

Awaited Americus Fresh Begins \$56 Million Construction Near Jimmy Carter Airport

Sumter County, Georgia, March 29, 2023. Americus Fresh, a Hardee Fresh Florida subsidiary, produces indoor, organic, vertical farm-grown, USDA-certified organic vegetables. The company begins today to invest \$56 million in a new 338,000 sq. ft. facility near the Jimmy Carter Regional Airport. Its water usage is estimated to be 1% of a traditional grower. Americus Fresh will grow, pack, and ship its produce from Americus, employing a minimum of 84 mid-salary jobs. The new Americus building will represent the company's first Georgia location, a strategic move critical in reaching customers throughout the Southeast and the entire country.

"Premium organic, plus fresh, is the optimal way to grow food," said Rusty Warner, Executive Director of the Sumter County Development Authority. "We are thrilled Hardee Fresh chose Americus and Sumter County for the location of its state-of-the-art bio-grow facility. We appreciate Hardee Fresh's significant investment in our community and look forward to a long-term partnership! Americus Fresh is a perfect fit."

Development Authority Chairman Paul Hall added, "Americus Fresh will be a significant base for our existing Sumter businesses and our farmers. Sumter County remains focused on finding new, innovative ways to deliver a sustainable future. We welcome Americus Fresh and thank them for choosing our community!"

Construction of the new building will begin soon, with a preliminary completion date within the third quarter of 2024

About Americus Fresh

Americus Fresh is a leader in organic farming, which continuously monitors its product conditions, known as tech-enabled farming. Plants are grown in an 'enclosed facility' through shipment. Organic seeds, nutrients, filtered air, and water variability are all Hardee Fresh/Americus Fresh product identifications. Hardee Fresh is the only certified organic vertical farm in the U.S.

Americus Fresh's management is effective and 'forward-thinking.' Its innovative technology will provide the country with locally grown and packed, healthy food. According to a company spokesperson, items are Pesticide, Herbicide, Fungicide, and GMO-FREE.

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Hardee Fresh Website

Hardee Fresh Facebook

Hardee Fresh Press Release

About the Americus Sumter Payroll Development Authority

The Americus Sumter County Development Authority has a highly engaged board responsible for cultivating new businesses while balancing the workforce, buildings, and options. The Authority consistently promotes our county and is always looking for outside-the-box innovative ways to attract businesses to our community.

<u>Sumter County Development Authority Website</u>

Sumter County Development Authority Facebook

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