



SAND PLAINS
Community Development Fund

WEB: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

PROJECT #

PROJECT NAME: Gouda goat cheese production

Business/Organization: Chanoki Cheese

County: Norfolk

Priority Categories Addressed: food processing

Loan Amount: \$125,125

Board-Approval Date: Sept. 6, 2012

Project Summary: Bert and Arnolda Hoekert started a small cheese processing operation on their farm, producing Gouda goat cheese and goat milk soap. This is a new business venture which has expanded from their kitchen into a newly constructed 20' by 40' facility on their farm. They have been approved by OMAFRA and are able to meet federal licensing when sales warrant it. This loan provided funds to complete construction to OMAFRA standards and purchase the remaining equipment required. It is secured by a second collateral mortgage on the farm property appraised at \$310,000 prior to the cheese plant construction.

Regional Economic Impacts & Benefits: Initially the impact on the local economy has been low but it is potentially significant. If the business progresses as anticipated it will create additional jobs in the food processing area. Employment of 3 full time jobs created initially.

Market Impact Assessment: Gouda goat cheese is a niche product aimed at the artisan food market and is distributed through cheese retailers and specialty food stores. There is a small retail outlet at the plant.