

Press Release
May 27, 2003

Seneca Foods Corporation (NASDAQ: SENE, SENE) announced today the completion of its purchase of the equity interests in Chiquita Processed Foods, L.L.C. from Chiquita Brands International, Inc. (NYSE: CQB) for \$128 million consisting of \$110 million of cash and \$18 million of Seneca Foods Series A Convertible Preferred Stock convertible into Seneca Foods Class A stock.

As a result of the transaction, Seneca will become the largest supplier of private label canned vegetables to the retail, export and food service markets in the United States. In addition, Seneca is adding several well known regional labels including Stokely's Finest, Festal, Tendersweet, Read, and Diamond A to its stable of canned vegetable brands which already includes Libby's, and Aunt Nellie's Farm Kitchen.

Seneca had previously announced that it expects to sell four of the Chiquita Processed Foods plant locations in the Midwest to Lakeside Foods, Inc. (Manitowoc, WI.) This sale is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Seneca Foods® President and Chief Executive Officer, Kraig H. Kayser commented "it is our goal to complete the Lakeside spin-off within the next few weeks, and proceed with the task at hand, which is the current vegetable pack season."

In a separate transaction, Seneca also announced that it had acquired the private label and branded canned asparagus business of Birdseye Foods, Rochester, New York for an unspecified sum. Included in the sale was a perpetual license to use the Thank You brand label on canned asparagus.

Seneca is primarily a vegetable processing company with manufacturing facilities located throughout the United States. Its products are sold under the Libby's®, Aunt Nellie's Farm Kitchen®, and Seneca® labels as well as through the private label and industrial markets. In addition, under an alliance with The Pillsbury Company, Seneca produces canned and frozen vegetables which are sold by Pillsbury under the Green Giant® label. Seneca's common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Stock Market under the symbols ["SENEA"](#) and ["SENEB"](#).