



**May 2010**

## **News Release**

### ***JOB*S SAFEGUARDED AT BERNARD MATTHEWS**

*Bernard Matthews today announced that, thanks to strong forward orders for Christmas, and solid current trading, it will be able to safeguard jobs at its South Site plant in Great Witchingham.*

*In February the business announced plans to move production of frozen whole birds to its Holton site, which may have led to 160 jobs being lost. However, thanks to a strong Christmas order book, the business has been able to protect nearly 140 jobs, resulting in a loss of only 22 roles across the business.*

*The key to this decision has been winning some new contracts to supply fresh Christmas turkeys. Consequently production at South Site in Great Witchingham will need to continue, as capacity at the Holton factory will not be sufficient to cope with the scale of these orders.*

*Jeff Halliwell, Bernard Matthews UK Managing Director, said:*

*"We are delighted to be making this announcement for two reasons. Firstly we've managed to safeguard nearly 140 jobs, which in a tough economic climate is great news for our employees and their families. Secondly, alongside the recent acquisition of Lincs Turkeys, it is further evidence that the Company has turned the corner and is making good progress in relation to its plans to drive profitable growth. However, we are not complacent; and we know we still have a long way to go and will continue to seek out business efficiencies in order to remain competitive."*

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