



MEDIA RELEASE

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**

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Roanoke Manufacturing Announces 100+ Jobs in Bertie County *Equipment Manufacturer Offers Good Paying Industrial Jobs*

Bertie County, NC – Roanoke Manufacturing, Inc. is announcing the opening of their industrial plant in Lewiston for building brush cutters, rotary cutters, and poultry house crusters. The three owners, Al Collins, Don Cathell, and Jim Messick purchased the assets of Gregory Manufacturing and are making plans to start their manufacturing operation soon. They currently have 20 employees, and as business sales increase they will hire more than 100 people over the next three years to accommodate their growing industry.

From this location in Lewiston, the company will manufacture equipment and will provide equipment sales through their dealer network. They will also continue to sell parts to equipment owners out of the Roanoke Manufacturing inventory warehouse.

“With an unemployment rate as high as 6.4% in Bertie County last year, the need for good jobs in this region is very clear,” Congressman G. K. Butterfield said. “Roanoke Manufacturing’s announcement is welcome news, and it’s a particularly positive step toward building a diverse, resilient and vibrant local economy.”

Steve Biggs, Economic Developer for Bertie County, and Tim Ivey, Regional Representative with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, helped pave the way for the company to locate in Bertie County. “We are excited to have Roanoke Manufacturing in Bertie County. I am confident that they will find a willing and able workforce among our residents. We have gotten to know the owners over the past few months, and we believe this company will make good contributions to the community,” said Biggs.

“Bertie County and everyone in the Northeast Region, including our new employees, have gone out of their way to help us through the transition of opening our business here. We are used to small towns because we come from a small town in Delaware, so this feels like home,” stated Collins, one of the owners of Roanoke Manufacturing.

Roanoke Manufacturing believes that a good company becomes part of the community and supports the area where they do business. “We are not coming the Northeastern North Carolina looking for cheap labor, but, instead, we hope to make the community a better place because we are here. We hope that the cash flow provided by our business will help restaurants and stores re-open so that Lewiston-Woodville can thrive,” stated Collins.



Roanoke Manufacturing plans to hire more than 100 people over a three-year period. The owners state that they are looking for people who are willing to work and are willing to be trained. Collins said, “It helps to have some experience because the work is often dirty and sometimes physical, but with the right attitude, a person can learn the work.”

“This is a great opportunity for the people of Bertie County and the surrounding area,” stated Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina’s Northeast Commission. “As we work to diversify the economy and expand the capacity for good-paying jobs, we expect to see more good companies opening in the area.”

About North Carolina’s Northeast Commission:

North Carolina’s Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the North Carolina’s Northeast Commission, contact us at www.ncnortheast.com and www.visitncne.com.

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