Middlesboro, KY Facility Packaging Reduction Project

January 27, 2020
Middlesboro, KY Facility

- **510** total employees
- **74,000,000**# produced annually
- Producer of **RTE boneless ham and smoked loins**
- **165** different product SKUs
- Nestled next to the **Cumberland Gap National Park** and **Daniel Boone National Forest**
Our Kentucky Operations

Grayson

Middlesboro
Middlesboro, KY Products
The Middlesboro, KY facility creates approximately 8.5 million packages of ham steaks per year.

The product line was being packaged with a film combination of 7 mil thickness for the bottom and 3 mil for the top.

The team recognized an opportunity to reduce the package thickness and ultimately reduce our waste generation.
The Packaging Material: Ham Steaks
The Process

- The purchasing team began working with vendors on new packaging and started testing samples of different films.

- The Middlesboro team was able to find the best film to suit production needs while increasing efficiency and minimizing waste generation.
The Process

- Evaluated product mix and respective packaging mil thickness.
- Request samples for testing.
- Involve QA, Food Safety and Sales team to ensure a smooth transition to a new material.
- Identify a continuous line using the same film across multiple products.
- The greater the volume - Maximizes cost savings and waste reduction.
The Results

- The facility is now able to use **23% less packaging** for our products on production line 6.

- The thinner film has also allowed us to create 28% more impressions per roll resulting in fewer change overs and an **overall cost savings of $170,210**.

- **Bottom Film + Top Film Reduction) = 150,000 lbs packaging saved from going to landfill annually.**
**Waste Reduction**

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<tr>
<th>2014 Solid Waste To Landfill</th>
<th>2019 Solid Waste To Landfill</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.5 Lbs/100 Wt</td>
<td>3.1 Lbs/100 Wt</td>
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That’s a 70% reduction!