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## **Chief Financial Officer George Hoff to Retire From Sargento Foods**

**PLYMOUTH, Wis. – Oct. 26, 2016** – [Sargento Foods Inc.](#) announces that Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer George Hoff plans to retire at the end of 2016. Jeremy Behler has been promoted to fill this role, starting immediately.

George joined Sargento as Controller in 1983, after serving as Audit Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Since then, he has served in various financial roles at Sargento, most recently as Chief Financial Officer and as President of the Consumer Products Division from 1997 to 2000. During his tenure, George developed Sargento finance, accounting and information technology capabilities, which have been instrumental to the company's success. He was the recipient of the coveted Founders' Ring, which is given to an employee who makes significant contributions to the growth of Sargento while embodying the "People, Pride & Progress" corporate culture.

Over the years, George has taken his expertise and dedication outside of the Sargento walls. Consistent with the Sargento stakeholder philosophy, George has played a key role in giving back to local communities, including initiating the company's support for Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. He also chaired several Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walks and served on the Board of Columbia St. Mary's Hospital.

Until his retirement at the end of 2016, George will serve as Executive Vice President & Advisor to CEO Louie Gentine.

"Over the last 33 years, George has built a solid foundation at Sargento and his contributions will ensure future success for generations to come," Louie said. "As George transitions to retirement, I'm confident that Jeremy's experience, knowledge and commitment to continuous improvement will build upon that foundation."

Within his new role as Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Jeremy will lead the Finance, Accounting and IT departments at Sargento. He will be responsible for instituting process improvements that will enhance visibility to cost factors, oversee financial analysis, develop strategies, and implement enhanced reporting procedures and tools. He will also transition IT from a service provider to a strategic enabler for the organization's evolving technology needs. Outside of his day-to-day responsibilities, Jeremy has led two very successful United Way campaigns at Sargento in 2015 and 2016.

Prior to joining Sargento in 2014, Jeremy handled global business development for mergers and acquisitions at Procter & Gamble. In his role, he led all areas of mergers and acquisitions for external business opportunities, including acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures. During his 15-year tenure at P&G, he built an extensive resume

of multi-functional experience: strategy, financial planning & analysis, operations, supply chain, sales & marketing and IT.

Jeremy earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago in strategy, marketing and finance, and his bachelor's in finance and computer information systems from Indiana University in Bloomington.

**About Sargento Foods Inc.**

Sargento Foods Inc. has demonstrated its passion for cheese and cheese-based meal solutions for more than 60 years. Founded in 1953 in Plymouth, Wisconsin, Sargento Foods is a leading manufacturer, packager and marketer of shredded, sliced and snack natural cheeses, cheese appetizers, ingredients, sauces and other culinary solutions. Sargento Foods is owned and operated by the Gentine family, has net sales exceeding \$1 billion and more than 1,800 employees. For more information, please visit [www.sargento.com](http://www.sargento.com).

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