



For Immediate Release: Friday, January 29, 2016

Contact:

Chyresse Wells (ESD) | Chyresse.Wells@esd.ny.gov | (518) 292-5148
ESD Press Office | pressoffice@esd.ny.gov | (800) 260-7313

**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES THE GRAND OPENING AND
EXPANSION OF FIELD GOODS IN GREENE COUNTY**

Supported By \$100,000 Grant From Capital Region Economic Development Council

View a photo of Field Goods' Grand Opening [Here](#).

Empire State Development (ESD) announced today the grand opening of Field Goods, LLC's new warehouse in the town of Athens located in Greene County. Field Goods, a local food delivery company, purchased and renovated an 18,000 square-foot building in Athens with a \$100,000 Capital Grant awarded through Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

"Field Goods utilizes local produce grown by New York farmers," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Howard Zemsky. "ESD is proud to support the efforts of this growing business and commends Field Goods for bringing farm fresh produce to residents across the state."

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, "We congratulate Field Goods on the expansion of its facility and continued efforts to promote New York's locally grown, farm-fresh food to New Yorkers across the state. Strengthening the connections between the state's farmers and consumers has been a major focus of our work at the Department. I'm excited to see projects like this one, supported by the Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils, that are not only helping to provide a boost to our growers but also creating jobs in the local community."

The purchase and renovation of Field Goods' new facility in Athens was made possible by a \$100,000 grant awarded through Governor Cuomo's Regional Council initiative. Field Goods has made a commitment to create 12 new full-time jobs and retain 11 current full-time employees. The funding has supported the improvement of delivery services and renovations, including the installation of machinery and equipment, furniture, and fixtures to help expand business operations. Greene County Economic Development also provided a \$140,000 mortgage loan through its Quantum Fund Loan program.

In addition, a \$160,000 loan guarantee was issued in December 2015 as a credit enhancement for working capital financing provided by The Bank of Greene County. Field Goods was issued the loan guarantee through ESD's Minority and Women-Owned Business Development and Lending Program.

"Our organization has been enormously impressed at the level of support that these agencies have provided us. Field Goods has proven that it can advance the potential of small New York farms, improve its customers' diet and generate employment for the disabled and low-income populations," said Donna Williams, president and founder of Field Goods. "Clearly, providing critical support for small businesses such as Field Goods is a priority for the State."

Senator George Amedore said, "The opening of Field Goods' new warehouse facility is great news for the entire area. Field Goods provides a direct link for local farmers to reach more consumers with their products, and this new facility will allow them to expand their services and create more jobs in Greene County. The economy is benefitting, our local farmers are benefitting, and our communities are benefitting from increased access to fresh, local produce that will encourage a healthy lifestyle."

"We are very excited for the grand opening of the Field Goods warehouse here in Greene County, made possible by a partnership with local banks and New York State," said Assemblyman Lopez. "Field Goods is not only retaining employees, but it has committed to creating 12 new full-time jobs as well. In addition to creating jobs in our region, Field Goods helps our family farms by helping connect them to their neighbors through a creative delivery service to get fresh local produce right to their table. As we push for initiatives to make New York State a healthier state for all and support our family farms, Field Goods helps by delivering to workplace and community locations with the end goal of helping New Yorkers eat healthy. We are proud to have Field Goods as part of our community."

"Donna Williams is a person of extreme vision who has turned a concept into the proverbial well-oiled machine serving a very basic need, namely, matching freshly grown produce with an eager and loyal customer base," Eugene Hatton, Greene County Legislature. "The local benefit of this operation is very apparent in the opening of a market for our local farmers. As a neighbor of both the prior and the current operations, I am particularly impressed by the courtesy of Field Good's drivers and the cleanliness of their motor fleet. I wish Donna and all her staff an unlimited measure of success; success which comes from doing the right thing with the right product for the right people. Proof that 'everything old is new again', may Field Goods long be adaptable, flexible and profitable."

"I am extremely happy with the dedication and level of investment that has been made in the Town of Athens. This business will allow many local farmers throughout the community show off their abilities to produce desirable fruits and vegetables, which are only a few of the things the local communities have to offer people not familiar with the area," said Town of Athens Supervisor Robert Butler. "Although Field Goods' mission is "to open the floodgates for the flow of local food," it also is to open the floodgates for potential farm growth and significant growth for Field Goods employment. Again, thank you for the commitment and I wish you luck."

"Donna Williams is a real dynamo and we have watched her develop her business from the beginning. She has reached out to the surrounding communities and shown everyone what the value is of locally grown foods," said Village of Athens Mayor Christian Pfister. "I am proud of

Donna's business, her commitment to the developmentally disabled, and I'm happy to see her celebrate this grand opening."

About Field Goods

Field Goods (www.field-goods.com) is located in Athens, NY and was founded in 2011 by Donna Williams. The company is a New York State Certified Woman-owned Business. Field Goods purchases products from over 80 small food purveyors and farms, offering over 150 varieties of fruit and vegetables, including frozen produce items in the winter season. Field Goods has served over 8,000 customers since its inception in 2011 and currently delivers to over 500 workplace and community locations from Saratoga to Westchester to Fairfield, CT and counties and points in between. Some of the organizations Field Goods works with include: Acorda Therapeutics, Beech-Nut, Capital District YMCA, PepsiCo, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and the Westchester Library System.

About Empire State Development

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.nyworks.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

###