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Tyson Foods Emporia Plant Adds Production Line, Jobs

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Tyson Foods, Inc. recently concluded a line expansion at its prepared foods plant in Emporia. The expansion, which cost an estimated \$3 million, created an additional line that will make a product for a national foodservice customer. About 16 jobs were created as a result of the project.

"We welcome this investment by Tyson Foods," said Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback. "In addition to creating jobs, this expansion solidifies the important role Kansas plays in providing food to the nation. I congratulate Tyson on this business expansion."

The project consisted of building a new room to house the line, modifications to existing refrigeration and the installation of equipment. The Emporia plant is one of Tyson Foods' specialty meat plants; it produces value-added raw cuts of beef, pork and chicken for food service and retail — both branded and private label.

To assist Tyson Foods with expansion in the state, the Kansas Department of Commerce helped provide qualified tax credits for new capital investment and training credits to help the company build and maintain its workforce.

"We're glad we can make products to meet our customer's needs," said Mike Fiehler, complex manager. "Any time we invest in our facility, it's an investment in Kansas and Emporia. We want to thank the Kansas Department of Commerce for all they did to help make the expansion project possible."

IBP, inc., which was acquired by Tyson Foods in 2001, purchased the Emporia plant from Armour & Co. in 1967. After extensive renovations, it started up in May 1969. The plant was converted into a specialty meats facility in 2008 and today about 950 people work there. Payroll for fiscal 2013, the most recent full year available, was more than \$31.5 million.

"We're pleased to be part of this community and fortunate to have such a great workforce to support our plant operations," Fiehler said.



Tyson Foods