

Ventura Foods expansion to create 50 jobs

Ventura Foods, Knouse plan to add jobs with larger facilities

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Expansions at two major food processors in Chambersburg are expected to bring additional jobs to the area.

Ventura Foods and Knouse Foods Cooperative both submitted plans to expand their plants in the borough of Chambersburg.

Borough attorney Bryan Salzman told the Chambersburg planning and zoning commission Thursday that the expansion at Ventura Foods is expected to create about 50 new jobs.

The California-based private company, which is already one of the largest employers in the county, makes branded and private label food products, primarily sauces, dressings and syrups.

Customers include a number of national fast-food and sit-down restaurant chains, and products from Chambersburg are shipped throughout much of the East Coast and exported internationally to parts of Canada, Europe, Asia and South America.

Ventura wants to add a little more than 100,000 square feet to the existing 415,000-square-foot plant on Orchard Drive. As part of the expansion, the rail siding would be increased to accommodate 20 tanker cars.

A pedestrian crossing with a light would be installed at Orchard and Sheffler drives.

An engineer involved in the project told the planning and zoning commission that the company hopes to start construction in the spring.

A Ventura Foods official did not return a message this week seeking comment.

Adams County-based Knouse Foods, which operates a plant on Grant Street, also wants to expand in Chambersburg.

Company representatives told the planning and zoning commission that the expansion will facilitate the production of single-serve applesauce cups.

This will allow the company to maintain more of a year-round presence and keep more employees on a full-time basis, rather than a seasonal basis.

The plant was originally built in the early 1900s and was purchased in 1949 as one of the first processing plants for Knouse, according to the company's website.

Borough council would still need to approve the expansion plans. The Chambersburg planning and zoning commission made a recommendation that council approves the plans.

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