

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
Carmen Inman 901.259.6658  
[carmen@monogramfoods.com](mailto:carmen@monogramfoods.com)

## **Monogram Foods Acquires Shelby County Cookers**

*(Purchase creates new division at Monogram)*

**MEMPHIS, TN (October 29, 2013)** - - Memphis-based Monogram Food Solutions, LLC has purchased from Westin, Inc. of Omaha, NE, the assets of Shelby County Cookers (SCC) of Harlan, IA, a manufacturer of ready-to-eat bacon products for foodservice and retail customers.

Monogram assumed control of Shelby County Cookers on October 26, 2013, giving Monogram an entry into the ready-to-eat bacon category under its newly formed Monogram Prepared Meats division. Monogram Foods is a national leader in the manufacturing of licensed, co-packed, private label, and company-owned brands of meat snacks and other meat offerings.

“Monogram Foods is pleased to welcome the Shelby County Cookers team into the Monogram family. Shelby County Cookers’ success stems from consistently high quality products, a dedicated workforce, and being a leader in bacon innovation,” said Karl Schledwitz, chairman and chief executive officer of Monogram Foods. “The company’s value and service to customers is top tier.”

Shelby County Cookers’ Harlan facility was founded in 2005 and has operated under the leadership of Brett Elliott, president. Mr. Elliott, along with the current management team, will remain with the company and lead Monogram Prepared Meats.

In 2011, in conjunction with the Monogram R&D team, Shelby County Cookers developed an innovative new item called bacon jerky. The item is currently in national distribution under 4 major brands, Bass Pro Uncle Buck’s, Johnsonville, Trail’s Best & Wild Bill’s. Bacon jerky is made through a proprietary process developed by Shelby County Cookers.

“Shelby County Cookers has grown rapidly. We expect that growth to accelerate at an even faster pace in part because of a capital investment and a larger national sales team now available via Monogram Foods,” said Scott Carlson, president and chief executive officer of Westin Foods. “It is because of this and a strong alignment of business philosophy and vision that we have become a significant shareholder in Monogram Foods. We look forward to this newly forged collaboration.”

### **About Monogram**

Monogram Food Solutions was founded in 2004 when a group of Memphis investors bought King Cotton and Circle B Brand value-added meats from Sara Lee Corporation. Monogram since has grown into one of the nation's leading meat products and snack manufacturers, including Trail's Best and Bull's Meat Snacks, Wild Bill's Beef and Bacon Jerky, Hannah's Pickled Products, and O'Brien's Meat Snacks and Sausages. Monogram also manufactures licensed meat products for Bass Pro Shops, Butterball, Johnsonville, and Realtree, in addition to private-label products. Monogram operates facilities in Virginia, Minnesota, Indiana, and Texas.

### **About Westin**

Westin Foods is headquartered in Omaha, NE, and enjoys a 60+ year history in the food industry. Today, Westin Foods owns or enjoys a partial ownership in a variety of food companies. These include Mario Camacho Foods, known for their world-class olives, olive oils and specialty food products, Westin Packaged Meats - Feaster Foods, a leader in real and imitation bacon bit offerings, and Westin Health and Wellness featuring the Superberries and Dominex brands.

###