

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner



Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Palmer slaughterhouse sale will enhance food security in Alaska

(Palmer, AK) – Alaska will continue to have an Alaska-owned, in-state slaughterhouse with today’s sale of the Mt. McKinley Meat and Sausage slaughterhouse to North Pole hog farmers Todd and Sherrie Elsberry.

The Inner Springer Loop facility previously known as Mt. McKinley Meat and Sausage was purchased for an undisclosed price by Alaska Meat Packers Incorporated, DBA Alaska Meat. Along with the Elsberrys as majority owners, other investors include High Caliber Realty and Bill Borden, the real estate company and broker that put the deal together.

“Supply disruptions and interstate commerce slowdowns of the past year have made it increasingly clear that Alaskans must look out for ourselves when it comes to protecting our vital food supply chain,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “Maintaining an Alaska-owned, U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved slaughterhouse and meat packing facility of this size is essential to making sure Alaskans can continue to grow, process and enjoy fresh, healthy food.”

Established as part of the Matanuska agricultural colony in the 1930s, the slaughterhouse served Alaska farmers and consumers until private owners abandoned it in 1986. The State of Alaska stepped in to operate it until 2016, then sold it to a private citizen who operated it four years in conjunction with a cattle ranch and butcher shop to slaughter, process and sell beef and hogs, as well as bison, elk, yak or other exotics. The Elsberrys are the state’s largest pork producer, and did not purchase those other businesses.

As the largest of only three slaughterhouses in Alaska inspected and approved by the U.S.D.A. and the only one capable of serving commercial customers, the facility plays a critical role in the state’s agriculture industry, said Corri Feige, commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

“This is tremendous news for Alaskans, for many different reasons,” Feige said. “It will help grow a strong ranching industry, provide a secure source of meat, preserve private sector jobs and support investment in our agriculture, shipping, retail, and hospitality

sectors. I commend the Elsberry's for stepping up to maintain this vital part of the state economy."

Feige also credited Division of Agriculture Director David Schade, governor's office economic development specialists Fred Villa and Matt Fagnani, former owner Greg Giannulis, and Borden for their contributions to bringing the sale to completion.

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