

Richmond Times-Dispatch

BrightFarms greenhouse project set for Culpeper

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BrightFarms said Tuesday that it will locate its newest greenhouse production facility in Culpeper County, investing \$7.35 million to construct and operate two new greenhouses and creating 24 new jobs.

In addition, **BrightFarms Capitol Greenhouse** will produce 750,000 cases of Virginia-grown green leaf produce and 30,000 cases of Virginia-grown tomatoes over the next three years to be sold to Ahold USA supermarkets, including **Giant** and **Martin's Food Markets** stores. The production facility is slated for completion in December.

"This project, with its investment in innovative technology, new jobs being created and commitment to the environment, represents another economic win for this region," Gov. Terry McAuliffe said in a statement. BrightFarms CEO **Paul Lightfoot** added: "Not only is it a win for consumers but for the environment as well, as it will eliminate agricultural runoff, conserve land and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emission."

The Prudential Insurance Co. of America and Clean Feet Investors are financing the project, BrightFarms said.

The project also is receiving \$75,000 through the governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund, which Culpeper is matching with \$75,000 in local grant funds

The 150,000-square-foot greenhouses will use 80 percent less water, 90 percent less land and 95 percent less shipping fuel than conventional produce companies, BrightFarms said.

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