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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Beef breaks ground on 11,000-foot expansion

Chamber officials aid an expansion that readies facility for increased production

SELINGROVE, Pa. – National Beef employees teamed with the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday to break ground on an expansion to its Selinsgrove facility.

The expansion will enable the nation's fourth-largest beef provider to increase production in the near future by providing the local facility with additional cold storage and dry goods capacity and larger office space.

"This day of groundbreaking on an additional 11,000 sq. ft. for National Beef's operation means more than added construction jobs in our midst," observed Charlie Ross, President and CEO of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. "A stalwart citizen in the business community, National Beef represents countrywide recognition of the vitality of the Valley. It is yet another great leap forward for our mission to 'grow our own' in economic development."

The facility, located at 1811 N. Old Trail, has not been expanded since National Beef acquired the property in May of 2001. The Chamber played a major role at that time in helping the beef producer buy the then-vacant facility. It now continues to help invest in the business and, by extension, the Valley's economy, as a part of its strategic plan.

In March GSVCC held a "strategic thinking" conference at the Susquehanna University called "Look Before You Leap." Business leaders looked around and saw potential growth in jobs in businesses already here. Since then, MSI Plus has invested in our Chamber community and the result was a \$1.7 million investment generating 59 jobs in the next three years as the result of a joint effort with the Governor's Action Team.

"Textbook teamwork took successful local business people, matched them with state and local resources and produced new jobs in the Valley," Ross said in mid-June. Now,

the Chamber's collaboration with National Beef shows that MSI's investment in the community was just the start of the economic growth projected for the Valley.

The National Beef expansion for cold storage and increase in packaging capability pursues the Northeast market that it currently serves. That same area will be served increasingly well by the improvements to central Susquehanna Valley transportation initiatives, principally by a bypass, a proposal that is scheduled to be taken to the Appalachian Regional Commission this summer or fall.

*Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce.
Connecting Business and Community.*

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Photo caption: Charlie Ross, president of the Chamber, second from right, joins a handful of nine-year veteran employees of National Beef (who have been at the facility since it opened in 2001), for groundbreaking at the slab of the 11,000-square foot expansion. They are, from L to R: Stacey Talbert, Donnie Rearick, Lois Umstead, Ed Oehrig, General Manager Dave Davidson, Ross, and Diane Peifer.