

MEAG POWER **current** COMMUNITIES

MOULTRIE, GEORGIA

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MOULTRIE

Come and Succeed

*A City
on the Move*

In 1914, Moultrie businessmen took a leap of faith. That was the year the Moultrie Packing Company opened for business. The venture was a bold risk because there was no established market for a \$100,000 meatpacking facility in South Georgia. There was no guarantee the small operation could survive against larger operations in the North and no guarantee farmers would take a chance on hogs and cows rather than cotton, timber or tobacco.

The locals prevailed. Moultrie Packing Company was so successful that in three years' time Swift and Company purchased and expanded the plant. In 2001, National Beef, one of the largest U.S. beef packing companies, acquired the Swift campus for its case-ready operations.

Moultrie has a history of helping businesses and industries prosper because it is a city that is always on the move—taking on new technology, building a skilled workforce and extending its already exciting community culture. In short, for nearly 100 years, the welcome mat has been out in Moultrie for all who want to come and succeed.



FAST FACTS MOULTRIE

POPULATION: 14,268

COUNTY: Colquitt – Population 45,498

UTILITIES: Water, Sewer, Electricity, Telecom, Cable TV, Natural Gas and Solid Waste

TRANSPORTATION: Moultrie sits 24 miles west of I-75, about 200 miles south of Atlanta. Major corridors through Moultrie are U.S. Hwy. 319 and Ga. Hwy. 133.

NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:

- Colquitt County School Board
- Colquitt Regional Medical Center – healthcare
- Destiny Enterprises – modular housing
- Ice House America – ice distributor
- National Beef – case-ready beef
- Riverside Manufacturing – casual workforce clothing
- Sanderson Farms – poultry processor
- Sparkman’s Cream Valley – dairy
- Walmart – retailer

“We are known as the ‘City of Southern Living’ and we have a great sense of commitment to the charm, hospitality and dedication to progress that designation calls to mind.”

– Mayor Bill McIntosh

- Moultrie was founded in 1879 as an administrative center for Colquitt County and named after a Revolutionary War hero, William Moultrie.
- Throughout its 34-year history, the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie has been at the forefront of showcasing the future of agriculture. The event attracts upwards of 100,000 visitors from all over the country to peruse 4,000 product lines from 1,200 commercial exhibitors, and capitalize on educational opportunities from university and college research specialists.
- The countywide Archway Partnership with the University of Georgia provides a kick start for grant applications, park and streetscape designs, redevelopment planning, marketing, brownfield projects and leadership summits.
- Moultrie Technical College’s Allied Health Center, a 41,000-square-foot facility, will have cost nearly \$10 million when it opens in 2012. The facility will offer careers for healthcare professionals.
- Moultrie was recently rated by the American Chamber of Commerce Association as one of the most affordable places to live in Georgia.

THE SPIRIT OF MOULTRIE

There is a can-do spirit in Moultrie, Georgia, that is evidenced in thriving businesses, energetic local government and a variety of arts. This spirit came to life in the early 1900s when this rural southwest Georgia community faced a declining economy based on timber and cotton. The daring venture that came forward was Moultrie Packing Company.

Today, its legacy, National Beef, is a prominent Moultrie enterprise and a key employer amidst a very diverse agricultural economy that generates \$500 million annually and provides jobs for over 4,000 people.

Importantly, the city was a player in the launch of Moultrie Packing Company and is a leader today in building prosperity. To prepare for more new industry and overall economic growth, an ambitious utility project is currently underway. This \$35 million wastewater/sewer upgrade increases the city's capacity and creates new efficiencies, including utilizing a wastewater byproduct to power the plant's boiler.

In 2011, the city consolidated its five revenue-generating enterprises, electric, natural gas, water, sewer and broadband operations, into one facility for economies of scale and to support sharing of resources, including mapping and GIS information.

In another forward-thinking initiative, Moultrie launched its own internal telephone system employing Voice over IP (VoIP) technology. Using its state-of-the-art telecom network, the telephone network provides internal system efficiencies, adds flexibility of resources and decreases the need for outside vendors.

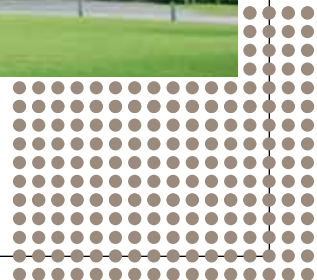
Also, in a small agricultural community, the arts don't always find fertile ground. But they flourish in Moultrie thanks to an arts-minded citizenry. The heart of their efforts

is the Colquitt County Arts Center located in a finely restored historic school building with galleries, art studios, dance studios, a photo lab, theatre and grand ballroom.

There is a history of achievement in Moultrie, Georgia. An infant meatpacking industry that many didn't anticipate would succeed became a mainstay so integral to the community, "Packers" remains as the high school football mascot moniker. Indeed, the can-do spirit of 1914 entrepreneurs remains on the field, in all aspects of Moultrie's community and commercial life.



The restored Arts Center building is home to contemporary pursuits in the arts.





Downtown Moultrie



Dogwood blossoms



Moultrie Chamber of Commerce

More About HOMETOWN MOULTRIE

- In 2012, the Colquitt County Arts Center plans to honor its famous native musical artists, from Curtis Gordon, Stonewall Jackson and Little Willie Wynn to Boudleaux Bryant. Events start in April and culminate with a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition “*New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*,” at the local Arts Center. The Center garnered an \$18,000 grant for the yearlong celebration.
- “We are the ATMs of ice sales,” explains Ice House America. Georgia Tech assisted the entrepreneurs and inventors in translating their knowledge about cotton gins to ice vending. Ice House America manufactures stand-alone ice vending machines in Moultrie. The ice houses are automated, unmanned and require only electricity, a telephone line and water to produce the product.
- In a housing market that went sour in 2000, Moultrie home manufacturer, Destiny Industries, revived a business with an experienced workforce that had just lost their jobs. Destiny Industries builds manufactured and modular housing and employs over 100 people.
- Sparkman’s Cream Valley is a successful and unique Moultrie dairy operation founded in 1967. The family-owned business is committed to a sustainable organic product line with a herd of all-Jersey cows fed a hormone-free diet. Known for its superior flavor, Sparkman’s products are available at the Moultrie farm and through many Georgia retail locations.
- Moultrie citizens, Matt Friedlander and his wife, Jacqueline, have donated dogwood trees to the public each February for 31 years totaling a gift of more than a quarter-million trees.

