

Press Release

Wyke Farms get creative with enhanced employee benefit packaging including free cheese & green energy

Cheesemaker responds to nationwide shortage of job candidates

Bruton, Somerset; 09th November 2021: Wyke Farms, the UK's largest independent cheese producers and producers of renewable energy, today announce details of their new enhanced benefits package available to employees.

Somerset based Wyke Farms will be offering all employees an enhanced benefits package effective from this month. The generous list of employee benefits has been updated in response to the ongoing nationwide shortage of job candidates and now includes the following:

- 28 days annual leave pro rata (including English Bank Holidays)
- An additional day of leave on your birthday
- Annual leave allowance increases one day each year to a maximum of 33
- Life assurance benefit x2 salary
- Pension contributions matched up to 5%
- Discounts in popular high street retailers
- Annual bonus
- Vintage Reserve Cheddar for Christmas
- Cycle to work scheme
- Discounted gym membership
- Wholesale discount on cheese and butter
- Referral scheme for new starters of £1,000
- Free tea and coffee in breaks
- Free electrical car charging
- Career progression, development and training

Wyke Farms has a reputation as being a great place to work, with very happy employees. Many generations of the same family can be found at Wyke Farms; 15% of the Wyke Farms work force also have a relative working in the business and over one third of employees (34%) have been with the company for over 10 years.

Rich Clothier, Managing Director and third generation family member at Wyke Farms, says: "***We are witnessing the effects of Brexit, global post lockdown supply chain issues and skills shortages***

across the board. We have unusually high staff retention rates and many family members work together across our business but finding new talent to join us has become challenging.”

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.

Wyke Farms branded products are available in selected Lidl stores and in Southwest UK ASDA and Tesco stores. All products are available online at: www.wykefarms.com/shop

For more information, please contact: paloma@connectedpr.com

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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 since 1861. Today, Wyke Farms is one of the largest independent cheese makers and milk processors in the UK producing over 16,000 tonnes of cheddar per year to the same award winning 160-year-old recipe.

Wyke Farms Cheddar is sold throughout the UK and to 160 countries around the world, with retail sales of over £100 million. Wyke Farms is a progressive cheesemaking business that remains true to its roots. The enterprise was established by Ivy and Tom Clothier using the family cheese making recipe and today, their grandsons Richard and Tom now run the cheese making operations with their father John, whilst her other two grandsons 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 source all 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

¹ As granted by the European Business Awards

- 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
- 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>

