

Location Matters for Saputo Cheese USA

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Saputo Cheese USA had a multitude of strategic reasons for choosing Franklin as a site for a cheese processing plant to support the company's growth in the region, Wisconsin and throughout the United States.

"While most of Saputo's Wisconsin facilities are located near the dairies that provide the milk for their cheese, these areas do not have the populations to support the number of people we need to get the product to the consumer," a Saputo Cheese USA spokesperson explained. "By centralizing the cutting and packaging operations in Franklin, we can easily transport the product to an area with a higher population of workers."

Saputo's \$85 million Franklin cheese processing facility opened in 2023 on a 34.5-acre parcel with an initial projection of bringing more than 500 jobs to the plant, a goal that already has been accomplished and with the company prepared to add additional workers to accommodate future production goals.

"We are still growing into our current space, in terms of both people and production capabilities," the Saputo spokesperson said. "Our current focus is to continue a steady ramp up."

The 310,000-square-foot production, packaging and distribution facility was developed on sprawling parcel south of West Oakwood Road and west of South 27th Street.

Operations the facility include slicing, grating and packaging of cheese produced at other Saputo operations before the product is distributed to retailers and other wholesale customers.

Montreal-based Saputo Inc. is a top ten global dairy processor that produces, markets, and distributes cheese and dairy products. In the United States, Saputo Cheese USA, which has its divisional headquarters in Milwaukee, ranks among the top three cheese makers and is one of the largest producers of extended shelf-life and cultured dairy products. Saputo Cheese USA's products are sold under a variety of market-leading brand names, including Montchevre, Treasure Cave and Stella.

As part of its effort to fortify its commitment to the Franklin community, Saputo Cheese provided a \$50,000 donation to Kayla's Playground, an all-accessible and all-inclusive playground located in the Franklin Woods Nature Center that paid for the installation of a smooth, bonded rubber stone flooring to make it easier for those with disabilities to navigate throughout the playground.