



Milk coming in from the farm. As the milk comes in, it is pumped into three milk silos, which have a total holding capacity of approximately one million pounds.

Smile And Say Cheese

KAREN BUTLER

Maryland Correspondent

HANCOCK, Md. — "Cheese!"

That's what approximately 175 dairy farmers throughout Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia say each time they ship their milk to Jefferson Cheese Manufacturing in Hancock, Md. The manufacturing plant has been in business since the early 1970s and has adapted to changing times thanks in large part to a number of innovative and progressive management decisions about the way the plant operates.

Started by the DeStefano family in the 1940s with one processing plant in Vermont, the cheese manufacturing business was successful and grew. In 1974, a second plant, Jefferson Cheese Manufacturing, was opened in Hagerstown, Maryland. This plant remained in business at the Hagerstown location until June 1991, when operations were shifted from Hagerstown to the company's present location in Hancock. In 1988, the Vermont plant was sold to a Canadian company out of Montreal, and in early 1991, right before the move to Hancock, the Hagerstown operation was also sold to the same company. Bruce DeStefano, a member of the original founding family, is President of Jefferson Cheese Manufacturing.

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Bruce DeStefano, President of Jefferson Cheese Manufacturing, in the main processing room.



A view of the main processing room at Jefferson Cheese. The pasteurizer is heating and cooking raw milk as it comes in from the truck.

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