

8/26/2005 Moran Recognizes Alma Creamery

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Moran to Present Reopened Business in Alma with "Building Better Communities" Award

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ALMA - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will recognize the citizens of Alma in their work to revitalize the Alma Creamery with his "Building Better Communities" award. Since 1946, this town of 762 people was identified by the presence of the Alma Creamery, famous for producing Alma Cheese. However, the creamery closed in 2000.

Though a setback to the community when it closed, the plant was regularly cleaned and maintained by two longtime employees, Alvin Kahle and Jim Ferguson, who were hopeful of its reopening one day. In October 2003, former owner Bernie Hansen purchased the plant, and on April 28, 2004, the first batch of hand-made Alma Cheese was produced in a completely remodeled plant. Since the plant reopened, the company's workforce has expanded from 5 to 15 employees in order to keep up with increasing demand.

"The renewed success of Alma Creamery can be attributed to a hardworking staff, a supportive community and a trusted brand name widely-recognized across the state of Kansas," Hansen said.

"For rural communities to survive and prosper into the future, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for

success," Moran said. "The revitalization of Alma Creamery is an example of how hard work and community support can create just such an opportunity."

The recognition ceremony for the Alma Creamery will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6, at the creamery, on 509 E. Third St., in Alma.

The "Building Better Communities" award was established by Moran to showcase positive community action in Kansas. Beyond providing recognition, this program provides examples of how creative thinking and teamwork make a positive difference in rural America.

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