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SMALL MEAT PROCESSORS AND HACCP

If you are a small company in the meat processing industry, knowing what to do and where to start with HACCP is a serious challenge.

We suggest that you take a look at joining the American Association of Meat Processors. They have a HACCP training program getting underway that is geared specifically toward small producers.

"Operation HACCP Kick Start" will provide monthly lessons…

"Operation HACCP Kick Start" will provide monthly lessons by mail. Each mailing breaks down the HACCP process into manageable tasks. It is aimed at plants due to start HACCP in January 2000 but should also be of use to those scheduled to begin in 1999 but who have missed the Jan 1 beginning date.

Contact the association at (717) 367-1168, e-mail: aamp@aamp.com. Further information is also available at their web site: www.aamp.com.

COMPUTER CORNER

If your company is wrestling with the "Y2K" problem of some computer systems not being able to function properly in the year 2000, you might be interested in an e-mail newsletter of tips about that topic. It is the "Year 2000 Tip of the Day" newsletter. There is no charge. Look for it (and many other free newsletters) at www.tipworld.com.

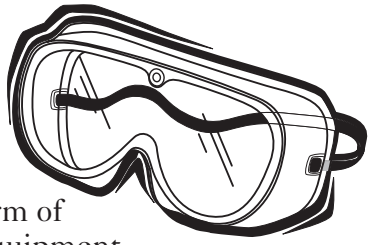
On less serious matters, there are some interesting and fun items at www.buysoftware.com. There you can find an Etch A Sketch wristwatch, a chocolate bar in the shape of a computer mouse (take a "byte"), and a voodoo pillow in the shape of a computer and monitor that you can stick pins in to get even when your machine is torturing you.

There are a number of sites on the Internet that will host a simple web page for you at no charge. One is at http://familypoint.com. You can set up a site for your family to share messages and photos, keep a calendar and address book, chat, send greeting cards, etc.

OIL PRICES STEADY…FOR NOW

Oil prices are seen as holding steady for the near term. Major oil producers and analysts do not see a substantial price increase or decrease in oil prices over the next 6 to 8 months. However, an unsteady economic situation in Asia, and the forecast cold winter in North America could alter the general price outlook.

WARNING: PROTECT YOUR EYES



There is a misconception by many that all eyeglasses are a form of personal protective equipment. Reality check: eyeglasses and some safety glasses may actually be safety hazards on and off the job.

In 1995 it was estimated that 2,651 eye injuries could have been attributed to eyeglasses shattering, and another 2,417 injuries to shattered safety glasses.

Tufts University School of Medicine conducted a study on the strength of lenses containing polycarbonate. Lenses were put through a series of tests simulating real-life situations; striking them with golf balls, tennis balls, air-gun pellets and baseballs at various speeds. The common plastic used in most eyeglasses did not fare well, shattering at speeds as low as 40 miles per hour. Glass could withstand a speed of up to 89 mph, but only polycarbonate lenses did not shatter when objects were striking at normal speeds.