

Smithfield Lays Off 120

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM, AP Business Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Smithfield Foods Inc. is laying off 120 more workers as part of its previously announced closure of a Virginia facility that makes hot dogs and deli meat.

The Smithfield, Va.-based pork producer said Tuesday that it plans to close the Portsmouth plant in the middle of August.

The move comes amid the company's pending \$4.72 billion takeover by China's largest meat producer.

The company announced plans in 2011 to close the Smithfield Packing Co. plant and shift production to a facility in Kinston, N.C.

Layoffs at the facility began in January, with more than 400 workers to be affected by the time plant is closed.

Smithfield had said it was closing the plant because it cannot support the manufacturing technology changes and product development necessary to meet its needs.

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