



NEWS RELEASE
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**MISSOURI ENTERPRISE TO HELP HAMMONS PRODUCTS
EVALUATE NEW NUT CLEANING EQUIPMENT**

Stockton, Missouri, June 1, 2006 – Hammons Products, the nation’s largest processor of American Black Walnuts for both food and industrial uses, has asked Missouri Enterprise to work with company engineers to evaluate nut cleaning methods and equipment, along with cleaning modifications for nut hulling machines.

The wild Black Walnuts come to Hammons Products from the harvesters with husk material packed in the grooves of the shells, even after passing through the hulling machine. They are then cleaned and go through several other processing steps. By finding innovative ways to remove the husk material, the company can improve nut quality and yield, while reducing processing time and spoilage.

Together Missouri Enterprise and the Hammons staff will evaluate cleaning systems for capability and capacity, economic impact, quality and environmental issues. They will also explore other ideas for improving the hulling and cleaning systems.

According to Company President Brian Hammons, “This project is part of our company’s ongoing effort to lead and grow the Black Walnut industry and improve the efficiency of our plant operations. Even though we’ve been in the Black Walnut business for 60 years, we still must look for ways to improve if we want to be a great company in the years to come.”

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The evaluation is planned for completion late in 2006 after the fall nut harvest.

Missouri Enterprise is a not-for-profit corporation that provides business and technical assistance to help Missouri companies succeed. It manages the Manufacturing Extension Partnership in Missouri, an Advanced Manufacturing Training Program (funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant), a value added agriculture program and one of the state's Innovation Centers.