

# Dakota Beef begins expansion early

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Rather than waiting until spring, Dakota Beef has begun construction of a 15,000-square-foot addition to its Howard facility.

“We’re plowing forward into phase two,” said Seldon Moreland, communications director for Dakota Beef. “Demand has been overwhelming.”

Originally, Dakota Beef had planned construction of an addition for spring, but Moreland said that the winter work will allow the new space to be ready by spring.

The addition includes 10,000 square feet for the production line and 5,000 square feet for the slaughterhouse. The new space, along with additional equipment and renovation work, is a \$5 million investment by Dakota Beef.

The facility employs 20 people in Howard and markets certified organic beef. Moreland said the addition will allow the Howard plant to be fully integrated facility.

“It was the one piece missing from our business plan,” he said.

Cattle are currently slaughtered in Omaha and shipped to Howard.

“This will mean complete control of the production line,” he said.

With this addition, Dakota Beef will have the capabilities of processing 80 head of cattle in an eight-hour shift.

“We have a market for it,” Moreland said.

The project was started early because of the demand for Dakota Beef’s product.

“We can’t keep up with the demand in California,” Moreland said, adding that the company is also signing a contract with a retail chain in New York which will take one-third of the production.

“We expect demand to skyrocket when we have complete control of our product,” he said.