Power Up Your Food Processing and Agribusiness in Northwest Ohio
Regional Assets to Power Up Your Food Processing and Agribusiness

Strategically located between the traditional Grain Belt region and the populous East Coast markets, Toledo/Northwest Ohio is one of the leading manufacturers of food, equipment and agricultural products in the United States. Some of the biggest names in the food industry do business right here. Our location, combined with a comprehensive transportation network and intermodal connections, allows for fast, efficient and cost-effective access to customers. Three of the country’s most traveled interstates pass through Toledo, and more than 100 million people live within a day’s drive.

Ohio employs more than 60,000 people in food processing and agribusiness, including more than 12,000 in Northwest Ohio. This region hosts a remarkable concentration of companies that process, distribute and market foods enjoyed around the world.

Businesses will find a strong and dedicated workforce backed by an outstanding educational system that includes more than 200,000 undergraduate and graduate students attending the 30 institutions of higher learning within a 60-mile radius. And many of these schools offer classes and programs in food sciences.

The Regional Growth Partnership is the lead private economic development organization serving 20 counties in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Contact us to learn how we can help power up your food processing and agribusiness.

Regional Assets

Transportation/Logistics
For businesses looking to expand and strengthen their position, Northwest Ohio offers the most efficient and cost-effective means to transport products to customers. No other metro area in the United States has every form of transportation to meet your global needs – road, rail, sea and international heavy air freight. All of this has helped the region become a Top 10 logistics location according to Area Development magazine.

Supply Chain
Northwest Ohio offers a strong supply chain in the food industry with some of the biggest manufacturing equipment and service companies, including mechanical, engineering and fabrication shops. With nearly 250 food companies in Northwest Ohio, there are also many ingredient supply companies, such as Kraft Foods, Mennel Milling and Sensory Effects.

Natural Resources
The Toledo region offers an abundance of the most important natural resource in the food processing industry – water. Bounded by Lake Erie, which is part of the Great Lakes, and the Maumee River, this region provides the world’s largest supply of fresh water. Businesses in this region also enjoy predictable and moderate weather patterns.

Research and Innovation
The Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT), located in Toledo, is a Thomas Edison Technology Center established by the state of Ohio to provide technology-based economic development services for the food processing, agribusiness and agricultural sectors. Small businesses and startups can take advantage of CIFT services such as product and package development, food safety consulting, technology development and prototyping.

Cost of Doing Business
In the last five years, Ohio has lowered business tax burdens by more than half, eliminating taxes on inventory, corporate income and investments in equipment. Ohio has the lowest effective tax rate in the Midwest and has been ranked third in the nation for friendliest tax environment. Northwest Ohio also offers some of the lowest industrial electric rates in the Midwest, currently as low as 4.73 cents per kilowatt hour. The region provides a competitive cost of labor and a nationally recognized, trained and educated workforce.

Major companies in the food processing and agribusiness industry located in Northwest Ohio:

[Company Logos]

www.rgp.org  419.252.2700