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# ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY, VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **PRESS RELEASE (Immediate)**

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### **Isle of Wight County Announces M&M Milling's First East Coast Production Facility**

#### **M&M Milling to re-purpose dormant industrial facility near Franklin**

Isle of Wight, VA (June 28, 2019) – M&M Milling, a toll processor specializing in grinding, blending and sizing of agricultural materials, has established its first East Coast location in Isle of Wight County. The firm is adding to existing operations in Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee as it expands its corporate footprint and engages more customers in the wood products industry in the Eastern United States. The company has purchased a dormant industrial facility that ceased operations over a decade ago near the City of Franklin, and is situated within a Virginia Enterprise Zone, as well as a revenue sharing district with Franklin. The new Isle of Wight operation will employ at least 15 people and purchase hundreds of thousands of bushels of shelled corn from local farmers each year as part of its production processes.

The Governor's Office, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Bettina K. Ring, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Isle of Wight County have partnered to secure M&M Milling's fifth milling facility in the U.S. by offering various incentives for major capital investments, full-time job creation and purchases of Virginia-grown products. Secretary Ring today announced from Isle of Wight that Governor Northam approved a \$50,000 matching grant from the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) Fund to assist Isle of Wight County with the project. The County will match this amount with local Enterprise Zone incentives and in-kind services. The company is also eligible to receive state benefits from the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program, as well as funding and services to support the company's employee training provided through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP).

Chairman of the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, William M. McCarty, said, "We could not be more pleased to welcome this established, successful and growing agri-business into our community. We believe that the future is very bright for this firm, and we value and appreciate the partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia, our County and M&M Milling to bring good-paying jobs, significant capital investments as well as purchases from nearby farms as part of their production processes."

Isle of Wight County Administrator Randy R. Keaton said, "Our partnership with M&M Milling in bringing them to Isle of Wight gives us confidence that the firm will be a very high-quality corporate presence in our community. Any locality would be proud to welcome this firm, and we are fortunate they chose to make their investments in Isle of Wight."

Isle of Wight Economic Development Director Chris Morello, said, "M&M Milling's planned capital investments of over \$2.3 million, new job creation and high-volume sourcing from local farmers will be an incredibly beneficial combination for our community's economy. Add to that the repurposing of a long-dormant industrial facility, within which the company can further expand, and it is easy to see why we are so pleased to welcome M&M Milling to Isle of Wight."