

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



## 1,100 New Jobs Coming to Robeson County in Sanderson Farms Expansion

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced March 12 that Sanderson Farms will construct a new state-of-the-art poultry complex in Robeson County. The new processing plant and hatchery will create approximately 1,100 new jobs during the next three years. Sanderson Farms expects to invest approximately \$139 million in the complex which includes upgrades to its Kinston, N.C. feed mill.

"Sanderson Farms will have a huge positive impact on the Robeson County economy," said Governor McCrory. "When a strong, successful company brings 1,100 new jobs to North Carolina, especially a rural community, it is a game changer."

"We are grateful for the cooperation from the economic development and governmental officials in St. Pauls, Robeson County and the State of North Carolina," said Joe F. Sanderson, chairman and chief executive officer of Sanderson Farms, Inc. "The additional capacity of 1.25 million birds per week represented by the new complex will provide new marketing opportunities for the Company in the fresh food service market."

Incorporated in 1955, Sanderson Farms is a fully integrated poultry processing company engaged in the production, processing, marketing and distribution of fresh and frozen chicken and other prepared food items. It is the third largest poultry producer in the United States with production of more than 9.3 million chickens per week. It has 11,800 employees in 11 plants across the country, including Kinston, N.C.

"Sanderson Farms expansion will provide a boost to the state's southeast region," said Secretary Skvarla. "We appreciate the



## Economic Impact Hits Nearly \$240 Million from Last Year's U.S. Open Championships

Governor Pat McCrory announced March 9 the positive results of a study measuring the statewide economic impact of the unprecedented back-to-back 2014 U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open Championships. The report highlights include total estimated spending from visitors and the set-up and operations of the championships to be in excess of \$140 million during the two-week celebration, with a total economic impact based on direct, indirect and induced outputs of more than \$238 million.

"The state of North Carolina helped deliver a world-class event and the economic impact of the back-to-back championships reflects the outstanding success of this collaborative effort," said Governor McCrory. "We are already looking forward to the next major U.S. Golf Association event in our great state."

The study, researched and completed by Gene Brothers, Ph. D, associate professor of equitable and sustainable tourism with North Carolina State University, concludes that the state and regional areas experienced significant economic boost as a result of pre-event staging activities and visitor spending over the two championship weeks. The study's breakdown of direct and indirect expenditures for the two-week period encompassed a 26-county region. Lodging,

company's commitment to not only increase its footprint in Robeson County, North Carolina, but also enhance its operation in Kinston."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$1 million. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. The state's One North Carolina Fund is specific to the company's new processing plant with an investment of \$98.6 million and the announcement of 1,000 new jobs.

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Robeson County Office of Economic Development](#), the [Town of St. Pauls](#), [Robeson County](#), the [City of Kinston](#), [Lenoir County](#) and [Lenoir County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)

---

## Global Packaging to Create 33 New Jobs with Expansion of its Hamlet Site

A business expansion by Global Packaging in Hamlet will create 33 new jobs over the next three years. Governor Pat McCrory announced the company's plans to invest \$9.8 million in Richmond County in a news release March 6.

"The products that Global Packaging makes in its Hamlet plant are used by companies all across the country," said Governor McCrory. "Now with this announced expansion, more 'made in North Carolina' products will be in people's homes."

Global Packaging is based in Oaks, PA and prints high-quality graphics on a variety of film-based materials and converts them into bags or roll stock products including personal care and diaper bags, towel & tissue applications, bakery products and frozen food overwrap. The company currently employs 24 at its Hamlet location.

The owner and CEO of Global Packaging Tony Maginnis said, "I am excited about these manufacturing improvements and the investment being made in Hamlet. I am proud of the work of our employees and the positive impact this has for both Global Packaging and Richmond County."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$100,000.

"This expansion by Global Packaging is another example of how our existing industries continue to recognize what a great place North Carolina is to do business," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "It shows that companies who are here are able to grow here."

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Richmond Community College](#), [Richmond County Economic Development](#), [the City of Hamlet](#) and [Richmond County](#).

[Read more.](#)

---

food and beverage, shopping, retail, construction, ground transportation and recreation activities are among the categories reviewed.

Data was collected from a variety of sources, including on-site electronic kiosks that surveyed more than 10,000 spectators on spending habits during the championship weeks.

The USGA will return to Pinehurst for the U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship May 27-31, 2017.

[Read more.](#)

---



## Peanuts! Jimbo's Jumbos Expands with 78 New Jobs in Chowan County

A familiar brand of peanuts associated with baseball teams across the country announced it would expand its operations in Edenton. Jimbo's Jumbos announced March 9 that it will expand in Chowan County and create 78 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$30 million.

"Peanuts are one of our state's traditional crops, with North Carolina peanuts and peanut products being shipped all over the world for people to enjoy," said Governor Pat McCrory. "North Carolina is one of the top states in the nation in peanut production and exported more than \$12 million in peanuts last year."

Headquartered in Edenton, Jimbo's Jumbos is a manufacturer of peanut products including roasted and salted peanuts in the shell, peanut butter, granulated peanuts, oil roasted and dry roasted peanuts. The company currently has 208 employees in Chowan County. Jimbo's Jumbos is part of the Hampton Farms family of companies.

"Americans consume more than 12 pounds of peanuts per person each year," said state Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "This expansion by Jimbo's Jumbos will help make sure there are enough North Carolina peanuts available to meet the growing demand."



## HEALTHY PLACES CHANGE LIVES



An employee health and benefits fair in February gave CaroMont Health employees an opportunity to learn more about wellness offerings

### Health System Serves as Community Wellness Hub

CaroMont Health in Gastonia has created an environment where its 3,800 employees are supported in eating well, being physically active, and not using tobacco. The regional not-for-profit health care system earned the Excellence Recognition from Prevention Partners in 2014, signaling the highest national standard for workplace health and prevention.

"Our employees know that they work for an organization that incentivizes healthy behaviors versus one that penalizes people for their lack of success with behavior change," says Director of Wellness Programs Debbie Bellenger. "It means healthy eating options in our cafeteria (including sushi and vegan options), many fitness options, and wellness coaching." Employees can take tobacco cessation classes and join the onsite, state-of-the-art health and fitness center at no cost.

Signs of success for these efforts include a reduction in healthcare spending of \$3 million last year, Bellenger notes. The health system also takes its role as a community resource seriously, establishing itself as the population health hub for the region. In fact, CaroMont was recently chosen to provide wellness services to Gaston County Government's 1,600 employees for the next three years.

"Community outreach is an integral part of CaroMont's wellness vision," Bellenger says. "We're working with churches, our patients, civic groups, chambers of commerce, and several local businesses along with Gaston County employees. We know that healthier communities are more enticing to local businesses and local economic development."

*Healthy Places Change Lives is a partnership between the N.C. Department of Commerce and Prevention Partners, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill. Prevention Partners guides schools, workplaces, hospitals and clinics to address the leading causes of preventable disease. The non-profit's Healthy Together NC initiative aims to reach at least 10 organizations in all 100 counties of the state by 2025. Learn more at [ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC](http://ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC)*

### Commerce Aims for Greater Broadband Access with New Pilot Program

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [College of the Albemarle](#), the [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), the [Edenton Chowan Partnership](#), the [Town of Edenton](#), and [Chowan County](#)

[Read more.](#)



### Pactiv Expansion to Bring 59 New Jobs to Lenoir County

The custom packaging company Pactiv, LLC will be expanding its operations in Lenoir County, creating 59 new jobs and investing more than \$24 million in Kinston over the next three years. News of the expansion came March 5 in an announcement from Governor Pat McCrory.

"Pactiv is a global company that already has a large presence in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "Any time one of our established companies chooses to expand, it sends a strong message about our state's great business climate."

Pactiv is headquartered in Lake Forest, Illinois. The company supplies major foodservice retailers and distributors in North America and globally. Pactiv has more than 11,000 employees at more than 50 manufacturing plants, mixing centers and distribution centers around the world, including multiple locations in North Carolina.

"The expansions of companies like Pactiv are vital to growing North Carolina's economy," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "The best job growth starts at home with our existing employers."

"This expansion is good news," said Pactiv President and CEO John McGrath. "It will enable us to better meet our customers' needs, and we are confident that North Carolina is the right place to do it. Thank you to the state for their support of our expansion plans."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$150,000. In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Lenoir Community College](#), [Lenoir County Economic Development](#), and [Lenoir](#)

The North Carolina Department of Commerce is now accepting applications for the BizConnect Broadband Pilot Grant Program.

The program provides reimbursements to North Carolina cities, towns or villages to fund deployment of broadband connectivity to a business location that is unserved, or underserved, by necessary broadband connectivity. The purpose of this program is to enable the business to create jobs. Reimbursements in the amount of up to \$10,000 per job created will be offered. The program is administered by the Rural Economic Development Division.

Deadline for applications is April 30th.

"These funds will help North Carolina's municipalities achieve broadband connectivity in a timely manner," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "This will be vital in helping build the economy and adding jobs in these areas."

The BizConnect Broadband Pilot Grant Program is a new program under the Rural Grants/Programs Section at Commerce. The funding is provided by the N.C. General Assembly to encourage private sector broadband providers to extend connectivity to unserved areas that are otherwise not economically feasible for deployment. Commerce currently has a total of \$350,000 to award.

Eligible applicants are municipalities located in either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 county or a rural census tract in a Tier 3 county. In Tier 1 or Tier 2 counties, priority will be given to municipalities with populations of fewer than 50,000 persons. Under North Carolina Statute, a rural census tract has a population density of fewer than 500 persons per square mile according to the most recent federal census.

Details of the BizConnect Broadband Grant program application and guidelines are posted on the N.C. Commerce website at [www.nccommerce.com/rd](http://www.nccommerce.com/rd). Completed applications must be submitted electronically by Friday, April 30, 2015 by emailing [Amanda Tetzlaff](mailto:Amanda.Tetzlaff).

Awards will be announced Friday, May 15, 2015.

---

## Governor McCrory Helps PEDS Open State-of-the-Art Plant in Hildebran

Governor Pat McCrory, U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Stefan M. Selig and Walmart Vice President of U.S. Manufacturing Cindy Marsiglio joined Michael D. Penner, President of PEDS Legwear, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the opening of PEDS' new \$16 million facility March 11 in Hildebran

PEDS, the maker of brands such as Peds, Medi-Peds, and Growing Socks, is one of the leading manufacturers and distributors of hosiery products in the world.

"International companies like PEDS recognize North Carolina is a great place to grow business," said Governor McCrory. "We appreciate the company's commitment to tripling the size of its Hildebran workforce and making its legwear in Western North Carolina."

Governor McCrory and former North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced last June that PEDS (formerly Richelieu Legwear International Inc.) was expanding its presence in Burke County through an investment of \$16

## County

[Read more.](#)

---

## Seymour Johnson AFB Joint Land Use Study Underway

The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Division has selected Matrix Design Group to prepare a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the communities surrounding Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, including the Dare County Range.

The study will look to promote community and economic development that is compatible with military training, test and operational missions as well as seek ways to reduce the operational impacts on adjacent lands. The goal of the study is to encourage local governments and the state to work closely with Seymour Johnson AFB to implement measures that promote compatible community development in support of continued operation of the base and range.

The Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment provides grants to state and local governments to conduct a JLUS. The study area will include the counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Dare, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington and Wayne along with the cities of Goldsboro and Washington. It is expected to be completed in 18 months.

[Read more.](#)

---

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Main Street Conference to bring state officials and hundreds of visitors to Morganton](#) (*The News-Herald* - Morganton - March 13)
- [Visiting State Official Urges Support For Preservation Tax Credits](#) (*WilmingtonBiz* - March 13)
- [Smoked Salmon Production Facility Up And Running In Pender. Firm Says](#) (*WilmingtonBiz* - March 12)
- [New Economic Development Leader Chosen - Brevard NC](#) (*Transylvania Times* - March 12)
- [Apple expanding again in Catawba County](#) (*Hickory Record* - March 11)
- [County adds member to economic development team](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - March 11)
- [Report on U.S. Open in Pinehurst outlines spending, economic impact](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - March 9)
- [County gets new economic development director](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - March 9)

million in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility.

"The opening of this modern new facility is testimony to the benefits of the SelectUSA program (an initiative from the federal Commerce Department), the competitiveness of state support initiatives, and Walmart's commitment to purchase an additional \$250 billion in products supporting American jobs by 2023," said Penner. "More importantly, it reflects the talent and professionalism of the women and men who work for PEDS. They are what brought us to this region of the country and are behind our growing success."

"North Carolina continues to grow its strong roots in manufacturing with PEDS' new state-of-the-art facility in Burke County," said state Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "Now the company has both a manufacturing and distribution footprint in the United States through our great state."

Socks manufactured at the new facility are being sold across the country, as well as in Canada, Mexico and South Korea.

[Read more.](#)

- [N.C. manufacturing industry shows signs of life](#) (*Sanford Herald* - March 5)
- [Gaston economic-development group picks new leader](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - March 5)
- [How North Carolina stacks up in property tax comparisons](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - March 4)
- [Sierra Nevada sets opening for N.C. taproom, restaurant](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - March 4)
- [By the numbers: NC broke the billion-dollar mark for investment in 2013-14](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - March 3)
- [Opinion: Appalachian commission shows limitations, successes](#) (*Asheville Citizen-Times* - March 1)

---

**(919) 733-4151**

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)  
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

**Building Location:**  
301 North Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

**Mailing Address:**  
4301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

---

[Invite a Friend](#)   [Unsubscribe](#)   [Subscribe](#)   [feedback@nc-sync.com](mailto:feedback@nc-sync.com)   [SYNC archive](#)

---

© 2015 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

---