



## U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue visits Kalera

*Perdue visits Kalera for a behind-the-scenes tour with top Kalera executives*

ORLANDO, Fla., 9 June 9, 2020 -- On Monday, June 8th, technology-driven vertical farming company [Kalera](#) welcomed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to its Orlando facility. Secretary Perdue was greeted by Kalera's top executives, including CEO Daniel Malechuk and CTO Cristian Toma, who, along with other staff members, escorted him on a private tour of the facility's proprietary technology, providing a glimpse at the future of farming. Key takeaways included how Kalera:

- eliminates the use of chemicals and removes exposure to pathogens through cleanroom technology.
- is able to supply an abundance of produce locally, eliminating the need to travel long distances when shipping perishable products.
- ensures the highest quality and freshness by delivering product to customers within hours of harvest rather than days or weeks
- Is able to reduce water consumption by 95% compared to field farming.

During the tour, Perdue was able to sample the lettuce Kalera grows at the Orlando facility. Some of his positive reflections about the tour can be read in this Fox 35 Orlando news piece, "[USDA Secretary visits Central Florida hydroponic farm, calls it a 'very innovative food production system.'](#)"

Kalera recently announced its new Atlanta facility, which will open in early 2021. While Kalera's Orlando farm, which Perdue visited on Monday, is currently the highest production volume vertical farm in the Southeast, the new Atlanta facility will be more than double the size and able to produce 11 million heads of lettuce annually while generating approximately 75 jobs for the local community. As was the case in Orlando, Kalera is able to quickly open its newest growing facility in Atlanta as a result of a streamlined design and construction process, further illustrating its ability to rapidly scale and expand its vertical farms.

After the tour, Daniel Malechuk, CEO of Kalera, addressed Secretary Perdue in front of assembled employees and press, "Thank you very much on behalf of the Kalera staff for your time, and visiting us to discuss the future of agriculture, which is clean, healthy, sustainable, local and fresh. We look forward to helping the US stay on the cutting edge of agricultural innovation and feeding a hungry world with fewer natural resources."

In addition to its R&D center, Kalera opened its first commercial vertical farm, the HyCube growing center, on the premises of the Orlando World Center Marriott to bring fresh, local produce to the hotel's visitors and customers. In March this year, it announced the opening of its second facility in Orlando. The Atlanta facility is the third farm in Kalera's portfolio, and will soon be joined by more in the United States. Kalera is currently sold in over 160 Publix stores.

### **About Kalera**

**Kalera** is a technology driven vertical farming company with unique growing methods combining optimized nutrients and light recipes, precise environmental controls, and clean room standards to produce safe, highly nutritious, pesticide-free, non-GMO vegetables with consistent high quality and longer shelf life year-round. The company's high-yield, automated, data-driven hydroponic production facilities have been designed for rapid rollout with industry-leading payback times to grow vegetables faster, cleaner, at a lower cost, and with less environmental impact.



Kalera's shares are traded on NOTC, a marketplace for unlisted shares managed by NOTC AS, which is owned 100% by Oslo Børs ASA, the Oslo Stock Exchange.

Further information about the company may be found at [www.kalera.com](http://www.kalera.com) and [www.kalera.com/investor](http://www.kalera.com/investor) along with an introductory Kalera film: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Crpph9w0hE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Crpph9w0hE)

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