

Cold place in DL

Nor-Am opens at former Swift site



Nor-Am Cold Storage recently opened its plant in Detroit Lakes in the former Swift building. Nor-Am President and CEO Greg Brandt's (second from left) team in Detroit Lakes includes (from left to right) plant manager Tom Duenow, Barb Gunderson, Dennis Jepson and Mark Butz.

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The old Swift cold storage facility north of Central Market has reverted back to its original purpose.

Nor-Am Cold Storage purchased the plant at the end of 2008 and has taken in its first client.

Before Nor-Am stepped in, the building on the southwest corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Front Street served as regular storage for a few years.

Nor-Am President and CEO Greg Brandt had the facility's refrigeration system updated.

"It's pretty good," Brandt said.

Brandt saw an opportunity to come in and serve a need. Brandt said he had an opportunity to purchase the building a few years ago, but Nor-Am was smaller and not in a position to grow.

But Brandt said that with Nor-Am owning three cold storage facilities

in Iowa, Nebraska and Texas, the company could handle the growth.

Nor-Am has been in business for 10 years and Brandt said that he's happy with the Detroit Lakes building thus far.

"This will be a nice plant," he said.

The plant has 6,000 pallet spaces. That's big enough to fill 200 trucks, Brandt said.

It will be the third largest facility for Nor-Am.

Nor-Am handles cold storage needs mainly for meat processors. Brandt said the company can handle raw product or product that is ready to eat.

In addition to cold storage, it also has blast freezing.

The plant can also handle vegetables in addition to meat.

It's USDA and FDA approved, Brandt added.

With one client already on board, Brandt said Nor-Am would be contacting meat processors around the area to serve their cold storage needs.

Tom Duenow of Elk River was hired on as the plant manager, and Brandt added four other employees.

Everything you hear about the economy is bad, but we're still creating jobs," Brandt said.

Besides Nor-Am Cold Storage, the company opened ProVisions Packing Company in Le Mars, Iowa, in 2005. It's a full service meat-repacking facility.

Nor-Am's corporate headquarter in Iowa can be reached at 1-888-428-7457.