



# FOOD PROCESSING/AGRI-BUSINESS

## LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation

304 N. Townline Road, Suite 2 | LaGrange, Indiana 46761  
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### FOOD PROCESSING COMPANIES

- Deutsch Kase Haus/Guggisberg Cheese
- Gunthorp Farms
- Lennard Ag Co.
- Lord's Grain
- Sherman Farms
- Snax-in-Pax
- South Milford Grain
- Abbott Laboratories (Sturgis, MI - < 3 miles away)

### INCENTIVES

- Indiana Economic Development Corporation
  - EDGE and HBI tax credits
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Technology Fund
  - Small Business Innovation Research Initiative
  - Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit
- LaGrange County
  - CEDIT
  - TIF
  - Major Moves
  - LaGrange County Investment Fund
- Cities and Towns
  - Tax Abatements

### WAGES

Occupation	Average Wage
General Laborer	\$30,597
Maintenance and Repair Worker	\$42,744
Production Manager/Foreman	\$64,305
Packers and Packager	\$27,352
Quality Control Inspector/Tester	\$36,088
Heavy Equipment/Forklift Operator	\$33,530
Material Handler	\$33,363
Shipping, Receiving and/or Traffic Clerk	\$33,675
Quality Monitor	\$32,864

Source: Wage and Benefit of 5 County North Region – July 2016



### FARM BUSINESS

From having the largest number of certified organic farms in Indiana to our commodity production, LaGrange County is synonymous with agriculture and food processing. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, LaGrange County had 204,092 acres of farmland, of which 147,420 acres is devoted to crop productions. Our average farm size is only 84 acres, which gives food produced by LaGrange County farmers more of a local feel and our producers a real connection to their craft. Our 2012 market value for crop and livestock sales totaled just over \$262,563,000. LaGrange County also has arguably the most diverse crop production in Indiana, producing amongst other things feed corn, sweet corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, oats, cucumbers, and gladiolas. Lord's Seed/Lord's Grain, a large agricultural operation based in northern LaGrange County accounts for approximately 1% of all of the seed corn raised in the United States. Additionally, LaGrange County is the second largest producer of ducks in the nation, and is the largest horse producer in the state.

LaGrange County also makes up the following for Indiana:

- 14.7% of cattle & calves' sales
- 15.7% of broiler farms
- 25.4% of broiler sales
- 28.1% of horses and ponies sold
- 19.8% of acres harvested for potatoes
- 52.4 % of USDA National Organic Program certified organic production farms

Source: 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Purdue University
  - Undergraduate Degree in Agribusiness
  - Undergraduate Degree in Agricultural Engineering
  - Undergraduate Degree in Agricultural Systems Management
  - Undergraduate Degree in Biological and Food Process Engineering
  - Graduate Degree in Agricultural & Biological Engineering
  - Graduate Degree in Agricultural Economics

Workforce development information was provided by the Community Research Institute at IPFW (www.ipfw.edu/cri).