



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Secretary Rollins Announces \$30 Million Food Purchase to Back U.S. Producers and Strengthen America's Food Supply

By USDA

Washington, D.C., – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intent to purchase up to \$30 million in fresh fruit from American farmers and producers to distribute to food banks and nutrition assistance programs across the country.

**The Mission of Love Food Hub in Bangor Pa. and Second Harvest in the Lehigh Valley Pa. will benefit from this program.**

These purchases are being made through USDA's authority under Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935 and will assist producers and communities in need. With this action, the Trump Administration is bolstering American prosperity by supporting American agriculture, rural communities, and those in need of nutrition assistance.

"President Trump is standing with America's farmers, especially right now while the farm economy recovers from years of neglect under the last administration. Certain commodities are experiencing a surplus and USDA is ensuring these crops do not go to waste and instead go to Americans in need across the country," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "These fresh fruits will reach those in need, boosting healthier options for Americans at food banks across the country, all while benefitting American farmers facing unfair actions from foreign competitors."

**Agricultural Marketing Service Section 32 Purchases**

On an ongoing basis, AMS purchases a variety of domestically produced and processed agricultural products as authorized by Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935. These "USDA Foods" are provided to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) nutrition assistance programs, including food banks that operate The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and are a vital component of the nation's food safety net.

USDA AMS will purchase \$30 million of the following commodities:

Fresh Oranges: \$15M

Grapefruit: \$10M

Mandarins: \$5M



## Where Monsters Are Made: The Lehigh Valley Manufacturer Behind the Movie Magic

By Jill Yapsuga

LEHIGH VALLEY - The final season of the hit science-fiction drama "Stranger Things" will be released Nov. 26, and fans who have been following along since it debuted have been treated to one of the cool things made in Lehigh Valley.

Smooth-On Inc., located in Macungie, develops materials used to craft movie monsters, things that go bump in the night at haunted attractions, and other creatures designed to give you a scare.

From "Stranger Things" and "The Last of Us" to the James Bond and Harry Potter franchises, makeup and special effects artists worldwide use Smooth-On products to bring other worlds to life.

Founded in 1895 by Vreeland Tompkins, Smooth-On began with a powder compound called Iron Cement, which, when mixed with water, repaired cracks and holes in iron pipes and tanks. Since then, Smooth-On has grown into an international brand known for its innovation in chemical manufacturing, room-temperature-cured rubbers, and plastics.

The company is among the nearly 700 manufacturers that make Lehigh Valley one of the Top 15% of manufacturing markets nationwide, based on Gross Domestic Product. Iconic brands such as Crayola crayons, Mack Trucks, Martin Guitars, and Lutron dimmers are among those made in Lehigh Valley.

Smooth-On's 400,000-square-foot headquarters and facility is known for an elaborate showroom entryway and unmistakable rooftop dragon. The showroom, Reynolds Advanced Materials, is open to the public, with items available for purchase for anyone to get creative at home, along with examples to spark imagination.

"The goal of our showrooms is to inspire people for the possibilities," said Madeline Western, Smooth-On's Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

The company's product lines of liquid silicones, urethane rubbers, foams, epoxies, and more are used across a range of industries, including molding and casting sound barriers for highways, medical simulation, sculptures, and of course, special effects and cosplay.

Smooth-On, which has been in the Lehigh Valley for a decade, employs 200 locally and another 100 worldwide. Located 60 minutes from Philadelphia and 90 from New York City, the Lehigh Valley's location was key in the decision to move to the region. One-third of the U.S. population is within a day's drive.

"We're accessible by our global customer base who comes to visit us all the time," Western said. "It's just a very, accessible place to live. There's something for everyone, and it's big enough to be exciting, but small enough to feel like home."



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