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Tyson Announces Closure of Poultry Production Plants in Dexter

AUGUST 07TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Today, Tyson Foods, announced the imminent closure of several food production plants across the Midwest, including the poultry production plants in Dexter.

According to Tyson representative Jeff Wood, these closures are the result of several quarters of a struggling industry. This has forced the Tyson corporation to re-evaluate the asset utilization of its production plants. From a corporate standpoint, it makes sense to downsize the older plants and keep the bigger, newer plants.

The Dexter community has been home to an active poultry production industry since the 1890's and the current plant location has been active since the Swift Poultry Company opened in the 1930's. This loss will negatively affect the city's workforce, economy and the Dexter community as a whole. The closure is expected to impact 683 Tyson employees, as well as a vast network of chicken growers, farmers, truckers and more.

This plant closure comes from the corporate level, and local administration had no control over the decision. "We need to remain positive about our local Tyson Management and local Tyson employees. They had zero input on the decision and we have enjoyed a tremendous relationship with them for years," Dave Wyman, City Administrator explains.

Recognizing that the Tyson facility is a significant part of the local economy, the city administration of Dexter will be focusing on how to encourage economic development following the shut-down. "We need to worry about the families here in town, and we

need to be extremely smart about our expenses," said Wyman.

Tyson's current plan - which is subject to change - is to continue the current hatch and processing cycle, then clean everything and shut the plants down. They expect to lock the factory doors by October 13, 2023.

LAST UPDATED ON AUGUST 07TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

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