



# Press Release

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## **Southwest Cheese \$90 Million Dollar Expansion Brings Fifty More Jobs to High Plains**

*Award-Winning Cheese Plant Increasing Size by 33%*

10 April 2009- Southwest Cheese announced a \$90 million dollar expansion of the Clovis, New Mexico cheese and whey plant this week. The expansion project will significantly increase the capacity of the cheese and whey plant and is expected to bring an additional 50 jobs to the area. The plant currently employs over 240 people on a full-time basis.

When fully commissioned in 2010, the expansion will increase the daily milk processing capacity from 7 million pounds to 10.5 million pounds of milk daily. The plant will have the daily production capacity of 1.1 million pounds of American style cheese and 70,000 pounds of high value-added whey protein powder. Southwest Cheese, a recent Gold medalist at the US & World Cheese Championship, produces award winning Cheeses as well as high-quality whey protein powders.

The expansion has received strong support from New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and Mayor Gayla Brumfield. Governor Richardson said "I am so pleased that we have been able to work with Southwest Cheese over the years, offering job training opportunities, capital outlay and tax incentives. I commend them on their continued effort to grow and create jobs here in New Mexico. We look forward to being the home of the world's largest cheese plant." Clovis Mayor Gayla Brumfield added "The state and community have been great partners in the growth of Southwest Cheese. Their efforts, along with those of the Clovis Industrial Development Corporation have helped to make the dairy industry a force to be reckoned with on the High Plains."

Southwest Cheese is one of the largest natural cheese and high-protein whey processing plants in the world. Glanbia plc, the international cheese and nutritional ingredients group, owns fifty percent of the business with the remainder owned by the partners in the Greater Southwest Agency, consisting of Dairy Farmers of America, Select Milk Producers, Lone Star Milk Producers and Zia Milk Producers. Milk is supplied to Southwest Cheese by the Greater Southwest Agency, who coordinates supplies from its members. Glanbia is responsible for day-to-day management and operation of Southwest Cheese and for the sales of all cheese and whey produced. The plant started operations in 2005.

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