

2021

Sargento Impact Report

SARGENTO





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Welcome to the Sargento Family



Louie Gentine
CEO

We're family.

And if you work for us, do business with us, live in our community, or enjoy our products, you are, too.

We see all our stakeholders—employees, vendors, neighbors, and customers—as part of the Sargento Family. You've contributed to our success, and we believe it's only right that you share in it.

This philosophy, held dear by our founder Leonard A. Gentine, guides us in everything we do. Treating people like family is how Leonard built this company from a Plymouth, Wisconsin cheese packager into one of the most trusted names in the dairy case. Nearly 70 years later, this embracing attitude is helping Sargento in its goal to become the most innovative, best-loved real food company. We're

committed to growing both our business and the categories where we compete—including launching Balanced Breaks® Cheese & Crackers and our Creamery® line shredded and sliced cheeses, developing our people, leading with innovation, and caring for our community.

This report documents our progress. We're incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together.

And we're hopeful for what our responsible stewardship—of our people, planet, and product—will mean for future generations.

—Louie Gentine, CEO, & Mike McEvoy, EVP Operations
Third-generation family owners



Mike McEvoy
EVP Operations

Who We Are

As a family business, Sargento is dedicated to improving the communities where we live and work.

...

It's not just a responsibility we shoulder. It's a relationship we live to nurture.

...

That's our goal. We have a nearly 70-year history of succeeding at it.

This report testifies to what we're proud to have accomplished in 2021. We're proud to report that, on an impressive scale, we've helped feed the hungry, shelter those in need, and provide educational opportunities for all. We've diverted thousands of pounds of packaging waste from landfills. We've always been packaging pioneers in our industry, and this stands true today. We will continue to lead the industry by ensuring that a key segment of our snacking portfolio's packaging will be recyclable by 2024.

We're committed to sustaining this progress. By investing in our community, we're investing in the growth and success of the Sargento Family.



Founder Leonard Gentine understood that connection. To build a company that would endure for generations, he knew he had to be devoted to his employees and earn the trust of his suppliers and customers. Even before the company's inception, he had earned both. In their hour of need, the people in his community knew they could count on his generosity, his leadership, and his genuine support.

By continuing Leonard's tradition, Sargento has secured his legacy. Our employees, who now number more than 2,000, are so committed that even after [winning the lottery](#), they remain dedicated to the company and each other. And so trustworthy do our customers find Sargento that they bought \$1.5 billion of our products in 2021.

Some companies have to be compelled to take care of the larger community. Not us. We see to our neighbors' needs, as they see to ours. We invest in their success, as their success ensures ours.

It's not just a responsibility we shoulder. It's a relationship we live to nurture.



Our Approach

Long before the United Nations formulated its list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sargento was working to achieve them.



We have long helped our community, conserved natural resources, and sourced our products responsibly.

And we will continue to do so. Because we've always done what's right for our stakeholders, whether we're recognized for it or not.

We approach this work by setting annual targets and investing in initiatives on three fronts: People, Planet, and Product.

People

We strive to serve our communities by addressing their food, housing, health, and educational needs.

- As a company we make a real difference by partnering with local, regional, and national charities. We serve on their boards, support them financially, and donate tons of cheese.
- Our employees want to help their neighbors. We make it easy for them to do so by providing many opportunities to volunteer or donate. Promoting volunteerism is part of our comprehensive effort to look after our employees' physical, mental, financial, spiritual, social, and emotional wellbeing.

Planet

We strive to conserve natural resources by making our operations more energy- and water- efficient and less wasteful.

- Throughout our processes, we maximize resources by reducing, reusing, recycling them.
- We reduce our environmental impact by diverting more waste from landfills
- We continue to invest in energy efficient systems, like LED lighting, closed-loop cooling systems, and high efficiency appliances

Product

We strive to take care of our consumers by carefully vetting our suppliers and vendors.

- We work only with dairy suppliers who share our values and abide by our standards for ethical animal treatment, food quality, and food safety.
- We give priority to vendors whose sustainability efforts align with our goals, which include making our packaging recycle-ready.

Our Impact at a Glance

People



\$3
million

donated to United Way since 2016.



+1200
hours

of community service for a grand total of **42,470+** hours of community service volunteered by our employees since 1992.



\$108,000

Touchdowns for Hunger™

donation in 2021. Since partnering with the Green Bay Packers in 2002 we've donated more than \$1.5 million. That's over 1 million meals.



32
Habitat for Humanity homes

in Milwaukee since 1992 built by our employees for deserving families.



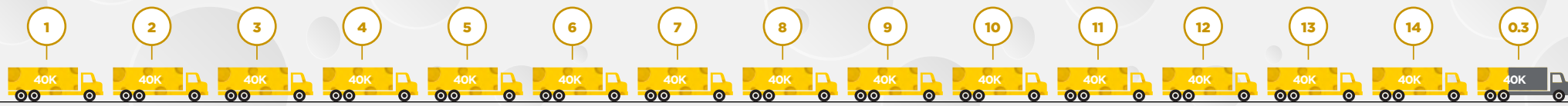
\$60,000
Double Helping for Hunger™

donation in 2021. Since partnering with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2018 we've donated \$195,000.



\$44,000
Tip Off for Homes

donation in 2021. Since partnering with the Milwaukee Bucks in 2019 we've donated \$77,500.



572,173
pounds

of cheese donated to community meal programs and food banks in 2021. That's 14.3 truckloads of cheese!

Planet



34.7
million gallons
of water saved in 2021.



89%
of all packaging waste
diverted from landfill in 2021.



Product



100%
supplier compliance
with code for ethical treatment
of animals.



100%
of Balanced Breaks[®]
snack trays
are designed for recyclability
by 2024.



100%
of overwrap
used on our string and stick
products are designed for
recyclability by 2024.



Taking Care of People



At Sargento, we believe in making a real difference in people's lives.

At Sargento, we believe in making a real difference in people's lives.

For nearly 70 years, we've done so both as a company and as individuals. Our community outreach extends throughout Wisconsin and to areas where there is great need.

In 2021, as in prior years, our philanthropy focused on hunger relief, affordable housing, and education. That is in line with our commitment to providing basic needs to strengthen families and communities. We see our ongoing investment in people as an investment in our collective future and our obligation to our suppliers, neighbors, employees, and customers.

We know that by always giving back as citizens, we will continue to grow forward as a company.

Feeding the Hungry

As a real-food company, we can't stand by while our neighbors go hungry. That's why we've established and continue to nurture long-standing partnerships with Wisconsin professional sports teams and local food banks to bolster hunger relief. Together, we've made a real difference. Here's how:

- For every double hit by the Milwaukee Brewers, we donate \$200 to Hunger Task Force. By recruiting Outfielder's Christian Yelich to the cause, Double Helping for Hunger™ (DHFH) raised \$60,000 for Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee in 2021. Since teaming up with the Brewers in 2018, Sargento has raised an additional \$195,000.
- For every touchdown made by the Green Bay Packers, we donated \$2,000 to Hunger Task Force and Paul's Pantry, a Green Bay food bank. Touchdowns for Hunger™ raised a record-breaking \$132,000 last year, bringing our total donation since partnering with the Packers in 2002 to \$1.5 million.

- Our in-kind donations to community meal programs and food banks, including Sheboygan County Food Bank (SCFB), translated into 572,173 pounds, or more than 14 Sargento truckloads of cheese last year. For the past decade, Sargento has provided SCFB with strategic counseling, mentorship, staff development, and volunteers in addition to monetary and in-kind donations. Last year, in recognition of our longstanding partnership and unflagging efforts to fight hunger, SCFB honored us as a **Hunger Hero**.

...

We know that by always giving back as citizens, we will continue to grow forward as a company.

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...

Everybody's good health is reward enough for us.

...

Sheltering Families in Need

Every family deserves a place to call home. Home is where we eat together and laugh together, forging the bonds that fortify us for life. As a family-owned business, we know just how important home is to our wellbeing.

But not every family can afford a home. And some families, through no fault of their own, have lost their homes. Here's what we're doing to help:

- For the past 30 years, Sargento has partnered with Habitat for Humanity, transforming futures, and uplifting entire neighborhoods in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We were Habitat Milwaukee's first corporate sponsor, and we support the charity with both money and manpower. For example:
 - Each year, our employees participate in Habitat Volunteer Week, taking the bus to Milwaukee to lend their muscle, carpentry skills, and can-do spirit to the collective home-building effort. In 2021, 50 of our people devoted 8 hours each to the cause. Since 1992, 800 employees have given 16,400 workday hours to help build 32 homes, and we've covered their wages to do it.

- Each basketball season, we team up with the Milwaukee Bucks to raise money for Habitat Milwaukee. For every tip-off the Bucks win, we donate \$500. In 2021, when the Bucks made the playoffs, we doubled our contribution to \$1,000 per tip-off. By the time they'd won the World Championship (Bucks in Six!), we'd raised \$44,000 for Habitat Milwaukee. Since its inception (the 2019-2020 season), Tipoff for Homes™ has raised an additional \$77,500 for our Milwaukee home-building partner.
- Every year, by providing funding and thought leadership, Sargento helps county, national, and international relief organizations respond to the acute needs of those ravaged by disaster. In 2021:
 - We support the efforts of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), a non-profit that provides aid to the poor and vulnerable overseas. Through CRS, we've helped build agricultural educational programs in Ethiopia where famine and drought are constant threats.
 - We partner with the American Red Cross every year. With additional funding for emergency aid for the thousands of families in 6 southern states devastated by tornadoes in December 2021.
 - We continued to provide funds and strategic direction to Safe Harbor, a Sheboygan County refuge for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.



Caring for the Sargento Community

Treating every one of our employees like family means looking after their wellbeing on every level. The Sargento Health & Wellbeing Program—or Healthy Living, as we call it—seeks to address employees' financial, social, physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Our holistic approach to wellbeing is evident in the facilities and services we provide employees and their families on site. Sargento Health and Wellness Centers offer physical exams, nutrition counseling, life mentorship, and fitness training. They're staffed with personal trainers, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, dieticians, and phlebotomists.

Healthy Living also offers free therapy, a commitment which started out at five sessions per year. However, we doubled and then tripled the session times in response to the stress our people experienced during the pandemic. COVID prompted us to provide our people with mental health screenings and more resources, train our staff in suicide awareness and prevention, and develop an emotional health and wellbeing strategy. By taking advantage of these services

and investing time in their emotional, mental, and physical health, our employees earn wellness points that translate into rewards like an extra day of vacation.

Everybody's good health is reward enough for us. Yet it was gratifying to be recognized in 2021 for our efforts by Mental Health America (MHA) of Sheboygan County. MHA declared Sargento as its 2020 Workplace Mental Health Champion for creating a mentally healthy workplace and taking a holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of its employees.

As Louie Gentine said when presented with the award, "This does not represent an end, but the continuation of the caring programs started by our Wellness Committee almost thirty years ago."





Educating the Next Generation

School alone can't provide the kind of instruction and exposure our young people need to become solid citizens, reliable providers, and capable employees. Kids need mentors as well as teachers. They need life skills, as well as technical know-how. And they need inspiration, as well as education.

We're committed to providing them with these vital supports. Here's what our efforts looked like in 2021:

- Our leaders provided mentorship, strategic direction, and funding to county chapters of Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS), Boys & Girls Club, and Junior Achievement— national organizations that help young people acquire financial literacy and build career readiness.

- Sargento cooperated with three other local manufacturers and four area school districts on the continuation of Manufacturing 4.0. This co-operative, envisioned between 2018 and 2020 and launched for the 2020-2021 school year, brings advanced manufacturing education to high-school students in Wisconsin. Together with other local companies, we're providing area school districts with Industry 4.0 curriculum, hands-on learning, factory-floor visits, and guest speakers. This ensures our region can furnish the highly skilled talent that Wisconsin industries will require.
- Sargento continues to sponsor the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, a state-of-the-art, interactive agricultural education center located in Manitowoc County. With our help, the Center is giving kids hands-on experience in agriculture. It teaches them how important Wisconsin dairy farming is to our nation—and showing them ways to be part of dairy farming's future.
- Education can help break the cycle of poverty. As part of our effort to support programs that propel kids into more secure futures, we're focused on early childhood education and lifelong learn initiatives in our community.



...

Kids need mentors as well as teachers. They need life skills, as well as technical know-how.

...

Supporting Our Youth

Since 2014, the Flowers Family has honored Wisconsin employers who've made a positive impact on the state's economy with the Wisconsin Business Achievement Award. The award carries a \$75,000 honorarium to be donated to the recipient's charity of choice.

In August 2021, Sargento earned this coveted recognition. Knowing that Big Brothers Big Sisters Wisconsin Shoreline (BBBSWS) had lost critical funding due to the pandemic, CEO Louie Gentine directed the Flowers Family to make them the beneficiary of the \$75,000. Several Sargento employees are involved with the organization, either serving as big brothers and sisters, but also on the board of directors. Board President and Sargento Director - Project Engineer Brian Jenny, joined the special presentation to present the award.

"It couldn't have come at a better time," BBBSWS Executive Director Denise Wittstock told us. "Now we can extend our services to thirty more young people in Sheboygan and Manitowoc counties."



Taking Care of Our Planet

At Sargento, we believe that by making sustainable choices we inspire change and create a healthier planet.

Sustainability isn't a destination. It's an ongoing journey, one we began some years ago, out of our commitment to be good stewards of our resources—human, natural, and financial. Over time we've developed standard operating procedures that maximizing natural resources and reducing waste. We've invested in extensive employee education and training to implement these procedures consistently across multiple plants and shifts. Everybody understands the role that they play with our "No Cheese Left Behind" campaign to prevent waste in the first place.

Our strategy aligns to the EPA's waste management hierarchy, which emphasizes resource reduction, reuse, and recycling as key to sustainable materials management. Here's what it looks like in action:

Reduce packaging waste.

- Our procurement department has sourced packaging that's reusable as well as strong enough to prevent damage, which can be a major source of waste.
- Working with our cross-functional plant teams, we have also limited waste by implementing better handling tactics.

Recycle more waste material.

- For some time, we've been developing and optimizing a "closed loop" system, whereby the cardboard boxes that our materials arrive in get baled and recycled into cardboard boxes for our finished product.
- We've sourced end users for the film we use on our finished product, which can be turned into a fuel substitute for power generation or an additive to concrete. Cheese block wrap can be recycled into a variety of industrial products such as plastic lumber and building materials, plastic bags, and plastic durables like garbage cans.



Minimize downstream waste by collecting more of it.

- We routinely analyze our waste streams, diving into our own dumpsters to identify items we could be collecting instead of tossing.
- We've also improved collection by investing in new balers and compactors. Last year saw the installation of a cheese contact film baler in our Plymouth and Hilbert facilities.

Diverting waste from landfill.

- We're pleased to report we kept 89% of all waste generated at our facilities from going into landfill. We did so by sourcing waste haulers who could find us more appropriate homes for material streams. We also sourced logistics companies who could help us collect and dispose of material we previously didn't keep out of our dumpsters. To ensure continuity of service, we also created a safety net of backup vendors.



Diverting waste. Creating energy.

- Through more efficient capture of cheese scrap, we've reduced the concentration of organic waste we discharge to the municipal waste water treatment plant.
- The waste we do generate ends up at the Plymouth Waste Water Treatment Facility (PWWTF). With our support, PWWTF some years back invested in an anaerobic digester, which turns liquid waste into a biogas that can be used to offset the city's energy needs. It's a win-win collaboration: we keep our waterways clean while helping reduce energy costs for the people of Plymouth.

Taking Responsibility for Our Product

At Sargento, we are committed to responsible sourcing and innovations for lasting change.

...

Our Code of Business, which enshrines our personal ethics, extends to every vendor and supplier with whom we interact.

...

Our Code of Conduct, which enshrines our personal ethics, extends to every vendor and supplier with whom we interact. It obliges us to be not merely compliant with the law, but also moral in all our undertakings; not merely honest, but also honorable, in all our dealings; not merely respectful of others, but equitable in all the decisions that affect them.

That means we're working only with suppliers whose dairy farmers abide by the industry code for responsible and ethical treatment of animals. We also track and report their efforts to be sustainable in their practices, a time-consuming project we further codify each year to ensure trustworthy results.

Our ethics likewise compel us to work with diverse group of vendors who can help us meet our product sustainability goals, which include making our packaging recycle-ready.

We're thrilled to report that our investment and innovation is paying off—for Sargento, and for future generations.





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Making Cheese Snacks More Sustainable

As consumer tastes have evolved, Sargento has focused on growing the cheese snacking category, and we’ve grown right along with it, producing a range of successful product innovations.

One of our notable creations is Balanced Breaks® snacks, introduced in 2015. This line combines natural cheeses like Cheddar and Pepper Jack with nuts, raisins, and cranberries. These were so popular that we expanded the combinations in 2017 to include sweets like dark chocolate, banana chips, and yogurt-covered drops. In 2021, we teamed up with Mondelez International, maker of Triscuits®, Wheat Thins®, and RITZ® crackers, to create Balanced Breaks® Cheese & Crackers, which pair eight of our cheese varieties with these iconic crackers. Balanced Breaks® snacks have been our most successful product innovation to date.

One of the reasons why our Balanced Breaks® products have become so well-loved is the convenience and quality of their packaging. Each snack comes in a sturdy 1.5-ounce single-serve tray and is perfect for on-the-go lifestyles. Our barrier polypropylene trays keep product fresh from the moment it leaves our facility to the moment snackers enjoy it.

But that packaging isn’t recycle-ready. Yet.

We’re proud to report that it soon will be. Sargento is aiming to make all Balanced Breaks® snack trays recycle-ready **by 2024** and all overwrap on our snacking natural cheese sticks products recycle-ready **by 2024**. We’re also testing recycle-ready polyethylene-based films for our shredded and sliced cheese products. That way, we’ll be ready when the United States develops the appropriate recycling infrastructure to handle film that has touched cheese.



Living Our Values

Giving back to the community, or as we call it Community Outreach, is one of the 20 values that guide us in every action we take and decision we make.



Collectively referred to as People, Pride & Progress, these guiding principles stem from Leonard A. Gentine's philosophy that by hiring good people, and treating them like family, the company will flourish.

A company is only as good as its people, and if generosity is a measure of goodness, then our people are the best.

...

A company is only as good as its people.

...



Here are some of the ways our employees are volunteering, donating, and giving back to their community.

Feeding the Hungry

Our employees are as committed to hunger relief as we are. They prepare and serve meals to the homeless, pack up food for school kids, and pitch in time and part of their paychecks to local, regional, and national charities that feed the hungry. For example:

- Throughout the year, our employees volunteer at St. Ben's, the Milwaukee church that administers a community meal program. Since 1992, when Sargento began donating cheese, food, and funding to this charity, 5,390 employees have given 22,470 hours of their own time to help families in their hour of need.



Going Above and Beyond

How Bernice Mattson made a real difference

For 30 years, Sargento has helped St. Ben's feed the Milwaukee community because like us, this church believes everyone deserves food and fellowship. Sunday through Friday evenings, anyone who shows up at the church doors will be welcomed to sit down to a hot, home-made meal. St. Ben's serves over 90,000 meals a year. That works out to about 300 people per night.

Bernice Mattson has personally served thousands of them. Every month for more than 20 years, our IT analyst who is now retired, has made the 64-mile trip to join the volunteers handing steaming plates to hungry souls. She doesn't come alone: with her are the employees she's coordinated for the effort, who also help prepare the food Sargento contributes. Even when COVID canceled their monthly pilgrimage, Bernice made sure our donation made it to the church kitchen.

"It's my way of giving back," says Bernice, pictured here with Louie Gentine and Friar Brother Robert in summer 2021. "St. Ben's, and Sargento, have given me so much."



Sheltering the Vulnerable

Teamwork makes the dream work.

That's especially true for the employees who show up to help Habitat for Humanity build affordable homes in Milwaukee.

During Volunteer Week 2021, 50 of our employees donned their helmets, holstered their hammers, and got to work. Some brought expert carpentry skills. Others brought their work ethic and positive attitude. Everyone came bearing cheese gifts for the crew.

...

**Teamwork
makes the
dream work.**

...



Building Our Community

Monday morning, July 26th, 16 Sargento employees—including CEO Louie Gentine—showed up at the corner of 26th and Lloyd in midtown Milwaukee to transform piles of lumber, particle board, and masonry into a house.

By week's end, Sargento's 32nd home stood framed out. And our volunteers came home with new know-how, new friendships, and fresh appreciation for the power of collective outreach.

"There is just something about helping to create a home," says Karen Lepisto, VP of Human Resources and Community Relations. "It's the front door for me - something is really symbolic about giving someone that door that you know their friends and family are going to walk through each day as they make this house into a home."

Operational Quality Specialist Cody Wilterdink, brand new to construction, came away with a whole new set of skills. "The volunteer leads from Habitat for Humanity do a great job of teaching as we go," he says. "They make sure we know what to do so we can get the job done."

Everyone savors the satisfaction that comes with knowing they'd helped provide first-time homeowners with a place to raise a family and strengthen a community.

As Process Technician Andy Fuestel puts it, "When you get to do things like this, it's a good day."



Educating the Next Generation

Our employees volunteer as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and mentors for members of Boys & Girls Club and Junior Achievement, showing young people the kind of interest all too many of them haven't gotten from their families of origin.

As in past years, even our own young people—the high-schoolers and college students who intern with us and work for us as co-ops—pitched in during 2021, spending their lunch hours as mid-day mentors at Boys & Girls Club Sheboygan.



Supporting United Way

Sargento is by no means Sheboygan County's biggest employer. But thanks to the generosity of our employees, we are consistently one of United Way Sheboygan County's biggest contributors. Here's how our employees make that happen:

Giving Their Time

Boxing up canned goods. Putting together healthcare care packages. Laundering clothes. Cleaning daycare facilities. Clearing brush. Stocking pantries. Preparing food. That's what our people have been doing for six consecutive years during Sheboygan County United Way's Day of Caring—undertaking whatever our neediest neighbors needed doing.

Since 2016, 781 of our employees have volunteered an estimated 800 hours to show just how deeply they care for their community.

Donating Their Income

Every year, Sargento employees—past and present—make financial contributions to support our annual United Way fundraising campaign 'Living Your Giving.' They have the option of donating directly to United Way or earmarking their funds for one of the 150 charities supported by the United Way or directly to other community causes.

In 2021, more than 80 percent of the Sargento Family participated—a rate we've maintained since 2016. Retirees alone donated \$100,000.

The Gentine family matched all employee donations, bringing the total contribution from the Sargento Family in 2021 to an astounding \$1 million. We are grateful for the Sargento Family's generosity and since 2016, together, we've contributed \$5 million to our communities during our annual employee giving campaign.

For helping make Sargento Sheboygan County's second largest contributor, United Way honored 2020-2021 campaign co-chairs Holly Baumgart and Steve Cahoon as Top Campaign Ambassadors. We're proud of the entire committee who helped them pull off this feat.

Winning By Giving

United Way donor scores a once-in-a-lifetime Brewers Game Day experience

Digital Workplace Manager Rosh Kodihalli could just imagine it: Sathvik, his six-year-old son, taking the mound at American Family Field and throwing out the first pitch. When his bid proved to be the winner of Living Your Giving's Bid to Win event, Rosh got his wish. On April 7th, 2021, Sathvik threw the ball and opened the season for the Milwaukee Brewers.

Rosh and his wife Sarala made a day of it, bringing Sathvik along with his best friend to the ballpark. They took home the celebrated baseball, lots of autographs, and memories to last a lifetime.

"It was truly a special opportunity," says Rosh. "By giving back, we all came home winners."





**People, Pride
& Progress:**

20

Values We Live By

1. Ethics

Always act ethically.

2. Trust

Build trust by leveraging collaboration.

3. Balance in Life

Be passionate about your faith, family and work.

4. Employee Equality

Strive for objectivity by seeking others' input.

5. Creativity

Foster creativity.

6. Humor & Fun

Have fun. Take your work, not yourself, seriously.

7. Accountability

Take responsibility for your actions and goals.

8. Excellence

Commit to excellence in everything you do.

9. Effective Communication

Listen carefully to others, including the quietest voice.

10. Sense of Ownership

Take ownership of your projects and responsibilities.

11. Recognition

Always show appreciation.

12. Mutual Support

Support different perspectives and each other's efforts.

13. Community Outreach

Give back to our community.

14. Fair Compensation

Compensate and reward others fairly.

15. Career & Personal Development

Commit to lifelong learning and personal growth.

16. Customer Focus

Commit to meeting customer needs through excellent service.

17. Innovation

Challenge status quo and innovate relentlessly.

18. Risk-Taking

Embrace taking risks with the proper contingencies.

19. Enlightened Leadership

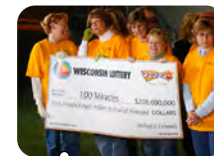
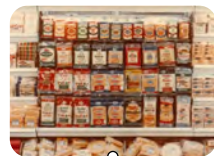
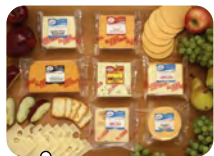
Inspire with clear vision and strategies.

20. Profitability & Growth

Share our financial results with those who contribute to that success.

Our Company Journey

A brief history of Sargento Foods



1949 1953 1955 1958 1964 1969 1972 1981 1986 1988 2001 2006 2012 2013 2019 2021

Plymouth Cheese Counter. Based on the success of his mail-order cheese business, Leonard Gentine Sr. converts a carriage house on his property into a specialty-cheese retail store.
1949

Joe Sartori and Leonard Gentine Sr. launch Sargento, combining their names and their know-how to bring Americans real mozzarella, provolone, parmesan, and romano cheeses in ready-to-purchase portion sizes.
1953

Leonard and design partner Bill Lindstedt innovate a vacuum-seal plastic package that allows cheeses to last longer, pioneering prepackaged sliced natural cheese.
1955

Leonard, Bill, and Norman “Bud” Dick prototype a cheese shredder, making meal preparation faster for millions of homemakers and transforming the cheese industry.
1958

Leonard persuades his partner Joe to sell him his stake in the company. Joe stays on as Leonard’s advisor—and lifetime friend.
1964

Leonard and longtime associate Chuck Strobel adapt a metal pegboard system used for lunchmeats to display Sargento cheeses, revolutionizing the dairy aisle into what shoppers take for granted today.
1969

Sargento moves its headquarters from the retrofitted canning factory in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, back to Plymouth. Cutting and packaging continues in Elkhart Lake.
1972

Sargento’s Board of Directors unanimously elect Leonard’s son Lou president of the company—a role he would ably perform for the next 32 years.
1981

Lee Gentine, a second-generation leader, does his father’s invention one better, launching a system that makes it easy for consumers to reseal the vacuum package after opening.
1986

Sargento introduces Moo Town® Snackers, for kids—and parents—on-the-go.
1988

Sargento pioneers the slide closure, a packaging first that wins the company a WorldStar Award for Packaging Excellence.
2001

100 Sargento employees win the largest jackpot in Wisconsin lottery history: \$208.6 million. Only four do not show up for work the next day.
2006

CEO and Chairman Lou Gentine receives the National Cheese Institute (NCI) Laureate Award, 21 years after his father Leonard won it.
2012

Louie Gentine succeeds his father Lou as head of Sargento, 32 years to the day after Lou succeeded his own father, Leonard. While holding true to the family’s people-first traditions, Louie modernizes the company’s operations and its products.
2013

Deloitte ranks Sargento Foods, Inc. No. 20 on its list of the 75 largest private companies in Wisconsin in recognition of its outstanding sales revenues.
2019

With winning products like UltraThin® Cheese Slices, Balanced Breaks® snacks, and Creamery Sliced and Shredded Cheeses, Sargento books \$1.5 billion in net sales, on the road to become America’s most innovative, best-loved real food company.
2021

Thank You



We at Sargento are extremely proud of the family we have become since 1953.

From the employee who's been here 50 years
to the college student who's interned for six weeks—

From suppliers we've worked with for generations
to the ones we've just discovered—

From kids who've grown up strong eating our cheese
to busy professionals who delight in our Balanced Breaks® snacks—

Every one of these folks is helping us become one of the nation's best-loved real food company.

As you may be one of them, we want to thank you for contributing to our success.

And if you're just getting to know us? Welcome to our family. We look forward to what we can accomplish together.

