

## **Press Release**

### **Groundwork begins at Wyke Farms Bruton site**

#### ***Energy efficient 'Ivy's Dairy' to double cheddar throughput***

**Bruton, Somerset:** Wyke Farms, the UK's largest independent cheese producer and producer of renewable energy, officially start groundwork this week to re-build its Bruton-based dairy, doubling the company's capacity.

The dairy expansion project is part of Wyke Farms' five-year plan for growth, which is underpinned by sustainably increasing volume and strategically targeting specific regions worldwide. Named 'Ivy's Dairy' after Wyke Farms' matriarch, Ivy Clothier, the new space will include a 16,589m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art production facility. The dairy is being built to Ivy Clothier's founding principles of producing the best-in-class quality, combined with an industry leading respect for the environment. The development is both energy and water efficient and sympathetic to the surrounding environment, with soft landscaping and a natural grass roof. The company is working towards Q2, 2023 as target completion date for this part of the project.

The investment will build a sustainable long-term future and build sufficient infrastructure for servicing increased sales of award-winning Cheddar in both the UK and export markets; crucial now, as Wyke Farms continues to benefit from substantial growth in export sales both to the EU and the rest of the world (up almost 20% ye 2020). The company has strategically built on its maturing Cheddar stocks over recent years, in order to service the global market for older, longer-aged cheeses. In September 2020, the company opened its new cheese store with space for 1,762 pallets of cheese, amounting to approximately 2,000 tonnes of additional storage capacity, which is required to meet the demands of growing export sales in vintage flavour profiles. The new store is 2,500 times the size of Ivy Clothier's original cheese store on the farm in Wyke Champflower.

Wyke Farms' cheese and butter is made with the milk from cows grazing the lush pastures of the Mendip Hills in the centre of the Cheddar making region in Somerset. 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](http://www.wykefarms.com/shop)

For more information, interview and images, please contact: [paloma@connectedpr.com](mailto:paloma@connectedpr.com)

#### **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 is 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 business<sup>1</sup>.

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
- 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

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<sup>1</sup> As granted by the European Business Awards.

- 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.wykefarms.com)

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