



# PRESS RELEASE



## SHEARER'S FOODS *Announces Plans to Build* Manufacturing Facility in Massillon

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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**Shearer's Foods, Inc.  
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www.shearers.com**

Brewster, Ohio: On April 8, 2008, Shearer's Foods, Inc. officially announced their plans to build the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) Gold Certified food manufacturing plant in the State of Ohio. Chief Executive Officer Bob Shearer and the Shearer's Management Team were joined by local, state and national officials including Lt. Governor Lee Fisher and Congressman Ralph Regula, when making the announcement at the Shearer's corporate headquarters in Brewster, Ohio.

With LEED Gold Certification, this facility will comply with the U. S. Green Building Council's requirements for the reduction of energy and atmosphere emissions, water conservation, waste reduction, associate sustainability, and minimization of the site's environmental footprint. The new manufacturing plant represents Shearer's firm commitment to the social responsibilities of our community and our environment.

Schumacher Construction has been selected to build the new facility on a 14-acre site in the Nova Technology Park located in Massillon, Ohio. John Picard of Canton, Ohio, with more than 20 years of innovative design experience, has been selected as the site architect. Ground breaking is planned for mid-July 2008 with production targeted for the summer of 2009. The 150,000 square foot building will house manufacturing and warehouse operations as well as the Shearer's corporate offices. The new facility is being constructed in response to tremendous growth in market demands, as well as new product development opportunities. Shearer's is the nation's leading producer of kettle-cooked potato chips.

"Support of our local economy and the retention of vital manufacturing jobs in the area are key factors in our decision to build our new plant in Massillon," says Bob Shearer. "Mayor Frank Cicchinelli, Jr. has thrown out the red carpet by offering incentives mutually beneficial to the City of Massillon and Shearer's Foods." To further encourage Shearer's to build in Massillon, the State of Ohio has extended a comprehensive incentive package including valuable associate training support. In turn, Shearer's has committed to the creation of at least 180 new full-time jobs at the new plant. Since Shearer's last major Brewster expansion, which was completed in 1998, the company's employee count has risen from less than 200 to more than 668 associates companywide.

Scott W. Smith, President and Steve Surmay, Senior Vice President of Manufacturing, will be overseeing this project with the assistance of Chris Tallman, Sustainability Manager, Scott Weyandt, Facilities Manager and Fritz Kohmann, CFO. With the addition of the new facility, it is important to note that distribution will continue from Shearer's current location in Massillon and manufacturing will continue at the existing plants in Brewster and Lubbock, Texas.

Shearer's Foods, Inc., founded in 1974, is the manufacturer /distributor of Shearer's Award-Winning Snacks. Varied products include a complete line of potato chips, tortilla chips, pretzels, cheese curls/puffs, peanuts, popcorn, corn chips and other snacks. While Shearer's is recognized as a leader in the snack food industry, they consistently achieve "excellence" in everything they do! **Real Simple** magazine ranked Shearer's the "Best Chips with a Beer" and **Newsweek** magazine commented their potato chips were "...crisply addictive." The company has been named "**Snack Manufacturer of the Year**" by **Snack Food and Wholesale Bakery** magazine. Shearer's has been awarded the **Weatherhead 100**, **Cascade Capital Business Growth Award** and **The Entrepreneurs EDGE Award** for being one of the fastest growing companies in Northeast Ohio. The Weatherhead School of Management has also recognized Shearer's as one of its **Family Firms of Distinction**. Shearer's potato chips received the **Gold Medal Award** from the American Tasting Institute of San Francisco for the best potato chips in America. Shearer's has been honored with the **SCOPE Award as Business of the Year** in Stark County, Ohio. The company has been recognized for manufacturing excellence by winning the **Manny Award** and the **Evolution of Manufacturing Award**. Shearer's has been awarded the **North Coast 99** nine consecutive years as a top employer in Northeast Ohio. **Inside Business** magazine has honored Shearer's as one of the top performing companies in Northeast Ohio ten times with the **NEO Success Award**. Shearer's Snacks are distributed throughout the Midwest, New England states and parts of Canada.