



Hypertherm Partners with Local Farms to Help Associates Eat Healthier



HANOVER, N.H.—June 24, 2009—Hypertherm, the world leader in plasma

arc metal cutting technology, is working with two local farms to bring fresh produce to Hypertherm's Upper Valley associates.

Beginning this month, Edgewater Farm in Plainfield will make weekly visits to Hypertherm so associates can more easily buy fresh local produce. This week's selection includes a variety of salad greens, herbs, radishes, strawberries, and even eggs.

The partnership between Hypertherm and <u>Edgewater</u> was shepherded by <u>Vital Communities</u>, a regional nonprofit that works to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to regional challenges.

"There are a number of reasons Hypertherm is excited to partner with Edgewater Farm," said Barbara Couch, Hypertherm's vice president of corporate social responsibility. "This program not only encourages our associates to eat healthier, but makes it easier for them to support our local farms."

"We're delighted to bridge the gap to help local progressive employers like Hypertherm do more with local farmers," said Lisa Johnson, new programs manager at Vital Communities.

In addition, some Hypertherm associates are participating in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with Fairlee based <u>Your Farm</u>. CSA's allow people, in this case Hypertherm associates, to buy shares in exchange for produce each week of the growing season. Instead of having to pick up the produce at a farm or farmer's market, associates can have the produce dropped off at Hypertherm.

Hypertherm has launched several health related initiatives this year. In addition to partnering with Edgewater and Your Farm, Hypertherm is serving more healthy foods at its cafeteria, operating a Wellness Center staffed with two Dartmouth Hitchcock caregivers, and offering a number of programs aimed at helping associates become more active.

Hypertherm designs and manufactures the world's most advanced plasma cutting systems for use in a variety of industries such as shipbuilding, manufacturing, and automotive repair. Its product line includes handheld and mechanized plasma systems and consumables, as well as CNC motion and height controls. Hypertherm systems are trusted for performance and reliability that results in increased productivity and profitability for tens of thousands of businesses. The New Hampshire based company's reputation for plasma innovation dates back 40 years, to 1968, with Hypertherm's invention of water injection plasma cutting. The company, consistently named one of the best places to work in America, has more than 1,000 associates along with operations and partner representation worldwide. For more information please visit www.hypertherm.com.

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