Sept-Oct. 2018 Volume 5, Issue 5

MEAT PROCESSORS



From Your President...

Hello Pamp members,

Well it's here, the time of year where we need more hours in the day and more days in the week! But we always seem to make it through. Aside from our staff to get us through, we also have our amazing suppliers. Be it new equipment, repairs on existing equipment, packaging supplies, spices for your specialty items or help with any problems we may encounter they are here for us. We are lucky to have them!

Next year's convention has been organized and it is going to be quite the event.

As it should it's our 80th year! So, mark your calendar it's a convention you don't want to miss. Hope to see everyone there. May 9-12, 2019.

Gary Gibson - President



The upcoming 2019 PAMP Convention will be a time to CELEBRATE!! In honor of celebrating 80 years we have planned a full schedule with hopes of offering all our members with valuable information with great speakers, classes and of course fun and fellowship. While we continue to work the times and locations we would like to share a few surprises that are in the making. We will start the celebrations on Thursday with an opportunity to see Nick Vukojevich. Nick was a special guest at our 2016 convention.

With a great response then, we are looking forward to bringing his skill and knowledge back to our members. Friday will be a full day of classes at the meat lab. Everyone that attends the classes on Friday and Saturday will walk away with something new!! We are also pleased and honored to announce that we plan to have Dr. Temple Grandin speak on Saturday. Dr. Grandin is a prominent author and speaker on both autism and animal behavior. You won't want to miss the opportunity to meet her and hear her story. The Supplier Showcase will take place Friday and Saturday, and what a great opportunity for our members to stop at all the suppliers attending and see what they have to offer you and your business. In addition to all the learning we also have great food, entertainment and fellowship planned to help celebrate 80 years of this great organization. We would also encourage you to bring your family. We will have kids activities planned on Friday and The Penn Stater as amenities to keep them busy on Saturday. Hope to see everyone here May 9-12th, 2019!!

RELATED ARTICLES:

TEMPLE GRANDIN'S 70th. See Page 23.

HONORING 80 YEARS OF PAST PRESIDENTS & HONORARY MEMBERS -See Insert



ABOVE: SPECIAL GUESTS OF OUR 80th ANNUAL CONVENTION. NICK VUKOJEVICH & DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN.

CONTACT PAMP

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In our continuing feature of Service Hints and Tips from professionals in the field,

Hints and Tips th

we have a number of articles throughout this newsletter from such suppliers as Handmann, ProSmoker, Bunzl and the following piece PAMP Member, McAneny Brothers:

THE ART & SCIENCE OF A SUPERMARKET MEAT AD

When asked to write an article on retail meat for the PAMP newsletter I thought of many topics and the one I chose to expound on is how a supermarket meat ad is put together and why. Retail supermarket flyers can run 2% or more of a grocery stores sales each week and are a significant expense to markets. With all of the mediums used print, radio and TV this is the driver to get customers in the market.

Supermarket ads are written to drive sales, put cars in the parking lot. Each retail is carefully analyzed based on front end scan data to ensure the proper mix of sales and profits are realized. Items are chosen in a specific pattern. You usually always have at least one beef, pork and poultry item on the front page at greatly reduced retails to pull customers in. These will always be pertinent to the season and to the demographics of the market. We have all heard of the term "loss leaders" and this is where that applies. Front page items may gross 10% or less and have a large influence on the department profitability and sales. So how do you achieve a gross of 25-30%? Each cut has a price point that drives sales. For example top round roasts will sell x amount at \$3.99 retail, so many percent more at \$3.59 and a \$2.99 retail may double or triple sales. All of _ these movement numbers are available to a retailer through their front end scan system. If your front page mix accounts for 30% to 40% of your total weekly sales at a low gross the remaining 60 to 70% of your sales need to generate 35% or more gross. Inside page ad items generate lower sales dollars but higher grosses. You see whole boneless pork loins as a lead feature in plenty of supermarket ads at a cost that you may ask how or why? Let's break it down. If a retailer has whole boneless pork loin at a retail of \$1.49 and they are paying \$1.39 for them a store may sell 60 cases. Of these 60 cases only 40% or less are sold as whole loins, the remainder are merchandised into chops and roasts which are in the inside of the ad at \$2.99 lb. This item generates a gross of 6.7% for the lead feature and a gross of 46% (after cutting loss) on the remaining 60 % of the boneless loins or a blended gross of 30%. These numbers are based off actual numbers from past ads. The supermarket ad will strive to appeal to all customers' tastes and budgets. Some stores will sell nothing but choice beef, others select or Mexican to hit certain price points. This decision on what grade of beef to use is based on what your customer wants. Some retailers will run a two tier beef program, labeled properly, to cater to different consumers. You are starting to see more Australian beef in ads from major supermarkets. Another big component of a supermarket ad are the national brands of processed hot dogs, lunchmeats, bacons and frozen meat items. These are put in ads each week with the packers usually giving ad allowances and ad monies. For an example Ballpark Hot Dogs may cost \$2.00 to a store every day, but when they are printed in an ad Ball Park may give a 30 to 50% allowance along with a lump payment (in some instances thousands of dollars) to cover advertising costs.

Some ads are planned for throughout the entire year by accruing monies to offset huge losses. Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas



ham retails have a dramatic effect of profits. Everybody pays pretty much the same for turkeys and hams. So how does the big retailer afford to pay 99 cents a pound for Thanksgiving turkeys and sell them at 49 cents when they will sell truckload after truckload of turkeys? They accrue monies all year long and rebate the retailer at the holidays. Sort of like a tax refund, they pay a few cents extra on every pound they buy from their supplier every day and then get it back to offset losses at the holidays.

In the supermarket industry, meat is one of the biggest drivers of sales. The right meat ad brings customers to your store. If a customer buys meat at your location they almost always purchase produce, deli and grocery items to complete the cart. As qualified meat cutters are becoming harder to find, labor costs also play a role in what is advertised. The ad is also structured to take in account available labor requirements so multiple labor intense items are rarely advertised during the same week. The challenge of writing an ad is pricing the entire ad to control sales mix. Too much of a spread on items and you drive all sales to the loss leader, destroying mix. Too. high of a retail and your customer goes elsewhere. Ads tend to be more aggressive first of the month to take advantage of monies that consumers have available to spend. Beef roasts and steaks, ground beef, pork chops and roasts, boneless chicken breasts, leg quarters, turkey breasts are items that drive sales so you will see them in every retailer's ads on a regular basis. Finding new and unique items is also a challenge to writing an ad. A savvy retailer will review his competitor's ads each week to look for items or trends they have identified that he may be missing. Remember when an expensive supermarket ad is put out its number one goal is to put cars in the parking lot.

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Introduction



the ability to produce sausage products that utilize a variety of cas- gen/cellulose casing. ings (e.g., natural, collagen, and cellulose). Although vacuum fillers Production Speed essing flexibility, there is a certain amount of skill required to pro- has the desire to increase production speeds. Processors should duce quality sausage products.

Casing Preparation

good condition. Care should be taken when receiving and storing the vacuum filler/linker operator increases sausage production stored in a cool, dry, dark, and hygienically safe location. Also, they fast enough on the smokehouse sticks. It is encouraged that the from the casings. Then they should be placed in cold water (i.e., other cases, unnecessary increased production speeds may attribute mately thirty minutes prior to production, the natural casings the production speed, this negative attribute can be controlled. should be placed in warm water (i.e., approximately 90°F). During Techniques production, keep the natural casings in the warm water and retrieve There are many individual sausage stuffing/linking techniques that the casings throughout production as needed. These techniques are implemented to produce a quality sausage link product. The will make the natural casings more pliable and improve their use casing should be maintained more forward on the nozzle toward throughout sausage production.

Equipment Maintenance

As with any technology, its performance can be greatly impacted by achieving a proper twist between sausage links, the sausage must the maintenance that is performed. The vacuum filler typically has be tightly held while the twist is being made. For collagen and celluboth daily and monthly maintenance requirements that should be lose casing products, this is performed by rollers at the end of the performed. The linker should be greased every day prior to use. Prior to production, the casing brake assembly components should Typically, with the production of natural casing product, processors be inspected for potential defects (e.g., burs, cracks, wear, etc.) Through normal wear, defects on the adjusting screw may occur that have the potential to cut the casing during the stuffing process. Also, after some period of production and the use of caustic sanitation chemicals, the condition of the rubber brake ring may deterio-This issue may negatively impact production. Casing brake Conclusion assemblies should also be completely disassembled after use for As processors gain more working knowledge of their vacuum filler sanitation purposes.

Equipment Set Up

Prior to the stuffing process, processors should ensure that the nozzle size matches the brake assembly component size. Meaning, if an 11mm nozzle is used, an 11mm brake assembly and an 11mm technology casing brake should be used. The correct brake assembly must be adhered to the nozzle and casing diameter. In some instances, the casing diameter size doesn't have to exactly match the nozzle size

specifically, but processors should avoid using extreme incorrect As processors increase their production, they nozzle sizes with casings. For example, if a processor has an I I mm continue to purchase the more nozzle they use for a 21mm collagen snack stick product; they technology to keep up with cus- should not just the same nozzle to produce a 35mm smoked sautomer demands. The development sage product. Processors should also ensure that the nozzle is of vacuum filling machines with link- straight and is aligned correctly within the brake assembly. If the ers has made it possible to fulfill the nozzle is bent and/or not aligned within the brake ring, pressure is technical, quality-related, and pro- improperly placed on the casing causing increased casing breakage. duction volume requirements for the Some equipment suppliers provide a variety of brake ring types. production of linked sausage prod- The brake rings vary in physical softness and their use are associucts. To improve efficiencies, production techniques have been ated with specific types of casings. If the brake ring is too soft, it honed, equipment has been revolutionized, ingredients have been may not be able to be tighten enough on the nozzle to form a refined and made commercially available, and the meat industry's proper casing twist with collagen/cellulose casings. On the other overall knowledge of sausage production has continued to improve. hand, these softer casing brakes may function better with natural Part of the advantage of improved sausage linking equipment is the casings. If the brake ring is too hard, it may attribute to increased ability to expeditiously produce products that have accurate portion casing breakage during the production of natural casing products. weights and lengths. Also, small volume processors need to have Alternatively, these harder casing brakes function well with colla-

and linkers are promoted to provide processors with greater proc- With production demands placed upon meat processors, everyone note that increased sausage linking speed is only one component of sausage production process. If sausage production out-paces the Casing must be able to withstand the forces of stuffing and twisting. amount of sausage batter being delivered to the vacuum filler, in-Casings used in conjunction with linking technology should be in creased production is actually not being realized. This is also true if artificial casing (e.g., collagen and cellulose casings). They should be speed, but the other production employees can't hang the sausage should be stored in the packaging provided by the manufacturer entire sausage production team elevate the production speed uni-Failure to observe the storage conditions stipulated formly. Instead of going from 75 portions/minute to 250 portions/ by the manufacturer may result in decreased functional characteris- minute quickly; increase the production speed over the course of tics of the casing. The preparation of natural casings prior to pro- the day. This way, the entire sausage production team uniformly duction is also important. The day prior to use, natural casings works together to increase to amount of sausage produced without should be rinsed 2-3 times with cold water to rinse salt residue several components not being able to keep up with production. In approximately 40°F) and stored in the cooler overnight. Approxi- increased surface smearing of the sausage product. By decreasing

the brake assembly. The casing brake should be tight on the nozzle to prevent back flow of sausage batter onto the nozzle. To assist in linker.

use their hands to hold the sausage during the stuffing/linking process. The sausage links should be allowed to drop onto the table from the linker approximately the length of 11/2 sausage links. This will also help to maintain the twist between the sausage links prior to it being hung on the smokehouse stick

and linking technology, their ability to efficiently produce a highquality sausage greatly increases. If questions and/or production issues arise, processors are encouraged to utilize the resources available through their capital equipment suppliers that sold the



lay B. Wenther, Ph.D Applications and Technical Services Manager



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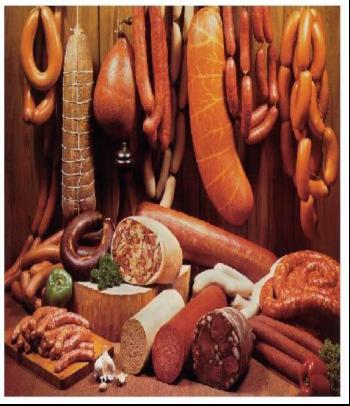
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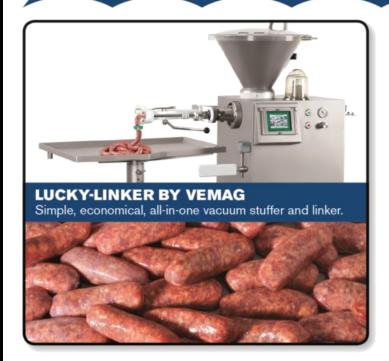
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LOST IN TRANSLATION: IS YOUR PRIVATE BRANDED MEAT PROGRAM ADEQUATELY TELLING A STORY?

two hours watching a story being told, I want to understand it.

Experiences watching movies in subtitles reminds me of the trend for about the animals they raise and process. private labels at retail stores and in food service. Now, I completely brand equity? That's the reasoning, but store private brands increasingly undermine the story.

What story? The story of the animal's care, family farm, ranch, proc- I believe strongly that the key to strong meat sales in any supermaress and plant. The very transparent story that millennial consumers desire to know. Chefs all over the world tell me the same thing, they big chains and the other restaurants around them. They need to grown meat that seem to have a superior environmental story. the reality of the changing marketplace.

that is co-packing the label. Rarely does the private brand have its own website, brochures and elements of the story displayed on the If your company owns private meat brands, ensure that your staff in the stores know anything about their own store brand. Rarely is and is akin to watching a foreign film with subtitles. the story coming through to the consumer.

Private store brands sometimes save consumers money. Chains can

I rarely watch movies in foreign negotiate the best net-net pricing available and pass it on to consumlanguages that require the ers. This savings is passed on to consumers most often, and one work of reading subtitles. The would think that the cheaper the meat, the better, right? Not aloverall experience of enjoying a ways. Private labeling is working against the trend that consumers movie is diluted when I can't and food service operators desire to know more about the meat understand every word and than the just the price. I believe that private brands that can't tell nuance. If I am going to spend their story are hurting their cause. They're supporting the false premise that all meat comes from giant factory farms that don't care

If you read the 2018 Power of Meat study, or the article about it in understand why a national retailer or food service distributor would the Retail markets are under tremendous pressures to retain cuswant to have their own brand on a meat package or box. Why tomers and profits. Limited assortment stores, with their low marbuild some other company's brand when you can build your own gin case ready meat offerings are taking business away from supermarkets. This doesn't seem to bode well for the long-term future of supermarkets. Unless they change their strategy.

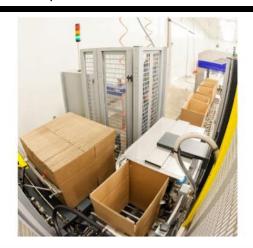
ket or limited assortment store is directly related to the ability of a private brand to tell their authentic, true, transparent story. This want to know the story behind the of the box of meat. How did it story can seldom be told through the vehicle of a private brand and get there? They need to know to differentiate themselves from the will in the end, diminish meat sales to veggie burgers and fake lab

know because they want to know where their food comes from and I propose that retailers and food service distributors with private they want to know because their customers want to know. This is brands either return to the countless number of excellent private family owned brands with awesome authentic stories, or that they With private labeling, most often, the story ends at the meat plant do a much better job with clearly articulating the attributes of their brand and letting consumers know the story of the meat.

label or point of sale at the store. Rarely do the meat merchandisers can clearly articulate its attributes. Otherwise your brand is diluted

Reprinted from Gregory Blooms Blog: Meat Business from www.meatingplace.com













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.06 lb
.07 lb
.08 lb
.09 lb
.11 lb
.45 lb7¼ oz79 lb12¾ oz.
.12 lb2 oz46 lb
.13 lb2 oz47 lb7½ oz.
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.30 lb
.64 lb
.31 lb5 oz65 lb
.32 lb5 oz66 lb
.33 lb5¼ oz67 lb



In honor of our upcoming 80th Anniversary, we would like to Thank all those who have helped to build this organization into what it is today. Including all the Past Presidents and Honorary Members of PAMP.

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every batch be that way? Making wieners is basic sausage manufacturing, however consistent results requires the discipline to follow strict processing steps batch after batch.

Hints and Tips WEINER 101 Every processor will have his or her own recipe, including the meat block and seasoning formulation. Recipes are typically adjusted and

tweaked to appeal to the largest mass of a processor's customer base. The key to the success of any recipe is consistency in replication. Batch after batch the product must meet the expected end result. A good procedure should be written down, communicated to employees, and followed rigorously every single load. Good manufacturing processes and quality control procedures are really nothing more than a HACCP plan for product quality.

The goal of this article is to identify variables in processing that can lead to inconsistent loads, provide solutions to common errors, and to provide guidelines to ensure those errors do not occur in the future. As with any processing procedure, it is important to evaluate the individual steps and stages in order to tighten up the process and optimize for best possible consistency and quality. Let's start with the grinding and mixing process.

STEP I: GRINDING & MIXING:

The goal in grinding and mixing is to make a batter that has a good protein matrix that binds the fat and water molecules as well as produces the desired mouth-feel and bite. Regardless of your meat block, protein additives, or equipment, the variables that will determine your "bind" are time in mechanical manipulation, and temperature. Proteins in the meat are salt soluble, so make sure to add the salt early in the process and give it time in the mixer (or bowl chopper) to pull proteins out. Pulling proteins requires time in the mixer, however too much time will break down the matrix. Pay close attention to temperature as break down occurs when temps are allowed to exceed 55 degrees F. The questions for this step of the process are, I) How am I controlling (or monitoring) the time to ensure I extrude protein and get the best possible mix? And 2) How am I controlling the temperature of the mix to ensure I don't exceed 55F and start breaking down the matrix?

STEP 2: STUFFING & LINKING

This step is relatively straightforward. The skill and craftsmanship of those performing the task will lend the largest variable. The one variable in this step of the process that links it to the smoking operation (no pun intended) is the time it takes to load the smoke truck or smokehouse. Often times loading errors are due to interruptions or simply the amount of time it takes to load the smoke-

If processing hot dogs is so easy, why is that so of- house. When these errors occur, the product is introduced to the ten it just doesn't work out right? Have you ever smokehouse in varying degrees of readiness. The first product hung made a batch and thought, "WOW, this is a may have a dry surface and be a few degrees ahead of the last prodgreat batch of hot dogs." Shouldn't uct, which will more than likely have a wet surface. This brings us to the smoking stage.

STEP 3: SMOKING & CONDITIONING

One of the most overlooked stages in setting up a smoke or cook cycle is the conditioning stage. This stage is to simply level out the product to get the entire batch to the same level of surface moisture as well as internal temperature. Some processors accomplish this by hosing down the newly loaded smokehouse truck with cold water and let it sit for 10 to 20 minutes prior to rolling the truck into the smokehouse. In a gravity fed smokehouse it may mean that I the product is hung in a cooler for a determined amount of time, then the house is loaded quickly and the process started. In a controlled atmosphere house, it might be that a shower cycle starts off the program, or a cycle of low-heat high-humidity levels out the condition of product in the truck smoker. The key is if we want the product to be consistent throughout the smokehouse, the product must be in the same condition throughout the smokehouse. The total program is going to be determined by your equipment, the amount of smoke flavor, and the color you are looking to achieve. With natural smoke, settings should be set to: dry to tacky - smoke - short set cycle – cook. Natural smoke imparts a darker color at higher humidity (65%-85%). Ramping temperature up in steps will result in a better yield. Smokehouse temperature is a major contributing factor in product color and by ramping temperature up in multiple steps, you will obtain a better result in yield and product quality. If you change only one parameter per load to see the result, you will better understand your smokehouse in the long run!

Take a good look at your process and evaluating the steps to control variables so that each and every time you open the smokehouse door you can say, "WOW, what a great batch of hot dogs."

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DEALING WITH CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS

By Dr. Joe Cordray

Complaints are a part of doing business. When a customer complains, it is typically for a good reason or a genuine concern. They usually have made a purchase that did not meet their expectations. They are dissatisfied with a product, service or maybe a combination of the two. Fewer than half of customers complain; most simply adjust their

buying habits. When a customer complains, it provides you with the opportunity to turn a dissatisfied customer into a satisfied customer and perhaps into an advocate for your product or brand. This is true whether you are dealing with a retail or wholesale customer.

Following are steps you can follow to resolve a customer complaint.

I.Stay Calm

Remember the customer is not attacking you personally but rather the situation. A person who remains in control of their emotions deals from a position of strength. Don't get defensive, keep your cool.

2.Listen

Let the dissatisfied customer blow off some steam. Do not interrupt. Often it is helpful to repeat back what you are hearing to show that you have listened. Typically as the dissatisfied customer vents, they will begin to calm down. The customer must be in a calm frame of mind before a solution can be reached. As needed, ask questions about the issue. It is your goal to solve the problem, not to argue.

3.Empathize

It will help to defuse the situation if you let the dissatisfied customer know you have heard their concerns and that you are going to work with them to resolve the issue. If your company made a mistake, admit it. Don't blame another person. Simply say "I'm sorry about that." If you did not make a mistake and it is a misunderstanding, explain that to the customer. You can say something like "I can see how that would be very frustrating." You are not necessarily agreeing with what the customer is saying, but you are respecting how they feel about the situation. The customer needs to feel like you are on their side and that you empathize with them.

4. Offer a Solution

When you have sufficient details, offer a solution. There is always a solution. It may not be exactly what they are requesting, but focus on what you can do versus denying to solve their problem. You must keep in mind what you can and can't do within your company guidelines. Making a promise you can't keep will only set you back. Often it is helpful to propose one or more solutions to solve the customer's complaint.

5. Execute the Solution

Solve the problem with their originally requested resolution or an alternative you propose. Execute the solution quickly. Research indicates that customers prefer to have the person they are speaking with solve the problem rather than moving it up the chain of command.

6. Follow Up

If appropriate, a quick follow-up phone call in a few days is good. You can make sure everything is ok and the call provides assurance the complaint was resolved. This is particularly important with commercial/wholesale customers.

- 1. Be Prepared For Complaints: Complaints will come so it is best to be prepared:
- 2. Have a written procedure for how complaints should be handled. Any employees that interact with customers should be trained on how to handle complaints.
- 3. Keep a log of all complaints and how they are resolved.
- 4. Periodically review your complaint log to determine if there are any trends in the complaints you receive.

Remember: When you successfully resolve a customer's complaint you better understand their needs and you retain them as customers.

Reprinted from the August 2018 Indendent Processor - Povisioneronline.com Dr. Joe Cordray is the Extension Meat Specialist from Iowa State University

pamp@pameatprocessors.org



Local Meat Firm Wins Product Award

Local Meat Firm Bryan's Meat Cutting of East Smithfield Received recognition at the Pennsylvania Association of Meat Processors (PAMP) Convention held May 10-13 in State College. Bryan's Meats won 13 Awards in the 2018 Product Competition. The contest had entries from across Pennsylvania and several neighboring states.

The Pennsylvania Processed Product Competition, the largest meat product judging on the East Coast, uses meat experts from Penn State University and the industry as judges. With over 240 entries, the meat competition identifies outstanding and innovative products of the highest quality. The contest is held annually during PAMP's convention. event holds educational seminars and a supplier showcase for all its' members. PAMP is a state-wide trade association composed of small and mid-sized meat business companies and their suppliers. The organization was founded in 1939 and provides educational and business assistance to independent meat, poultry, and food businesses.

Grand Champion Reserved Grand Champion Smoked Pepper Bacon Sweetheart Smoked Bacon Ring Bologna Fresh Italian Sausage Slim Jim Sticks Smoked Breakfast Sausage Hillbilly Reconstructed Jerky Pineapple Teriyaki Bratwurst Venison Snack Stick Hot Dogs Pork Brisket Pepperoni Sticks Smoked Whole Turkey.

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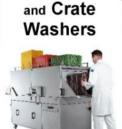
























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KANSAS CITY, Mo. – For years, I've proclaimed that one of the most gratifying aspects of my job for the past I6-plus years has been the opportunity to work with Temple Grandin. I won't waste time the many accolades and accomplishments that Grandin has amassed because anyone in the meat and poultry processing industry with a pulse is aware of her life's work and the difference she's made in the treatment of livestock, but also in the perception and treatment of people living with autism. On August 29th, I almost burst with pride as an attendee at her 70th birthday celebration.

Trust me, nobody was more honored to be there than I was and I'm still basking in the glow of the experience. Besides being a constant sounding board for MEAT+POULTRY's animal welfare coverage and an exclusive editorial contributor to the magazine for nearly four decades, she's had a wide and sweeping influence on me and thousands of others all around the world.

On the campus of Colorado State Univ., just steps outside the animal science building where Grandin's university office is located, was a perfect stage for not only commemorating Grandin's milestone birthday, but celebrating the impact she's had on the lives of so many.

Among several presenters paying tribute during the festivities, Dr. Ajay Menon, dean of the college of agriculture, was one of several friends and colleagues who toasted Grandin. Menon referred to her as a researcher, mentor, friend, activist and a change agent, but even bigger, "a giant force for good." He shared anecdotes of total strangers all over the world asking him if he had met Temple Grandin after they learned he worked at CSU, either because they knew about her work with livestock or her reputation as a hero to the autistic community. He also pointed out the immeasurable impact Grandin has had on the lives of hundreds of students through the years. Many current and past students were among the proud attendees. The idea for the event, in fact, was hatched by Helen Kline, a graduate student currently working under Grandin at CSU, along with Dana Wagner and Miriam Martin, who also are sponsored by Grandin.

Dr. Tony Frank, CSU chancellor, in his remarks commemorating Grandin's professional and personal accomplishments and 70th birth-day acknowledged her as a global asset and categorized her as "someone whose work in life have made this world a better place."

I shared a table with Mick Jackson, another speaker at the celebration, who was the director of the 2010 Emmy-award-winning HBO film, "Temple Grandin." Jackson told of how he wasn't aware of Grandin when first presented the script for the movie, but the more he learned and read her writing, and later visited with her, it became clear they shared a bond and his interest in the project grew. Grandin, he pointed out, is a visual thinker and shares her view of the world through pictures, not unlike Jackson and other filmmakers. He said her story captivated him and the entire crew and cast. "I've never worked on a movie, before or since, where everybody felt such passion," he said.

"It started out as something really small and grew into something really big," Grandin told attendees as she expressed her appreciation. And what may have started as a birthday bash evolved into a celebration of Temple Grandin's global impact, which brought together a group of some of the most influential, interesting and impressive people to one event I've ever seen.

This was an evening dedicated to celebrating one of Grandin's most refreshing attributes and the reason so many people are drawn to her: Her unique perspective on work and life and the fact that she is starkly different in a proud and unabashed way when compared to most people. How refreshing is that?

As Jackson said he learned during the filming of the movie, autism is not an affliction, but rather a gift. "You are not like other people, Temple Grandin, and for that we all are joyously grateful," he said.

I was honored to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event and I thank Helen Kline for her work to make it happen and to Temple Grandin for being an inspirational hero to me and so many others. Happy 70th and thank you for all you do for so many

By Joel Crews, reprinted from MEAT+POULTRY Magazine

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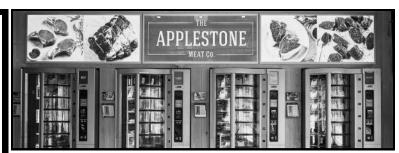
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VENDING MACHINES KING OVER UPSTATE NEW

Things you can currently purchase from a vending machine: a red Powerade and a dusty chocolate bar.

Things you wish you could purchase from a vending machine: locally -sourced lamb shoulder chops, country-style pork ribs and beef ribeyes. Right? Right.

It sounds a little sketch, sure, but it's happening, yes, yes, it's happening, and gloriously so, at two locations in Upstate New York.

This big, weird (but not-so-weird) idea comes from the mind of husband-and-wife Joshua and Jessica Applestone, who opened their first whole animal butcher shop in Hudson Valley 14 years ago. Their latest project, the eponymous Applestone Meat Company, aims to make fresh cuts of extremely high-quality meat more accessible to consumers. Hence, the vending machines: there are four of them right outside their butcher shop in Stone Ridge—one for beef, one for lamb, one for pork and one for sausages. (There are three in Accord.) Vacuum-sealed raw meat never sits for more than a week, and processed meat (like hot dogs) never sits for longer than two. While the selection changes depending on availability, customers can expect some basics, like ground beef and pork chops, as well as some less traditional cuts, such as country-style pork ribs and flat iron steaks. Rest assured, all of the meat comes from animals humanely raised at a family-owned farm and slaughterhouse in nearby Pine Plains; none of it is ever frozen.

The vending machine-ing of everything is a natural byproduct of late capitalism, our everything-on-demand marketplace wherein we increasingly expect to have anything we want, whenever we want it. Last year, a Silicon Valley startup called Bodega became the object of internet ire, with its not-so-veiled attempt to replace your favorite corner store with app-controlled pantries. But Applestone is different: they're not replacing the little guy, they are the little guy. One hopes, perhaps sanguinely, that the big factory farms don't take notice.

Fortunately for New Yorkers, more of Applestone's vending machines are on the way. They have plans to open a store in Hudson later this year, and an outpost in Westchester soon after. Then, they'll explore options in the city.

"Then" can't come soon enough.

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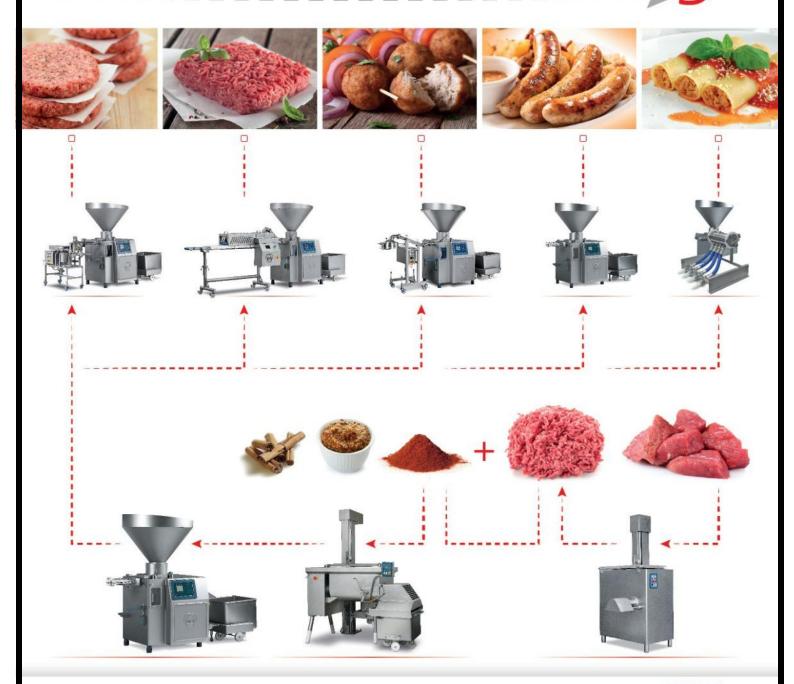
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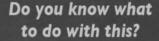
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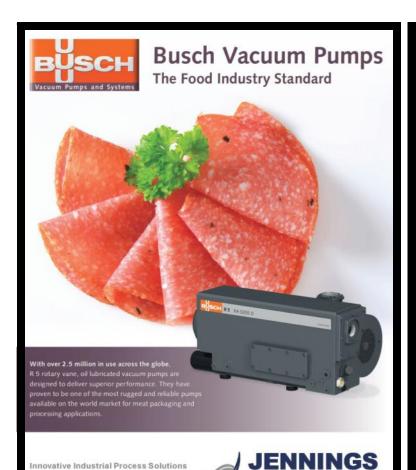
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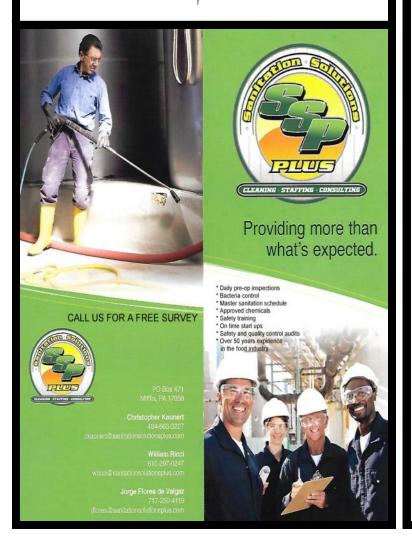
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SAVE THE DATE: 80TH CONVENTION: May 9-12, 2019.

Let's Celebrate!! More details to follow in the next newsletter.

KIDS ACTIVITIES: We are happy to announce we'll be offering kids activities again this year at the Meat Lab on Friday during the convention. It will be lots of FUN!!

CORRECTION: Please update your records for:Sanitation Solutions Plus, LLC. Web Address: www.sanitationsolutionsplus.com.

HELP WANTED ADS: In addition to the classified section of the newsletter, we will be offering a "Help Wanted" section. Only current PAMP Members can list available positions in this section. Email the listing as you would like it to appear in the newsletter to: pamp@pameatprocessors.org.



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