

Card maker will add jobs in Bardstown

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

The Courier-Journal

WAYNE TOMPKINS

Greeting card maker American Greetings Corp. plans to add up to 90 jobs at its Bardstown facility, Nelson County officials said yesterday.

American Greetings will start making cellophane-wrapped greeting cards in Bardstown, where it already employs about 500 and is Nelson County's largest private employer, said Kim Huston, president of the Nelson County Economic Development Agency.

The work had been done at the company's plant in Lafayette, Tenn., which is scheduled to close this spring.

The move of "cello" production from Lafayette to Bardstown is to begin this month and be completed in about four months.

Huston said the region was competing with an American Greetings facility in Osceola, Ark., for the expansion.

"That's a much larger facility than here, but I think what gave us the edge was our local county government and the state of Kentucky jumped in and helped us very much on some funding options," Huston said.

That includes about \$400,000 in combined funding for training and to help move production equipment to Bardstown.

"The union really worked with the company and gave some concessions to get these jobs here," Huston said. The plant in Arkansas is non-union.

The company has two other Kentucky facilities, in Danville and Berea. The Tennessee plant is closing to save money. The shutdown will eliminate 205 jobs.