

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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NEWS RELEASE
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Custard Stand Food Products To Appear On ABC's "Shark Tank" Feb. 21

*West Virginia Company Makes Custard Stand Hot Dog Chili
And Custard Stand Chili Soup with Beef and Beans*

- **Request a photo from *Shark Tank*:** <http://www.disneyabcpress.com/abc/>
- **Request an interview with Angie or Dee Cowger:** Crystal Dempsey of From The Hip Communications, 704-575-3509; crystal@fromthehipcommunications.com

Charleston, W.Va. – Custard Stand Food Products, makers of Custard Stand Hot Dog Chili and Custard Stand Chili Soup with Beef and Beans, are scheduled to appear in an episode of *Shark Tank* on Feb. 21, 10 p.m. ET/PT on ABC.

The recipient of the 2014 and 2015 Emmy Award for Outstanding Structured Reality Program, *Shark Tank* features "The Sharks" – tough, self-made, millionaire and billionaire tycoons – as they invest in America's best businesses and products.

Dee and Angie Cowger, owners of Custard Stand Food Products, were invited to pitch a business proposition to the "Sharks" for the seventh season of the critically acclaimed reality show. The Cowgers appeared in front of Sharks Mark Cuban, Daymond John, Kevin O'Leary, Lori Greiner and Robert Herjavec with the hopes of striking a deal and forming a partnership.

The Cowgers can't reveal the outcome of their *Shark Tank* experience, but they say the preparation and the pitch session were priceless. "We can't talk about how we did on the show, or if we gained a new business partner or not. We're not going to spoil the surprises for the audience," Angie Cowger explains. "People will have to tune in and watch the episode for themselves."

Each year tens of thousands of businesses apply to be on the show – this year over 45,000 entrepreneurs applied. The Cowgers submitted their application on the website nearly a year ago. Custard Stand Food Products headquarters is in Webster Springs, WV, along with The Custard Stand restaurant on Main Street. Other cities in West Virginia with The Custard Stand restaurants are Danville, Elkins, Flatwoods, Mannington and Oak Hill.

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“We will be hosting a watch party in Webster Springs on Feb. 26th,” said Dee Cowger. “We want the chance to share the experience with our family, friends and long-time supporters. And, of course, we’ll be sampling both products.”

Details of the watch party will be available soon on CustardStand.com and Custard Stand Food Products social media channels.

ABOUT CUSTARD STAND FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE CUSTARD STAND RESTAURANTS

Dee and Angie Cowger opened The Custard Stand in 1991 as a take-out dairy bar in Webster Springs. They used a century-old family recipe as the chili for the hotdogs. Customers kept asking where they could buy Custard Stand Hot Dog Chili. They asked so many times that in 2003, The Cowgers converted the three-bay car wash behind the Webster Springs restaurant into a USDA-approved production facility and opened a second business, Custard Stand Food Products.

Custard Stand Hot Dog Chili is available at Kroger, Wal-Mart, Sam’s Club, IGA, along with smaller chains and independent grocery stores, in more than 15 states. It can be ordered at CustardStand.com and shipped in two days to most of the U.S. for a flat rate fee.

Custard Stand Hot Dog Chili is served by West Virginia University and Glenville (WV) State College at football, basketball and baseball games. The hot dog chili can be found topping hot dogs, fries and more at restaurants and convenience stores across the U.S.

The second restaurant, The Custard Stand-Flatwoods, opened in early 2009 in Flatwoods, WV. Since 2010, franchise owners in WV have opened The Custard Stand restaurants in Danville, Elkins, Mannington and Oak Hill.

In 2010, The Cowgers introduced Custard Stand Chili Soup with Beef and Beans, a more traditional bowl chili with tomatoes and kidney beans. It is available at The Custard Stand restaurants and online.

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