



Sara Lee

Food and Beverage

St. Joseph Composting Program

May 30, 2008

Previous state



- Hot dog casings were being sent to landfill
 - Facility had recently completed an expansion that was expected to significantly increase the overall amount of casings being generated.
 - Cost was \$40 per ton with a transportation fee of \$89.45
 - Disposal managed by a local company to the local landfill

Needed alternate disposal



- Worked with the State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources
 - Identified Missouri Organic and several other suppliers in area
 - Missouri Organic had a strong relationship with the state and the ability to process our materials

Start of project



- The facility was audited by both Peggy Wood and myself in November 2006
- Missouri Organic also toured our facility and identified additional materials that could also go to the compost
- Included broken pallets, scraps of wood, and paper towels from the hand washing stations into the production areas
- Secured compostable bags to be used for the collection in designated trash cans

Testing



- Test samples and test loads were sent to determine the effectiveness of their program and that our materials would break down as expected.

Proposal



- Negotiated a disposal plan to include transportation system currently in place
 - Cost for disposal would drop to \$20 per ton
 - Cost of transportation would rise to \$500 per trip
 - Result was a net increase in cost of about \$23,000
- Composted material would be sold within the greater Kansas City area through a commercial outlet they operated

Changes in Inedible Disposal



- The current supplier for our inedible disposal was approached as Missouri Organic felt that they could process this waste also
- Negotiated a reduction in cost while preserving current system from \$70.90 per ton to \$57.60
 - Resulted in an annualized cost savings of \$37,000 and paid for the new composting program.



Hot Dog Recycling



- Center located 60 minutes from St. Joseph

Before

After





Hot Dog Recycling



- Center located 60 minutes from St. Joseph



Update through this year



- We have made numerous additional improvements in the process
 - New supplier of compostable bags was secured through the Sara Lee preferred supplier and resulted in a cost drop of 75% of what we were paying
 - Reduced travel costs from \$500 to \$300
 - Missouri Organic handles all transportation
 - We purchased two compactor bins
 - The bins will pay for themselves in a 9 month payback
 - Brings program to a break even point
 - Inedible addition to program
 - Sending inedible from the packaging side to the compost program
 - Filled unused space in compactors for most efficient transportation
 - Resulted in an additional savings of almost \$20,000 annually

Net results



- We have created a program where materials are being returned for reuse in the community versus filling the landfills
- Annual cost savings of at least \$50,000
- This fiscal year (July 07 through April 08)
 - We have sent a total of 717 tons of material
- This program is a great example of a team effort with significant contributions from the EHS team (Peggy Wood), MRO (John Beggs) and Quality (Dave Mayo) and their respective teams

American Meat Institute Recognition



- Recognized last year for a first place Environmental Achievement award in the category of Pollution Prevention

For additional Information



- Kevin Anderson
- www.missouriorganic.com
- (816) 483-0908