

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

### **Tillery Valley continues support for sustainable sourcing**

Gwent-based prepared meals manufacturer Tillery Valley is delighted to announce the renewal of its initiative to source lamb directly from three local farms after a successful year-long trial.

Tillery Valley supply chilled and frozen prepared meals to the healthcare and education sector and local authorities across the UK. Their production facility in Abertillery has the capacity to produce one million meals per week. The sustainable lamb procurement programme was introduced in 2010, aiming to reduce food miles as well as providing valuable support to the local economy.

Before the arrangement, the vast majority of lamb used by Tillery Valley was sourced from overseas. This renewed scheme backs the Farmers' Union of Wales "Help Cut Food Miles... Buy The Welsh One" campaign, encouraging increased environmental responsibility as well as backing local businesses.

Glyn Davies, the Farmers' Union of Wales executive officer for Gwent county, said:

'Tillery Valley plays a significant role in this area, employing over 350 staff at its site in Abertillery. Sustainable local sourcing schemes such as this are incredibly valuable to both the immediate economy and the wider community, and it's fantastic that they have decided to continue sourcing their lamb from farms so close by.' We were delighted to welcome our president Emyr Jones and the Welsh Government Minister for Agriculture, Alun Davies to Hafodarthan farm last year to launch the original scheme

Phil Hall, Site Director at Tillery Valley, said:

'Wales is recognised world-wide for its lamb, and our clients have been very happy with our products since the initiative began.

We are strongly committed to both environmental sustainability and the vitality of the local economy. We can view the farmer's fields from our production site; it is great to be able to utilise local suppliers in this way. Sourcing our lamb locally allows us to continue our support of our local farmers and the wider community, and after the resounding success of the trial period we are delighted to renew this contract.'