hagerman—The Town of Hagerman and Fat Man's Beef Jerky have announced the groundbreaking of a new beef jerky facility for Fat Man's Beef Jerky at the Hagerman Industrial Park. The new 6000 square foot food manufacturing facility will be located on the recently completed 80 acre Industrial Park.

Hagerman Mayor Cliff Waide said, "The industrial park project and Fat Man's facility is now truly a reality after years of planning and working". He went on to say, "that the project three years in the development stage is a sterling example of private, state and federal cooperation to expand existing business, job creation and economic adjustment". Hagerman once known as the "Alfalfa Capitol of the World" lost thousands of irrigated farm acres when area farmers sold water rights to the State of New Mexico as a part of the efforts to resolve the Pecos River Compact with Texas. Later, additional water rights were sold to the US Bureau of Reclamation to provide habitat for the Pecos Blunt Nose minnow. The Mayor went on to say that with the loss of farming there led to a major loss of jobs and revenues for the Hagerman community.

The Hagerman Industrial Park and Fat Man's Beef Jerky facility are projects that received financial assistance from the US Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration, US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, New Mexico Legislative Capital Outlay Program, New Mexico Economic Development Department and the New Mexico Finance Authority. Area Legislators led by Senator Tim Jennings and Representative Candy Spence-Ezzell were instrumental in the acquisition of State Legislative funding.

Pedro Garza, Austin Regional Director of the Economic Development Administration said, "It is wonderful when, our agency, EDA has the opportunity to help a community like Hagerman get back on its feet, create new jobs and expand a business that is locally owned and has been locally grown and is impacting regional markets".

Secretary Fred Mondragon, NM Economic Development Department said, "Bringing jobs and economic development to rural New Mexico has been a priority of our Department, and we are pleased to have helped with this project." "We are excited and happy to finally have a new home with the space we need to continue to grow" said Rick Robey, owner of Fat Man's Jerky. Mr. Robey went on to comment on the need for the new facility to service their growing market in the region and private label business.

GC Engineering of Roswell designed the Industrial Park and Constructor's Inc from Carlsbad built the Industrial Park. White Sands Construction of Alamogordo will be the contractor building the Fat Man's Jerky building. Steve Newby Architects and Associates are the designers of Fat Man's new building. Ground breaking will take place on Monday, September 27th at 10:30 am.

###