

## Westine Report

October 31, 2008

### Burlington egg processing plant to open facility in Yorkville

By Gautam Singh

It's no yolk – the Town of Yorkville will get eggs-actly what the economy needs – a few more jobs – when Echo Lake Foods moves into the former Maple Leafs Farms duck-processing building.

The Burlington-based producer of egg products and breakfast entrees took advantage of the recent auction of Maple Leafs Farms.

Now the building at 2319 Raymond Ave. (Highway U) will be converted into an egg cooking and storage facility, according to Jerry Warntjes, Echo Lake's general manager and vice president. Echo Lakes has obtained approval from the town and from the county Economic Development and Land Use Committee.

Construction on the 19.6-acre property began earlier this month but production will not begin for about a year, according to Warntjes. The facility will require six new employees.

Warntjes said the move by Echo Lakes is fairly insignificant.

“It's a really small (move),” he added.

Future growth is hoped for but will be dictated by the economy, he added.

“We're starting small. Hopefully business can grow,” Warntjes said.

While Maple Leaf Farms emitted a distinct odor, Warntjes said that there would be no smell and minimal noise coming from the new facility.

“We're going to be so small. Nobody is even going to know we're here,” Warntjes said.

Eggs will be cracked and pasteurized in Burlington and the liquid eggs will be brought to the Yorkville facility via tanker trailers. There they will be made into egg patties and other items for the food service industry. Outside of a contract with Dunkin' Donuts, Echo Lakes has few retail customers.

Echo Lake has one other facility in Owensboro, Kentucky.