

SECTOR BRIEF:

►►► ECONOMIC ALLIANCE
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

FOOD PROCESSING

Food and food processing are mainstays of the Kankakee County, Illinois, economic landscape, with 80 establishments involved in the sector. A location quotient of 2.13 means employment in Agribusiness, Food Processing & Technology here in our Greater Chicago location is more than twice as concentrated as the U.S. average.

SECTOR GROWTH 2014-17

- Jobs Created by Top Employers = 453
- Capital Investment by Top Employers = \$43M



TOP EMPLOYERS

- Van Drunen Farms
- Del Monte Fresh Produce Company
- Momence Packing Co./Johnsonville
- Silva International
- FutureCeuticals
- Plochman Inc.
- J.R. Short Milling Company
- Gilster Mary-Lee Corporation
- Dawn Food Products Inc
- Urban Farmer LLC
- Bunge Milling
- Heartland Harvest



WATER / WASTEWATER ASSETS

Kankakee County has a nearly unlimited water supply by virtue of its proximity to the Kankakee River, which runs through the northeast portion of the county, as well as excellent water management by Aqua Illinois.

Systemwide water capacity = 30 MGD

Systemwide wastewater capacity = 25 MGD



2017-2018

KANKAKEE COUNTY CAPITAL INVESTMENT

\$19,769,998



MOMENCE CAPACITIES

Water - 1.7 MGD

Current average = 900,000 GPD

Wastewater - 3.2 MGD

Currently treatment level = 600,000 GPD



Among the fastest growing metros in the Greater Chicago region, Kankakee County is ideally situated 45 miles south of Downtown Chicago along the I-57 Corridor. Ready access to the interstate, Class I rail, all utilities, fiber, workforce and Enterprise Zone incentives means our diverse business community, including Fortune and Global 500 companies, is able to thrive.

SECTOR BRIEF:

FOOD PROCESSING

VDF / FUTURECEUTICALS INGREDIENT INNOVATORS



The City of Momence in Kankakee County is home to sister company food processors Van Drunen Farms and FutureCeuticals. Van Drunen Farms is the world's largest freeze dryer and the country's largest supplier of organically grown culinary herbs. FutureCeuticals is a research and development-driven nutraceutical provider that holds more than 50 patents on functional food ingredients. Together, the companies own and operate 670,000 square feet of manufacturing, storage, R&D, sales and administrative space in nine Momence facilities. The companies' total employment has nearly doubled in seven years, from 370 workers in 2010 to 713 today.



“Van Drunen Farms and our sister company FutureCeuticals have taken advantage of the [Kankakee County Enterprise Zone](#) on various capital projects. Whether the project was as simple as a roof replacement, exterior remodel or a parking lot improvement, or as complex as building our new processing facility and a corporate office expansion, the EZ has helped our companies expand here in Illinois and incentivized the investment of more than \$25 million into our local operations. This helps us remain competitive on a global scale, resulting in new job opportunities and future expansion possibilities.”

– Jeff Van Drunen, President, FutureCeuticals

FutureCeuticals houses advanced R&D operations at its Momence facility. A forum for Ph.D. chemists and biologists committed to discovering new avenues for human health from real, whole fruits, vegetables, and grains, FutureCeuticals has generated more than 50 patents pertaining to metabolic health, inflammation, cardiovascular health and healthy aging.

Click to watch “Introduction to FutureCeuticals Inc.”



**ECONOMIC
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kankakeecountyed.org

TALENT PIPELINE

New in 2018: Registered Apprenticeship Program: Industrial Machinery



KCC



Plochman's partners with University of Illinois Urbana's Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering on design modifications to its iconic yellow squeeze bottle.



For more information on Kankakee County's food processing ecosystem and development opportunities contact:
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