NEWSLETTER

Jan. - Feb. 2019 Volume 6, Issue I

MEAT PROCESSORS



From Your President...

Hello Pamp members,

Greetings to all. Hope everyone is doing well. With some of the holidays and busy time behind us, it's time to prepare for the next season. For most the wild game specialty products are underway or maybe some of you are finishing them up. For others it's a little break before Easter with hams, Kielbasa or your specialty item that your customers enjoy at Easter time. There's always something in the works. Whether it's thinking of a new product to make, expanding your facility, looking to purchase new equipment or maintaining what you have. Please keep our suppliers in mind, they are always there to assist you with whatever you need.

With our 80th year under way our convention is going to be one you don't want to miss. We have a full schedule of events, seminars, and a great suppliers showcase planned for you. It's going to be a great time! A perfect time to see old friends and meet new ones. So, mark your calendar and hope to see you there.

Gary Gibson - President

The Pennsylvania Association of Meat Processors Convention will not only offer the great educational classes as in the past but also a lot of **FUN!!** Time to celebrate 80 years of PAMP!! Each year we look forward to gathering with old and new members, getting helpful tips from one another along with having fun reminiscing.

The schedule is included in this issue and a few events we feel will be **FUN** are:

Best Beef Butcher Contest – Calling anyone who thinks they know something about beef and wants to show off their skills....this is for you!! The Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative is sponsoring this FUN event with the opportunity for you to win \$500.00. 10 spots available, so sign up today! We also encourage members to watch the contest and show your support to those competing.





People Choice Competition – This is a fun event to bring a product that you currently sell in your shop for others to sample and cast their vote on. This year we are calling it "Back to Basic". This event takes place one day only, Friday May 10th during the Supplier Showcase. Showcase runs from 3-7, so please have your items to the table set up outside the exhibit hall between 2:30-2:45. All entries must be cut and displayed for this is self-served with no

one attending the table and restocking. A voting ticket is placed in everyone's registration packet. Again, we encourage everyone to enter an item, taste and cast their vote!! We found in the past that a "platter size" entry works best...but use your own discretion on the quantity to enter. Winner will receive a \$100.00 gift card. Have FUN and good luck!



Kids Activities – Fun, Fun and more Fun for the kids!! We will offer kids activities again this year on Friday during the educational sessions at the Meat Lab. With lots of things to make, color and snack on the littles ones will have a blast!!

Social Drop Ins – There are several receptions and social drop ins to attend as well. A fun time to visit, catch up and learn new ideas!! Please note we do ask if planning to attend certain drop ins to please mark on your order form so we can get an accurate count. Let the FUN begin!!



CONTACT PAMP

1209 Rockdale Rd Rockwood, PA 15557 844-599-PAMP



Email: pamp@pameatprocessors.org Website: www.pameatprocessors.org

HOTEL NEO.

MORE CONVENTION FUN PG. 3

The Penn Stater Hotel (Host of the Convention) 215 Innovation Blvd State College, PA 1-800-233-7505 \$114.00 per night Code – PAMP19A Release Date for Rate 4-08-19 Ramada Inn 1450 S. Atherton St. State College, PA 814-238-3001 \$77.00 per night Code – PAMP19

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CONVENTION CONTINUED

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

The educational classes and sessions will also be fun. It is always fun to learn new things and what a great line up we have for you. We will start with Beef & Lamb Harvest Techniques from Nick on Thursday at 9 am. Nick returns from New Zealand and is ready to share his knowledge and techniques onto our PAMP members. Nick was a special guest in 2016 and we are looking forward to having him return for the 2019 Convention. We will continue with concurrent sessions on Friday with Creating Championship Ham & Bacon with Jake Sailer, a Catering Panel Discussion with several PAMP members and Methods of Manufacturing Fresh Sausage with John Frohling. Saturday will start with having guest speaker and well known animal handling expert Dr. Temple Grandin speak at 8 am. You won't want to miss this. The first 150 people will be in the same room as Temple and then we will continue to fill another room with her session being projected live to that room.





Special Guests: Nick Vukojevich and Temple Grandin

Again, what an honor to have Temple attend the 80th convention!! We will continue on Saturday with a Retail & Display class along with a Q&A session with Jake and award winning PAMP members to answer any of your questions from his class on Friday, Creating Championship Ham & Bacon.

Let us not forget two more fun events:



SUPPLIER SHOWCASE

Please note times for both Friday and Saturday have changed. Friday will be from 3-7 with offering an extra hour then we have in the past and Saturday will be from 10-1. What a great opportunity to meet and see what is new in the industry from over 50 suppliers.

PROCESSED PRODUCTS COMPETITION

We encourage everyone new or old to enter products into the competition. Check in will be held Thursday and Friday only. Please relate to the article from Jonathan Campbell in the Nov/ Dec newsletter with details and benefits to entering into this event. Rules were included in the last issue and can also be located on our website. Sunday we will offer a Q&A session with various judges to answer any competition rules & scoring questions you may have. This is not only a competition but also a learning experience. The featured class for



2019 is ground frankfurters/wieners. Good Luck!!

Sounds like a lot of FUN you won't want to miss.....See you in Penn State May 9-12, 2019!



- **Hotel** Please use Code to receive PAMP discount and by the release date listed.
- PAMP Apparel Order in advance and show your support. Add'l forms are online
- Registration/Order Form Fill out completely if possible
 o Need head count on these events, Nick
 Presentation, PA Beef lunch on Thursday, Presidents
 Reception, Kids Activities, Lunch Friday, Social
 Dinner Friday night, Temple Grandin Presentation
- **Butcher's Contest** applications must be submitted by April 1st . Forms also on website
- Boxed Lunch Saturday only and must pre order.
- Awards Dinner/Auction must pre order and have ticket to attend.
- Fee to attend Showcase Only \$50.00 to attend just the supplier showcase
- Location of events marked on schedule:

ML indicates Meat Lab - Penn State Meat Lab, 16C Meat Lab, University Park, 16802 (off Porter Road, behind Beaver Stadium)

Penn Stater Convention Center - The Penn Stater, 215 Innovation Blvd, State College, 16803

- **Scholarship Applications** taking applications now. Rules and Application on website
- Registration Deadline April 20th

Board of Director Seats & Nominations:

This year there will be 3 seats open for the Board of Directors. Nominations are now being accepted. If you are interested in becoming a board member or know of someone that will represent PAMP well, please submit your/their name to Renee along with a brief description about themselves. Deadline for nominations will be Thursday (May 9th,) at the business meeting. All those running will be announced Friday (May 10th). A voting ballot will be placed in your registration packet and can be submitted at the Supplier Showcase on Friday or Saturday. The deadline to vote will be Saturday @ I pm and one voting ballot per operator. New board of directors will be announced at the Awards Dinner Saturday night.

When running for a seat, please keep in mind the duties that are expected. The board meets 2 times a year, once in the fall and then again during the annual convention. The fall meeting is a two day event, usually Saturday late afternoon and then meeting again Sunday morning. Other duties include planning and helping with the convention, becoming President of the Board, being assigned to a committee and helping to grow PAMP in any way possible. If you are submitting someone as a nomination, please make sure they are aware of the duties expected and willing to serve the 3 year term.

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In meat processing, protein extraction is a term that is used to describe the proc-

Hints and Tips
Injection & Tumbling

ess of opening the structure of protein to make it able to accept and retain more water. Increased water retention by protein extraction can be increased by using chemical modification (injection/marination), mechanical action (tumbling), or a

combination of the two. The end result hals a few key goals:

- I. Weight (Sell by the pound)
- 2. Palatability (A more tender, moist product at consumption)
- 3. Efficiency (More lbs produced using less product)

If we want to look at chemically modifying the water content of the muscle, we will look to create more space for water to be held. When salt (NaCl) is added to meat, the negatively charged chloride ions (Cl-) enter into the structure of the protein. Similar to trying to put two like ends of a magnet together, the chloride ions push against each other and open the structure of the protein. Phosphate has a huge negative charge that promotes opening or extraction of the protein even further resulting in more room for water retention. An example of this chemical addition process would be injection.

The structure of a muscle involves a muscle surrounded by a layer of connective tissue known as the epimysium. Within the muscle are muscle bundles surrounded by the layer of connective tissue known as the perimysium. Individual muscle fibers are surrounded by the layer of connective tissue known as the endomysium. Mechanical action on meat is used to loosen the rigidness of the structure and break up connective tissue. This action will allow expansion of the cellular structure when absorbing additional moisture. A prime example of this would be tumbling.

The method of combining the mechanical and chemical treatment allows both processes to have an increased effect of moisture retention as loosening of the structure around the protein will enable more negatively charged ions to enter and open up the structure resulting in more water retained. The exampe of this would be injection (chemical) and tumbling (mechanical).



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Lately I been fielding a lot of questions on the basics of fibrous casings. These questions have been coming from processors that are fairly new to sausage making and from customers that have been forced to change fibrous vendors due to all the mergers in the industry (although

all fibrous casings are similar, they do vary slightly from vendor to vendor). Below is a brief description of the 4 basic types of casings: Regular, Protein Coated, Peelable, and Barrier casings.

REGULAR CASINGS

Hints and Tips CASING 101

Regular casings are by far the most versatile of the fibrous casings, they can be used for most smoked sausages. These casing have excellent smoke penetration and natural shrinking properties so the casing stays tight on the sausage. These casings have good peeling properties and come off easily from most smoked sausages.

PROTEIN COATED CASINGS

A protein coated casing (also called a "meat cling" casing) is a regular casing with a protein sprayed inside the casing, the protein on the casing binds with the protein in the meat allowing this casing to have the strongest adhesion of all the fibrous casings. This casing was originally designed for dry and semi-dry sausages (the kind you might see hanging behind the counter of a New York deli). This casing has the same smoke penetration as a regular casing. The downside of this casing is that, if it is not used in the right application, it can be difficult to peel off the product and, sometimes, the outer surface of the sausage will come off with the casing.

PEELABLE CASINGS

Peelable casings are the exact opposite of a protein coated casing, for these casings they put a product inside the casing that allows for very little or no meat adhesion. These casings are usually used on products that are going to be immediately peeled and sliced (Canadian bacon, pepperoni, restructured ham, etc.). Peelable casings have the same smoke penetration as the previous two casings.

BARRIER CASINGS

Barrier casings typically have a saran lining and are products that can be cooked in the smoke house or in a hot water bath but allow NO smoke penetration. Barrier casings provide the maximum shelf life because of their virtual air tight properties. Barrier casings are commonly used for liver sausages and loaf type products.

FINAL NOTES

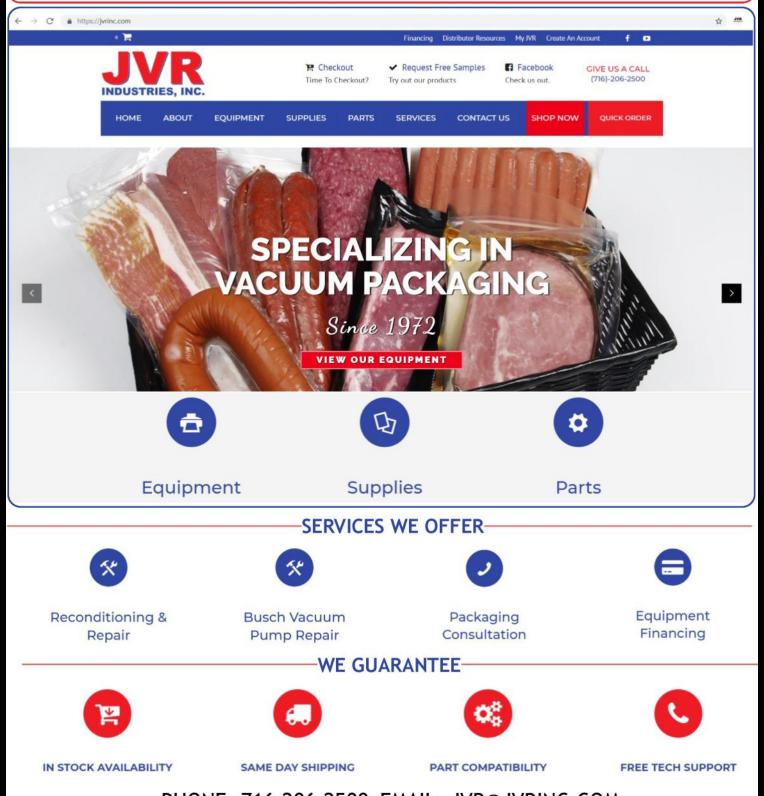
All these casing can be printed, shirred, cut & tied, and prestuck. One of the most important things that many processors fail to do with fibrous casings is soaking them properly, for all these casings, it is recommended that you soak them for at least I hour in lukewarm water before stuffing (2 hours for shirred and printed casings). This allows the casings to reach its maximum stretch and allows the casings natural shrink properties to work properly when cooking the product



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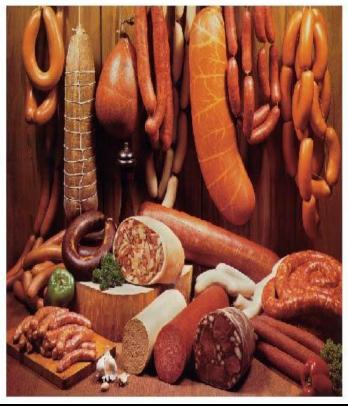
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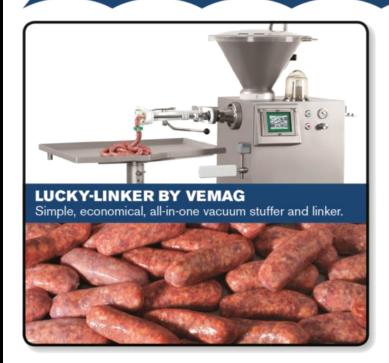
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HOW TO GHOOSE PAGKAGE FOR YOU

Opening up the package discussion paves the way for a successful product.

Choosing the right package can come down to the way it feels in a shopper's hand, the appearance of the product within the package, or the comfort level with a particular style of package or any number of other details. At the end of the day, and at the end of the consumer's purchase, packaging is a major and growing factor in the success of a product.

At the point of sale consumers really do judge a product by its looks. According to the 2018 "Power of Meat" study, only appearance come close to price when it comes to buying decisions and, for many shoppers in the meat department, appearance goes hand-in-hand with price to make that final choice.

Those choices are increasingly diverse. Indeed, the days of commodity meat packaging are long gone, as people carve variety in both products and packaging based on their need and interests at the time. "In addition to how a package looks,, buyers weigh other things when browsing meat and poultry offerings, from supporting local brands to looking for more sustainable packaging to picking a package with convenience-oriented features," say Mike McCann, packaging specialist for Reiser.

With more options demanded by this increasingly fragmented and discerning consumer base, meat and poultry companies must make smart decisions about what packaging is right for their products and customers. The good new - and arguably the overwhelming new - is that packaging technologies are continually advancing to provide more package styles and types, from traditional basics to packaging produced on lines with the latest robotics.

So, then, what is the "right" package for your products? That depends on a variety of factors. "The process should begin with a thorough assessment that includes a list of common questions, such as: 'Do you want to make it look like this was packaged in the back room of the store or do you want this product to look as if it is made by a big brand?', 'Are your customers asking about more sustainable packaging', 'What is the desired shelf life?' or 'Will this product be distributed locally, regionally or nationally?'" says McCann. "Those are just a few questions that can be put on the table for consideration and discussion."

With dozens of factors to consider, processors can and should weigh the pros and cons of each packaging solution for their applications. Ultimately, the perfect package is based on a company's product, operation and customer, according to McCann.

To help customers choose that perfect package for them, Reiser's experts like McCann use a system based on four primary factors: Product, Package, Loading and Speed, or P-P-L-S.

Product: The actual product, including the product type and blend, is one of the first and most important factors in the package selection process. One processor may want to do something different to stand out among its competition while another may be seeking a longer shelf life to meat the needs of its nation or global customers, for example.

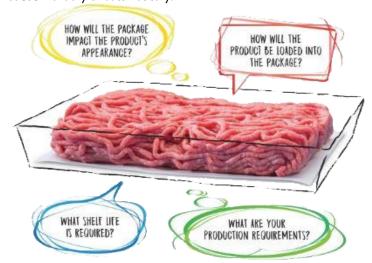
Examples of questions to ask: What is the desired weight per package? Is this package sold by net weight? Will this product be hot, cold, or frozen? Will the consumer buy this item raw or in a ready-to-eat form? What is the state of the product - ground, solid, whole muscle, in pieces?

Package: Some processors must produce a certain package based on their retail or food service customers' requirements. Meanwhile, at a time when may consumers are looking for greener package choices, meat and poultry companies may be reevaluating their packages, perhaps opting for a vacuum skin package with less packaging materials or package waste.

Examples of questions to ask: Are you looking for modified atmosphere package, vacuum package, shrink package or another format? What size will this package be? Do you have a material preference, i.e., skin, semi-rigid, with labeling, pre-printed film or printed inline? Have you thought about details such as rounded or square corners, closure/reclosure type or display method?

Loading: Loading systems play a role in package type, depending on whether a company has automatic loading capability or manual loading of product and packaging.

Examples of questions to ask: Is this product made in a batch or continuous process? How is it delivered to the packaging machine? Will it be loaded manually or automatically?



Speed: The need for greater speed and efficiency is common in today's market, and that applies to packaging too. Different companies will have unique needs for output and production, depending on their operations and on their customers' expectations. Examples of questions to ask: What's the goal for packages produced per minute or, for that matter, per month or year? Is there variance for seasons? What happens after packages leave the line? Will there be secondary packaging that impacts the production reates and speed of the primary packaging?

FOUR FORMATS FOR TODAY'S CHOOSY CONSUMERS

Vacuum packaging:

Vacuum packaging, which once was challenged by consumer acceptance due to non-traditional meat color and appearance, has caught on and is becoming more commonly used, especially for ground beef. A mojor appeal is the fact that it offers the longest shelf life. As the market for vacuum packaging has grown, packaging technologies and the systems equipped to produce such items have had to keep pace. Reiser, for example offers form-fill-seal solutions for vacuum packages and vacuum skin packages, along wit tray-sealed vacuum skin packages.

THE RIGHT IR PRODUCT

Modified atmosphere packaging (MAP): MAP packaging likewise has gained consumer acceptance and industry applications in recent years. Modified atmosphere packaging, such as packaging produced on Reiser's tray seal and form-fill seal MAP packaging systems, offers extended shelf life that is beneficial to retailers and foodservice operators as well as to consumers.

Overwrap: Meat, including ground beef, is still frequently sold in a tray using overwrap format that is often chosen by shoppers because it has a "packed-in-store" appearance that is readily accepted and recognized. However, once these overwrapped packages are placed into the meat case, they have a short shelf life.

Chub package: Chub packaging for meat products, produced with vacuum fillers like Reiser's Vemag, is another example of a format that is catching on with meat processors and byers, for reasons ranging from presentation to space saving to sustainability to extended shelf-life.

GROUND BEEF PACKAGING CHOICES AT A GLANCE

Modern meat cases showcase the growing array of packaging formats, especially when it comes to ground beef and other ground proteins.

Stretch-wrapped (or overwrapped) packaging

Remains the most common type of package for ground beef and other ground meats. While stretch-wrapped packaging offers a shorter shelf life of 2 to 3 days, that can be extended with the use of a low-oxygen motherbag that boosts shelf life to 25 0r 30 days. **Brick packaging,** a vacuum package produced on a form-fill-seal system, is inclreasingly popular for ground proteins, like ground turkey, ground chicken, ground lamb and ground bison, among other products. Vacuum packages of ground beef offer the longest shelf life of 45-60 days, and the product will "bllom" when opened from a purple to the traditional red color.

Modified atmosphere packaging, whether produced on a tray sealing or form-fill-seal machine, is a good choice for ground beef manufacturers who want to extend product shelf life. A low-oxygen or low-oxygen with carbon dioxide MAP package has a 25 to 30-day shelf life, while a high-oxygen MAP package has a 10 to 12 -day shelf life.

Chub packages for ground beef are a more sommon sight in meat cases now, in one-pound format up to 3 and 5 pound sizes or more. The typical chub package has a shelf life of 20 to 23 days.

A TEAM APPROACH

Just as there is no one choice in packaging these days, there is no singular opinion or expert. Reiser's team of packaging experts and food technologists, with deades of experience, work closely with processors, helping them ask the right questions - including using the for P-P-L-S factors - and find the right answers. Reiser offers a full range of machinery in different sizes and speeds, and can provide sample packages to help make the decision-making process clearer and easier. Because of the depth and breadth of its packaging machinery, Reiser's main priority is partnering with companies to find and make the best package for their product, their operation and their end user.

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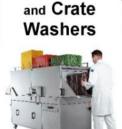
























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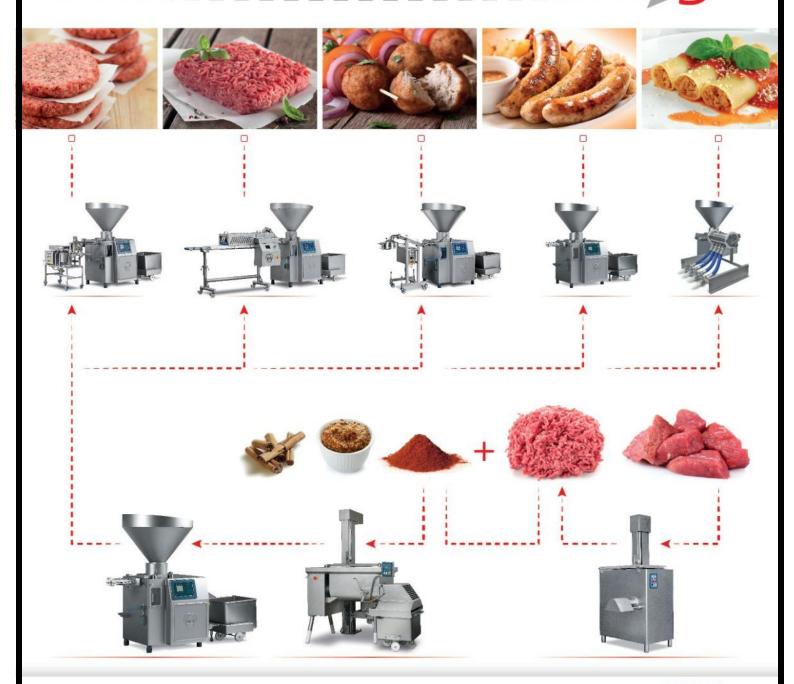
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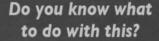
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2019 DUES: 2019 Dues have been mailed. In order to attend convention, dues must be paid.

2019 CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Registration forms have been mailed. All forms and details can also be found on our website.

DEADLINES: Mark your calendars for the different deadlines. (booking hotels, registration, butcher contest, scholarship applications, etc.)

HELP WANTED

If you have a position you are looking to fill at your business you feel free to email or call me with the details for a free listing in the PAMP Newsletter. (Please let us know when the position has been filled so we can remove the listing)

T&E Meats, and established USDA-inspected local meat processor in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, is looking for a qualified individual to lead production or cured/smoked value-added products for their farmer customers under a co-packing business model. Great growth opportunity for an experienced candidate. Call Joe Cloud at (540) 434-4415, or joe@temeats.com to send your resume or obtain the full job description.

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FOR SALE: Walk in Cooler: 20x20, 16x36 2- 4' sliders, 2-36" entrance door. With refrigeration. Like New only used 1 ½ years. \$20,000.00 Call Jeff @ 302-734-5447.

FOR SALE:

Hollymatic 200 patty maker with 3 plates and cart \$800.00 Call lake @ 570-689-2350.

FOR SALE:

Stainless Steel Heat Seal Packaging Machine and Shrink Tunnel, Purchased new in 2007. Great Condition. We loved using it to heat seal our venison products up through this past season. Just purchased a roll stock and no longer need this machine. Can email photo if desired. \$7,999 or best offer; Call Dwight @ 215-262-2305 or elyfamily5@msn.com.

FOR SALE:

2—Hollymatic Mixer Grinders, 180a, 10 h.p. 52 s.s. bowl, ring, worm, 208 volt, tandem set up, like new. Call Tom 412-551-8551.

FOR SALE:

Commercial Ham Presses, \$25 each, call Gary Karas @ 724-468-5811 - kountrykows@windstream.net

FOR SALE: Globe Slicer - Model 725 - Manual or Automatic Runs on 110 - Like New in excellent condition. \$2,500.00. Call Floyd @ 570-254-6921

FOR SALE:

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FOR SALE:

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9" Track Hangers, 13 for sale - \$5 ea.; 2 Track Switchers \$30 ea., All like new! Call Dennis @ 610-298-8232

FOR SALE:

Pokomat p16 Injector - 220 3 phase Call Tom @ 412-551-8551

FOR SALF:

4 Year Old - Bizerba Slicer; A406fb with conveyor belt and cart; Asking \$25,000; Contact Loni @ 570-289-4353

FOR SALE: 1992 Handtmann VF 200

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