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The Sparta Group has been sending cattle to the abattoir in Welkom, known then as Oranje Koekamers, since the late 1960's. The relationship continued when Renown bought the abattoir in the 1980's and their footprint was firmly established in the Welkom community when Sparta Beef bought the abattoir in January 1999. The Sparta Group is passionate about being "Proudly Free State". It was mainly for this reason that the Group decided to invest in Welkom rather than buying an abattoir further a field.

The abattoir and meat processing operation known as Sparta Foods has a staff complement of approximately 600 full time and part time employees. Sparta spends much time and resources on its staff, which it views as one of its core assets. Family commitment and ownership in the Group has greatly influenced the Sparta culture. The Group is run according to

family values and the staff members are regarded as such engendering loyalty and dedication. The Group prides itself in being an integral part of the community in which it operates and is sensitive to the impact it has on this community.

Sparta Foods is continually showing its commitment to the Free State and to Welkom in particular with current and pending expansion at Sparta Foods in

Welkom. More chilling facilities are currently under construction at the plant and a new state of the art de-boning hall should be completed by the end of 2008.

Sparta Foods strives to maintain its founding drive entrepreneurship, commitment to quality, and meeting client expectations. Our foundation is strong and we believe in our potential to

further grow our business and hence our clients' businesses. It is this growth and development that will harness the potential of South Africa as it transforms both its economy and society.

Sparta Foods fast facts:

* Approximately 170 000 cattle from both the Group feedlot and external farmers are slaughtered annually at the abattoir in Welkom.

* A large percentage of the beef is sold to wholesalers all over South Africa. These wholesalers receive large consignments of beef transported by refrigerated trucks.

* Approximately 20% of the beef production (10 400 tonnes per annum) is de-boned and sold as "boxed beef".

* All offal products are also marketed and sold country wide.

