

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cargill, SPARTAN Public Transportation, City of Plainview  
arrange transportation for workers commuting to Friona beef plant**  
*150-mile round trip from Plainview to Friona eases transition resulting from idled plant*

**PLAINVIEW AND FRIONA, Texas** – Approximately 70 Cargill workers in Plainview transferred to the company's Friona plant following the idling of the Plainview facility on February 1, 2013. This means a 150-mile round trip commute, and a daily cost of between \$30 and \$60 for gasoline.

As soon as the idling was announced, SPARTAN Public Transportation, Cargill, and the City of Plainview began to work toward a transportation solution for these workers. As a result of this combined effort, SPARTAN Transportation will begin roundtrip commuter service between Plainview and Friona for Cargill employees on May 6, 2013. The Texas Department of Transportation purchased two buses for the route. Cargill employees who have received specialized training will drive the routes. "This unique collaboration has enabled Cargill employees to reduce their transportation costs significantly each month," said Plainview City Manager Greg Ingham. "It also keeps dollars in our local economy."

Cargill and SPARTAN Transportation previously partnered to operate three roundtrip commuter routes each day from Muleshoe, Texas, to the Friona facility, that still run today. SPARTAN Transportation currently provides rural public transportation services in 17 counties on the high plains. For more information contact Brian Baker, Director of SPARTAN at 1-800-462-8747 or visit their website at [www.SpartanPublicTransit.com](http://www.SpartanPublicTransit.com).