

September 7, 2005

Port of Corpus Christi announces major cargo shipments into Cold Storage facility

Port of Corpus Christi Chairman Ruben Bonilla announced today, shipments of melons and poultry to begin next week into the port's cold storage facility. Representatives from Ozark Mountain Poultry, Green Reefers, Frontera Produce and Altobaso, S.A., were present at the announcement to offer details about the pending cargo.



Ozark Mountain Poultry of Rogers, AR will broker in part the poultry to its final destination in Russia beginning next week and is expected to continue through 2006 with the potential for a longer-term agreement. "More than a month ago, OMP Foods and the Port of Corpus Christi entered into an exclusive agreement whereby OMP would use the port to export 2,000 metric tons of frozen poultry each month through the end of this year. OMP is a conservative company and beginning with 2,000 metric tons will allow us to determine what is necessary to build towards levels approximating 4,000 metric tons and hopefully to 7,000 metric tons per month next year," said Howard Otwell, Chief Administrative Officer of OMP Foods.

Ozark Mountain Poultry selected the Port of Corpus Christi in part based on the competitive advantage of its cold storage on-dock facility with only 60 feet from ship to cold store and its very accommodating railroad reefer traffic. Also, the cold storage facility received a certification from Russia as an export cold store as required to export poultry products to Russia.

Frontera Produce of Edinburg, TX will broker cantaloupes and honey dews from Guatemala through Altobaso, S.A. Frontera Produce has contracted 2,400 tons per week during the season of November through May. The cantaloupes and honey dews will be shipped to major grocers and retailers in Texas and the West Coast. "There were several factors that influenced our decision to select this port. Other Gulf ports were considered but the Port of Corpus Christi has the strategic location, the on-dock facility, the accessible rail and highway transportation and something that is very important to us, which is the cleanliness of the coldstore. We anticipate this trial season to run very smoothly and hope to add mangos to the cantaloupes and honeydews for the 2006/2007 season," said Severion Stefani, General Manager of Altobaso, S.A.

The Port of Corpus Christi Cold Storage is a state-of-the-art, 100,000 square foot refrigerated warehouse on the Texas Gulf of Mexico coast. From this strategic location it

serves the American and world markets with excellent shipping, rail and highway connections. It boasts chilled and frozen space a short 60-feet from dockside, enclosed temperature-controlled rail and truck loading docks in a foreign trade zone.