

EMPORIA, KANSAS THRIVING PET NUTRITION CLUSTER

Emporia, Kansas has emerged as a pet nutrition cluster. In 1978, Safeway began operations with a dry pet food plant. Today, the operation is owned and operated by Cargill, Inc.

In 1998 wet pet food production began, today Simmons Pet Food Emporia operates the leading private label contract wet pet food production plant in North America. The operation has grown to over 1,000,000 sq. ft. in three buildings on 130 acres, with 1,300 employees. Multiple expansions have occurred at the Emporia Simmons Pet Food plant.

Hill's Pet Nutrition began operations of a dry pet nutrition plant in 2009. The 525,000 sq. ft. facility employs 130 employees. Within the facility footprint the warehouse operations are managed by Holman Transportation with more than 70 employees.

Emporia, Kansas is located in the Animal Health corridor, which is a region from Manhattan, Kansas to Columbia, Missouri, and from St. Joseph, Missouri to Emporia, Kansas. Two of the top ten global pet food companies – Hill's Pet Nutrition, and Simmons Pet Food ranked 4th and 8th globally are located in Emporia, Kansas.

Our post-secondary institutions of Flint Hills Technical College (FHTC), Emporia State University (ESU), and Kansas State University (KSU) Pet Food Program provide an educated and well trained workforce.

The Emporia, Kansas Pet Nutrition cluster represents 9.7% of the entire Lyon County workforce of over 1,550 employees.

Available workforce, educational support from FHTC, ESU, & KSU, and superior location, with a supportive community contribute to this thriving and growing pet nutrition cluster.