Foster Farms ends fresh-turkey operations — Turlock, Stanislaus County, 2025

Foster Farms closed its fresh-turkey processing plant in Turlock in May 2025, eliminating at least 478 jobs — the largest Stanislaus County closure found outside Del Monte, and the first poultry-sector closure in this project's record.

519+

Jobs eliminated across the plant and two satellite sites — a trucking yard and a feed mill tied to the same operation.

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Commodity-processing closures now documented in Stanislaus County within about 21 months — this one plus Tropicale Foods, Reyes Coca-Cola, and Del Monte.

What happened

Foster Farms announced in late January 2025 that it would end fresh-turkey processing at its Turlock complex, with operations ceasing May 9, 2025. The company cited "market demand changes" and its "ongoing strategic plan" — no further detail was given in any source found.

The closure wasn't confined to one building. The official WARN filing lists 478 employees at the main F Street plant, with two smaller companion filings — 25 and 9 employees — covering a live-turkey trucking yard on C Street and a feed mill on West Main Street, both part of the same fresh-turkey operation. Press coverage puts the combined total at 519. Foster Farms' adjacent cooked-products plant in Turlock was not affected and continues operating — this is a partial exit from one product line, not a full site shutdown.

Workers were offered the option to transfer into openings at other Central Valley Foster Farms facilities that produce fully-cooked poultry products. Stanislaus County Workforce Development engaged with the company on job fairs and orientation services for those affected.

Impact — what we know, and what we don't

- **Jobs:** 478 confirmed by WARN filing at the main site; 519 is the company's own total across all three affected locations.
- **What happened to the workers:** Beyond the transfer offer and county workforce outreach, not documented — no source found tracks how many workers actually moved to other Foster Farms sites versus were laid off outright.
- **Ownership context, not yet connected to the closure by any source:** Foster Farms was acquired by private-equity firm Atlas Holdings in July 2022. Whether that ownership change bears on this decision is unestablished — noted as a fact, not a claim.
- **Unverified claim, flagged not used:** one outlet reported that Tyson Foods would relocate the Turlock turkey operation to Livingston, about 10 miles south. No second source confirms this — treat as unverified.
- **Update, Nov 2025:** Diestel Family Ranch, a Sonora-area specialty turkey producer, bought the closed F Street plant and announced plans to reopen it in early 2026, processing raw turkey products (ground turkey, burgers, roasts) with a different, much smaller workforce — the company said it would start with "a couple dozen" employees and grow from there. That's a real but partial recovery: a fraction of the 519 jobs lost, under new ownership, not a reversal of the original closure.

Part of a larger pattern

A systematic review of every Fresno, Stanislaus, and Tulare County WARN filing since 2014 — not just news search — surfaced this closure alongside three others landing on Stanislaus County within about 21 months: **Tropicale Foods' Modesto ice-cream plant** (July 2024, 168 jobs), **Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling** (Nov 2024, 101 jobs), this one (Jan 2025), and **Del Monte's Modesto/Hughson canneries** (April 2026, 765+ jobs). The same compounding pattern already documented in Kings County — multiple sequential exits landing on the same small set of towns — shows up independently in Stanislaus.

Sources

- The Epoch Times, "Foster Farms Closing California Turkey Plant, Laying Off 500+ Workers."
- Turlock Journal, "City council member working to find jobs for workers at closing plant." (A separate Turlock Journal piece, "Foster Farms to close Turlock fresh turkey operations,"

covers the same closure and **is linkable directly** — this specific article wasn't independently re-located.)

- **Food Processing, "Foster Farms Will End Fresh Turkey Operations in Turlock, California."**
- California EDD WARN report, confirmed directly: Foster Farms, Stanislaus County — 478 employees (main filing) plus 25 and 9 employees (companion filings), all notice/received 01/24/2025–01/28/2025, Closure, Permanent. Access: obtained — taken directly from the agency's own filings rather than from a web page.
- **GV Wire, "Turkey Processing Returns to Closed Foster Farms Plant in Turlock"** (Nov 2025), on the Diestel Family Ranch reopening.

Full citation detail and source archive: **Data**. Back to **all case studies**.
