



PRESS RELEASE

CAMGRAIN ANNOUNCES FURTHER EXPANSION PLANS

Camgrain Chairman, John Latham was able to announce additional, ambitious expansion plans, at the opening of the APC, that could double the tonnage being handled by the co-operative.

Firstly, he confirmed that planning permission had been granted for a further 210,000t processing facility at the APC at Wilbraham.

Secondly, Camgrain has entered into an option with Boughton Estate to develop a similar facility working with a group of Northants farmers at a site between Corby and Kettering in the East Midlands.

In total, once completed, both the Camgrain and Northants Grain operations would convert over 500,000t of grain every year into process ready ingredients making this farmer-controlled business one of the UK's leading suppliers to the food and drinks sector.

No other UK processing facility comes anywhere near this scale. Once completed it would enable Camgrain to compete effectively with any European or North American supplier to the food and drinks sectors.

"There is a clear and increasing need for world-class processing and food secure storage facilities for UK grain," said John Latham.

"The development of our effective and ongoing partnership with Sainsbury's proves that with the right facilities and management the UK can compete with any global supplier – either to replace imports or supply added value exports.

"It is particularly pleasing to see that this pioneering venture has been undertaken and delivered by a farmer-controlled business – thus ensuring the delivery of stakeholder benefits throughout the region for the foreseeable future."

John Latham pointed out that marketing of the majority of grain for both the new APC in Cambridgeshire and that of Northants Grain would be carried out by leading farmer-owned grain business Openfield.

Openfield itself has been instrumental in supporting and helping the development of central storage businesses, now under the wing of NetworkGrain UK. "The support of national business of the size and scale of Openfield has been pivotal in getting the Northants project off the ground," he said.

Christopher Sparrow of Boughton Estate commented: “With both our farming and landholding hats on we very much endorse the desire to bring forward co-operative grain facilities in the Northants area.

“We recognise and applaud the added value arising from advanced processing and its ability to deliver on quality and timeliness in a manner that engages the likes of Sainsbury’s.

“These facilities will allow us, as farmers, to trade on improved terms, manage the risks associated with our business much more effectively and, in the medium term, unlock other opportunities associated with antiquated stores.”

John Latham concluded by paying tribute to the continued commitment of Camgrain members to supplying the best in raw materials; to an excellent staff team, and to his board of directors for their professionalism and vision.

“Thanks must also go to EEDA for their support via the Rural Development Programme for England. They bought into the vision of the APC, and the grant of £4 million in 2007 enabled our rapid growth in the past two years,” said Mr Latham.

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