

## Cargill to invest \$90Mn in Fort Morgan beef plant

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Cargill announced it is investing nearly \$90 million in automation and new technologies at its Fort Morgan, Colo., beef plant as part of its Factory of the Future initiative. The enhancements, which will take place over the next several years, will help Cargill continue to improve operational efficiencies, increase yields and make the Fort Morgan facility even safer and more inclusive for employees. The company has already invested nearly \$24 million in technology upgrades at Fort Morgan since 2021.

One of the first and most revolutionary automated solutions to be implemented at the Fort Morgan plant will be CarVe, Cargill's proprietary, patent-pending computer vision technology. CarVe measures red meat yield in real time, giving frontline managers instant insights and the ability to share feedback with employees to improve their cutting technique.

CarVe helps keep more protein in the food system that otherwise would be lost in the process. According to the USDA, the U.S. produces more than 27 billion pounds of beef annually. Even a one per cent yield improvement can save hundreds of millions of pounds of meat. And with the U.S. cattle supply at its lowest level in years, improving yield matters more than ever.

"Before CarVe, yield data was always yesterday's news," said Jarrod Gillig, senior vice president of Cargill's North American Beef business. "Now, we're making decisions in the moment and saving product that would've been lost. By applying smart technology to the problem, we're getting more meat from every animal, reducing waste, and making protein production more efficient and sustainable from start to finish."

Gillig noted that Cargill has also invested in the community of Fort Morgan and its people there. To help address a regional housing shortage, the company has backed a \$40 million development project for employee housing. This includes 27 townhomes, which have already been built and an apartment complex with 81 units set to open in the Fall. And Cargill has provided more than \$500,000 in grants to local organisations, including the United Way, to support additional childcare options and other programs that help address the regional housing issue, like first-time home buyer classes.