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Contact: Larry Pelton, president  
Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County  
(772) 879-4144  
LPelton@YourEDC.com

## **Tropicana Invests Nearly \$60 Million in its St. Lucie County Facility for New Packaging and Pulping Operations**

Fast-track permitting accelerates move to clear, plastic bottles for Tropicana Pure Premium

FT. PIERCE, Fla. – Tropicana Products, Inc. has reinforced its 40-year commitment to the St. Lucie County community by reinvesting nearly \$60 million at its Ft. Pierce facility for new packaging and pulping operations. Larry L. Pelton, president of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (EDC), said that fast-track permitting through the county government, a job growth investment grant and county-approved tax abatement contributed to Tropicana's decision.

Tropicana's expanded packaging capacity supports the transition of its flagship Tropicana Pure Premium to clear, plastic bottles, a move the company began earlier this year. The expanded pulping capacity will produce pulp for products such as Grove Stand. Tropicana's reinvestment also adds three new buildings and between 11 and 22 manufacturing jobs.

"We are thrilled that Tropicana chose to reinvest nearly \$60 million in its Ft. Pierce facility," said Faye W. Outlaw, St. Lucie County administrator. "Given all the choices that an employer like Tropicana has, this is a vote of confidence in St. Lucie County as a good place to grow business."

"Fast-track permitting is making a huge difference for us in meeting market demand for Tropicana products in our innovative new packaging," said Michael Haycock, Tropicana vice president of operations. "Our experience working with St. Lucie County and its Economic Development Council has been positive and productive."

"The EDC is proud to facilitate a good working relationship between Tropicana, a long-time employer in our community, and St. Lucie's county government to speed construction and help the company begin its new manufacturing approach to meet consumer demand," Pelton said.

If your business is considering relocating to or expanding in St. Lucie County, the EDC stands ready to help you take your business to the next level. For more information contact the EDC.

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**About the EDC of St. Lucie County**

The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc. is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to encourage a competitive environment that nurtures clusters of industries employing state-of-the-art technologies, a skilled workforce, and that stimulates economic growth through expansion of the private sector within St. Lucie County and the Research Coast.

**About Tropicana Products, Inc.**

Tropicana Products, Inc., a division of PepsiCo, Inc., is the leading producer and marketer of branded fruit juices. Tropicana markets its products in the U.S. under a variety of brand names, including the Tropicana not-from-concentrate line of juices: Dole® juices and juice blends; Tropicana® Juices, Trop50 and Tropicana Twister® juice beverages. The Dole brand name is licensed from Dole Food Company, Inc. For more information about Tropicana, visit [Tropicana.com](http://Tropicana.com).

**About PepsiCo**

PepsiCo offers the world's largest portfolio of billion-dollar food and beverage brands, including 19 different product lines that each generates more than \$1 billion in annual retail sales. Our main businesses – Frito-Lay, Quaker, Pepsi-Cola, Tropicana and Gatorade – also make hundreds of other nourishing, tasty foods and drinks that bring joy to our consumers in more than 200 countries. With annualized revenues of nearly \$60 billion, PepsiCo's people are united by our unique commitment to sustainable growth, called "Performance with Purpose." By dedicating ourselves to offering a broad array of choices for healthy, convenient and fun nourishment, reducing our environmental impact, and fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace culture, PepsiCo balances strong financial returns with giving back to our communities worldwide. For more information, visit: [www.pepsico.com](http://www.pepsico.com).

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