

## Ohio Success: Speyside Case Study

# Speyside Bourbon Cooperage Finds Supply Chain Advantages in Appalachian Region

### COMPANY PROFILE

Speyside has provided the whisky industry – scotch makers in Scotland and bourbon makers in the U.S. – with barrels made of American oak since 1947. Acquired by France-based Tonnellerie Francois Frères Group in 2008, Speyside established its first U.S. cooperage in Shepherdsville, Ky., in 2010.

### BUSINESS NEED

The growing demand from U.S. bourbon distilleries that use new barrels created an opportunity for Speyside to produce new barrels in a new facility and refurbish used barrels at its Shepherdsville facility. To meet this growing demand, Speyside executives identified sites for a new facility in close proximity to its Kentucky cooperage and an abundant supply of American oak.

### OHIO SOLUTIONS

According to Darren Whitmer, general manager of Speyside Bourbon Cooperage, the company had originally planned to put the new plant in Kentucky and was just a step away from closing the deal. But while on a trip to Ohio to consider lumber sources, Speyside officials met with Ed Robbins, CEO of lumber-based companies Taylor Lumber and Ohio Valley Veneer.

Robbins said he had an abundant source of high-quality white Ohio oak and a vacant building in Jackson that might serve Speyside's needs. Robbins encouraged the Speyside officials to contact APEG and JobsOhio. "We started meeting some people from Ohio – the JobsOhio folks, the APEG folks – and started really finding out what was available to us," Whitmer says.

Speyside signed its lease in May 2015. The bourbon cooperage started production in May 2016, making 20 barrels a day. By November, production was up to 400 barrels a day – half of the company's targeted goal of 800.

Jackson Mayor Randy Heath says Speyside brought some relief to a hurting community. "When other people were leaving, these people said we believe in you and we believe in the workforce," Heath says.

### PROJECT STATS

- **Location:** City of Jackson
- **Total investment:** \$17 million
- **Anticipated job creation:** 35
- **Facility specs:** 200,000 square feet

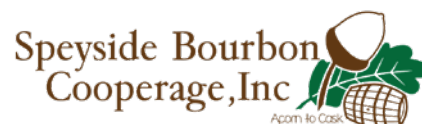


Darren Whitmer

*"The facility had a lot of the infrastructure that we needed and there were a lot of good potential employees to choose from. The more we met people from the state and community, it slowly started to make sense to us."*

Darren Whitmer, General Manager

Watch the video for more information on how Speyside made a difference in Jackson at [jobs-ohio.com/speyside](http://jobs-ohio.com/speyside)



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