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### **Statement From Graeter's Manufacturing Co.**

Graeter's Purchase of Regional Franchise Stores in Columbus and Dayton

Graeter's Manufacturing Co. has entered into an agreement to acquire 15 Graeter's retail stores from its franchisee, Superior Tasting Products, LLC (STP). Maury Levine and Clay Cookery, who are the principals behind STP, have operated an outstanding Graeter's franchise operation for over 20 years, growing to become Graeter's largest franchisee. Having fulfilled their dream, Maury and Clay have decided that the time was right to move on to the next chapter of their lives. The timing of the acquisition couldn't be better, as Graeter's celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> birthday and is within days of opening its new manufacturing plant.

"This acquisition makes perfect strategic sense for Graeter's," said Richard Graeter, president of Graeter's. "Our corporate office in Cincinnati will now operate all of the Graeter's stores in Ohio, meaning we'll build an even better relationship with our customers in Dayton and Columbus."

The fourth generation of the Graeter family currently operates 14 retail stores in Cincinnati. This acquisition will add 11 Columbus locations and four Dayton locations to Graeter's group of corporate-owned stores. Graeter's still has 14 franchise locations in Kentucky and two in Indiana.

The transaction is targeted to close at the beginning of June.