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Arthur Schuman acquires Montforte cheese facility

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MONTFORT, Wis. — Arthur Schuman Inc. this week announced its acquisition of Wisconsin Farmers Union Specialty Cheese Co. LLC (WFUSCC) here, the manufacturing facility of Montforte Bleu and Gorgonzola cheeses.

Arthur Schuman, which has been the exclusive distributor of Montforte Bleu and Gorgonzola since January, plans to build upon the business with no major changes in regards to the plant or the employees.

"We're excited to continue to expand our portfolio of premium cheeses with the line of cheeses Montforte brings," says Terry Mulligan, COO, Arthur Schuman Inc.

Mulligan adds that the Montforte brand will remain intact. "It is a brand with good equity and a presence in itself," he says.

Sue Beitlich, Wisconsin Farmers Union president, says the board of managers felt it was the appropriate time to sell the cheese company and focus on the Wisconsin Farmers Union's mission and the needs of its members. The sale of the facility, she says, will allow more time and resources to be put toward the general farm organization.

"We have had a very satisfying relationship with Arthur Schuman Inc. since the beginning of 2009," Beitlich says. "The board of managers was committed to making a financially sound decision for the organization and selling the company to a family-owned business that would continue to produce award-winning Wisconsin cheeses. We are pleased that Arthur Schuman Inc. will continue cheese production at the Montfort plant with milk from our Wisconsin farmers."