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**Arla Foods and Foremost Farms USA to**

**Explore Strategic Partnership**

**Sharing a mutual ambition of leading the way in whey in the United States, European dairy cooperative Arla Foods and U.S. based dairy cooperative Foremost Farms USA are in advanced discussions about forming a strategic partnership.**

The vision of a potential partnership is to increase the value of whey through innovation, by combining Foremost Farms’ high-quality whey with Arla Foods’ extensive ingredient know-how and strong sales channels. Recently, Arla Foods and Foremost Farms signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing the possibility of a future partnership.

Henrik Andersen, Group Vice President of Arla Foods Ingredients (AFI), says:

 “As farmer-owned cooperatives, Arla Foods and Foremost Farms USA share many of the same values and both parties see a high degree of compatibility on visions and ambitions within whey. We are confident that Foremost Farms can be the right partner for us in our efforts to secure access to high-quality whey in the U.S. market.”

Michael Doyle, President and CEO of Foremost Farms, says:

“We are excited about working with Arla Foods to create an international strategic partnership. By working with Arla, we can leverage their global food supply connections and innovation expertise with Foremost Farms’ diverse plant network and access to high-quality member milk. These factors combined, will enable both companies to meet business objectives and provide whey solutions of the highest quality to the world.”

Further details on the plans of this strategic partnership will not be disclosed at this time.



**About Foremost Farms USA:**

Foremost Farms USA ([www.foremostfarms.com](http://www.foremostfarms.com)), headquartered in Baraboo, Wisconsin, is a world-class supplier of cheese, dairy products, and ingredients to national and international markets. They offer innovative solutions, technical services and customized products, ingredients and packaging for foodservice, food processing, and distributor customers. As a dairy cooperative, they are owned by 1,300 dairy farmers from a seven-state procurement area, who supply their high-quality milk. Their flexible, diverse plant network allows them to manufacture the products and ingredients that are most in demand – and provide a strong, secure market for their member-owners’ milk.

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**About Arla Foods:**
Arla Foods Ingredients (AFI) is a subsidiary fully owned by Arla Foods Group. Through innovation, AFI has become a global leader in natural whey ingredients used for a wide range of categories from bakery, dairy and beverages to clinical, infant and sports nutrition.

Arla Foods Group is an international dairy company owned by 11.200 dairy farmers from Denmark, Sweden, the UK, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. Arla Foods is one of the strongest players in the international dairy industry, with a wide range of dairy products of highest quality. Well-known brands like Arla®, Lurpak® and Castello® belong to the Arla family. Arla Foods is also the world's largest manufacturer of organic dairy products.

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