

Press Release

Wyke Farms Record Highest Turnover in Company History

Solid Growth from Export with Automation and Upskilling Prioritised

Bruton, Somerset; 18th February 2021: Wyke Farms, the UK's largest independent cheese producers and producers of renewable energy, have filed accounts for financial year ending March 2020 showing a turnover of £107 million; their highest turnover to date.

Wyke Farms have benefited from substantial growth in export sales both to the EU and the rest of the world up almost 20%. The benefits of having a diverse customer base not just in food service verses retail, but a geographically diverse base has also contributed to the increased turnover. The company have strategically built on their maturing cheddar stocks over recent years in order to service the global market for older, longer aged cheeses. In September 2020 the company opened their new cheese store with space for 1762 pallets of cheese, amounting to approximately 2000 tonnes of additional storage capacity, which is required to meet the demands of growing export sales in vintage flavour profiles. The new store is 2500 times the size of Ivy Clothier's original cheese store on the farm in Wyke Champflower.

The Wyke Farms 100% Green strategy continues to underpin all business decisions and during the reporting period, the company continued to invest in their renewable energy business. Green gas production capacity from farm and business waste in the region was increased, together with increased solar on roofs. In addition, Wyke Farms have reduced their scope 2 emissions by replacing face to face meetings with Microsoft Teams. Rich Clothier, Managing Director and third generation family member at Wyke Farms says ***"it's been a revelation for us; we now communicate better than ever and without people driving thousands of miles per year, their risk of accident is less, and they can spend more time with family. Post COVID we will retain some of these good practices and not return to old ways"***.

Wyke Farms' cheese and butter is made with the milk from their cows grazing the lush pastures of the Mendip Hills in the centre of the Cheddar making region in Somerset.

The company has prioritised automation and upskilling jobs over the past year and this has been achieved in most areas. This gave Wyke Farms an added advantage with being able to socially distance effectively and maintain high production levels.

Wyke Farms products are available in selected Lidl stores and in South West UK ASDA, CO-OP and Tesco stores. All products are available online at: www.wykefarms.com/shop

Notes to Editor:

Wyke Farms Ltd is a family run company based in the heart of the Somerset cheddar-making region. The art of traditional cheese making will never be lost on the Somerset farm where the Clothier family have been making cheddar in Somerset since 1861. Today, Wyke Farms is one of the largest independent cheese makers and milk processors in the UK producing over 18,000 tonnes of cheddar per year to the same award winning 160 year-old recipe.

Wyke remains a truly traditional family business. Ivy's grandson's Richard and Thomas Clothier run the cheese making operations with their father John, whilst her other two Grandson's David and Roger run the family dairy farming operations. The four grandchildren share Ivy's passion for cheese making where flavour, texture and taste are paramount. They believe that this attention to detail is the reason that their cheese has won more awards at national cheese shows than any other.

Wyke Farms are committed to sustainable farming and are proud to be the UK's first national cheddar brand to become 100% self-sufficient in green energy. Wyke Farms sources all of its electricity and gas from both solar and biogas, generated from the farm and dairy waste. The biogas energy is generated from its own anaerobic digester (AD) plant, which saves Wyke Farms over 20 million kilos of carbon dioxide per annum. The company are now Europe's most sustainable business¹.

They have received national and international recognition for their on-going commitment to sustainability, and have won numerous awards including:

- International Ambassador – Insider's South West International Trade Awards
- Green Innovation and Finance Awards 2017 – Winner - Business Leader of the Year
- European Business Awards – Environment & Corporate Sustainability Category – European Champions 2015/2016
- The Renewable Energy Association Winner - Sustainability Category
- Insider "Made in the UK" Awards
- Winner of the Grocer Gold Awards – Green Initiative of the Year 2016
- The Guardian Sustainable Business Awards 2016
- Winner of the Sustainable Futures category at the IGD Awards 2015
- Waitrose Way Awards 2015 – Treading Lightly Reducing CO2 – Winner

¹ As granted by the European Business Awards.

- Winner of the Food & Drink Federation 'Environmental Leadership' Award 2015
- National Champion representing the UK in the 2015/16 European Business Awards – Environmental & Corporate Sustainability
- UK AD & Biogas Industry Awards – Best On Farm AD Project –Winner
- The Guardian Sustainable Business Awards 2015 (Winner in Carbon & Energy Management)
- The Footprint Awards 2015 – Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (Winner)
- The Footprint Awards 2015 – Energy Efficiency Award (Finalist)
- IFE World Food Innovation Awards 2015 Winner Best Corporate Social Responsibility Category
- National CSR Awards 2015 - Environmental Leadership Award (Winner)
- Farm Business Cream Awards – Cream Award – Highly Commended
- The Guardian Sustainable Business Awards 2014 (Winner in Waste Innovation Category)
- Waitrose Way Awards 2014 - Treading Lightly for Water – Winner
- Waitrose Way Awards 2014 - Treading Lightly for Carbon – Winner
- Short-Term Payback Award (Runner Up)
- Insider Made in the UK – Green/Sustainable Manufacturer Award (Winner)
- 2degrees Sustainable Business Champions 2014 (Energy & Carbon Management)
- The UK & Biogas Industry Awards for Best AD Plant in the Food & Drink Industry (Winner)
- The Grocer Green Supplier of the Year Award 2014
- The Footprint Awards 2014 - The Energy Efficiency Award (Winner)
- The Footprint Awards 2014 - Economic Sustainability Award (Winner)
- The Manufacturer Awards – Manufacturing in Action (Finalist)
- The World Dairy Innovation Awards 2013 – Best Environmental Sustainability Initiative (Finalist)
- The BusinessGreen Leaders Awards 2013 (Highly Commended)

Managing Director Rich Clothier has been recognised for his passion and commitment to sustainability. He won the Food Manufacture Excellence Awards 2013 'Personality of the Year', The UK & Biogas Industry Awards 'AD Hero of the Year' and Farmers' Weekly 'Sustainable Farmer of the Year' 2014 Award.

www.wykefarms.com

<http://www.facebook.com/wykefarms>

