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## Secretary Ring Announces New Company Coming to Pittsylvania County

*~ Micro Blenders, Inc. to invest more than \$3.5 million  
to establish additive feed manufacturing operation ~*

**CHATHAM** – Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, the Hon. Bettina Ring, visited the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex today and announced that Micro Blenders, Inc., a subsidiary of Pennsylvania-based QLF, Inc., will invest over \$3.5 million to establish a new additive feed manufacturing operation in Pittsylvania County. The company will locate into an existing 90,000 square-foot facility in the Town of Gretna, with plans to add an additional 25,000 square-feet of high-bay manufacturing area which will have the capacity to accommodate four industrial mixers. The company's Virginia operation will serve existing customers in the area, while also making the rest of the southeastern U.S. livestock feed market accessible. Virginia successfully competed against North Carolina for the project, which will create over 15 new direct jobs over the next three years.

"I am proud to support the investment of QLF, Inc, to establish a manufacturing operation in Pittsylvania County, the largest county in the Commonwealth. Their expansion will bring new jobs to the region and strengthen the manufacturing and agricultural sectors that are vital to our rural economies" **said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring.**

The parent company, QLF, Inc., was founded in New Holland, Pennsylvania, in 1996, and provides specialized pre-mix services for animal nutrition. Once established and operational, the Gretna facility will be geared to primarily provide large batch mixes, with the added opportunity for utilizing the Port of Virginia for exporting products to other countries.

"Pittsylvania County and the Town of Gretna have shown us that they are extremely business friendly and are dedicated to the growth of their local agriculture industry", **said Matt Eby of Micro Blenders, Inc.** "This makes it the ideal place for us to locate a truly state-of-the-art agriculture pre-mix facility. We feel confident that this facility will support and grow with the surrounding agriculture industry in the region for years to come. We have found that Gretna has proven to be a friendly, hardworking and resilient community. They are just the type of people we want to surround ourselves with and having working in our facility. It's the type of community that won't give up and has no interest in going away. And that matches the values of our company."

"We are very excited to have Micro Blenders Inc. locating here in the county", **said Buddy Shelton, President, Pittsylvania County Cattlemen's Association.** "They are a company that many area livestock producers are currently doing business with and have an excellent record of quality and service. Area producers will now have the added benefits of lower delivery costs, shorter order times and more custom products formulated specifically for our area. This also shows Micro Blenders' recognition of Pittsylvania County being one of the state leaders for progressive beef and dairy production."

Pittsylvania County and the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance worked with numerous state agencies to secure commitments for various grants and funds for the project. Once Pittsylvania County was selected for the project, the company graciously declined to accept any State or local monies.

"Having visited their parent company's facility in Pennsylvania and met with company executives several months ago, I am thankful that they ultimately selected Pittsylvania County and the Town of Gretna for this project," **said Robert W. "Bob" Warren, Chairman, Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors.** "Today, we are not only fortunate to gain another business, but more importantly, we add a great family to our community. This facility will be modern and very automated, and will be a perfect match for students that are in our industrial maintenance and mechatronics workforce programs. In addition, it will allow us to support the County's largest industry (agriculture), while also addressing one

of the Board's key economic development target areas: value-added agribusiness. On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I congratulate Micro Blenders, Inc. and thank them for their commitment to Pittsylvania County."

"This is an extraordinary day for the Town of Gretna and our surrounding community," **said R. Keith Motley, Mayor, Town of Gretna.** "With this project, a long vacant building is being occupied, jobs are being created, and we're maintaining and supporting our long-standing agrarian heritage. I am so thankful that the Town Council had the opportunity to work closely with Pittsylvania County to secure this business for the area. Impacts from this operation are going to be felt far outside the town limits, and will be realized on farms throughout Pittsylvania County, Southern and Southwest Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley. The Town of Gretna thanks Micro Blenders, Inc. for selecting our small but growing town for this operation, and we look forward to supporting you well into the future."

**Senator Bill Stanley said,** "Diversifying our agricultural industry is of critical importance for our region, and this project with Micro Blenders, Inc. assists us in accomplishing this goal. Southside Virginia is home to some of the nation's most recognized farmers, as well as many of the largest dairies in the Commonwealth, so it is only appropriate that we also have one of the finest pre-mix facilities."

**Delegate Les Adams said,** "I would like to thank Micro Blenders, Inc. for their investment in the agricultural economy of the Commonwealth and for locating in Southside. This new operation will enhance long-established partnerships in our region with innovative technology and benefit from our increasingly qualified workforce."

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