

FACTORY FARM OFFENDER

CONAGRA FOODS INC.

ConAgra Foods Inc.
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Omaha, NE 68102-5001
Phone: 402-595-4000
Web Site: <http://www.conagrafoods.com>

CFO: Frank S. Sklarsky, Age: 49, Salary: \$1.10 million

COMPANIES (dba): ConAgra Foods, ConAgra International, ConAgra Ltd.

FORTUNE 500 RANKING: 121

ANNUAL REVENUE: \$14.35 billion

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 38,000

HEADQUARTERS: Omaha, Nebraska

LOCATIONS: ConAgra, one of North America's largest packaged food companies, has more than 130 manufacturing facilities in almost every state throughout the U.S. and more than 20 international locations in Argentina, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Chile, and Australia.

BRANDS/PRODUCTS: Armour, Beane Weenee, Blue Bonnet, Butterball, Chef Boyardee, Country Pride, Decker, Eckrich, Egg Beaters, Fleischmanns, Healthy Choice, Hebrew National, Manwich, Oldham's Farm, Swift Premium, Slim Jim, Texas BBQ, Wolfgang Puck, and many others not listed here for lack of space. For a complete list, please visit ConAgra's Web site.

POLLUTION VIOLATIONS:

- **Carthage, MO** - Butterball Turkey Co., owned by ConAgra, slaughters more than 30,000 turkeys every day and discharges massive quantities of slaughterhouse waste into the public water system. From 1990 to 2001, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources issued Butterball Turkey dozens of pollution violations for spills and discharges of animal waste, blood, grease, fat, skin, and other remains. They were also charged with permit and odor violations.
- **Nampa, ID** - Armour Fresh Meats Co., also owned by ConAgra, was charged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for multiple violations of the Clean Water Act in November 1998 due to waste residue from their cattle slaughterhouse and holding pens.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY VIOLATIONS & LABOR STANDARDS VIOLATIONS:

- **National** - The U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Health & Safety Administration (OSHA) assessed ConAgra slaughter and processing operations and issued more than 200 violations and fines between 2001 and 2006 for failing to provide employees with a safe work environment.

- **Nebraska** - On July 18, 2005, Rantala v. ConAgra Foods, Inc., et. al. and Bright v. ConAgra Foods, Inc., et. al. were filed in U.S. District Court for Nebraska. The lawsuits are on behalf of participants in the company's employee retirement income savings plans. The lawsuits allege violations of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).
- **Arkansas** - On December 31, 2003, ConAgra Poultry Co. was served with a class action complaint entitled Angela Goodwin, Gloria Willis, Johnny Gill, Greg Hamilton, Nathan Robinson, Eddie Gusby, Pat Curry, Persons Similarly Situated v. ConAgra Poultry Co. and Pilgrim's Pride, Inc. in the U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas, El Dorado Division, alleging racial and age discrimination.
- **Athens, GA** - On August 13, 2003, there was a fatal accident at the company's chicken-processing plant. According to OSHA, the company knew or should have known about the hazard, but failed to provide safeguards to prevent the death from occurring.
- **Greeley, CO** - In September 1998, the U.S. Department of Labor fined Monfort, the infamous cattle slaughterhouse and processing plant described in Eric Schlosser's book Fast Food Nation, \$1.3 million for willful and repeated violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act for failing to pay more than 2,500 employees for working overtime.

FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) took the following enforcement actions against ConAgra processing plants in 2005 :

- **Peru, IN** - Plant received Notices of Intended Enforcement for Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP) violations on May 16, 2005.
- **Hastings, NE** - Plant received Notices of Intended Enforcement for HACCP violations on March 3, 2005.

PRODUCT RECALLS:

- **Marshall, MO** - Recalled more than 2.8 million pounds of lunch meat due to potential contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes* on 12/1/05.
- **Macon, MO** - ConAgra Foods recalled more than 85,600 pounds of frozen, fully cooked chicken strips that potentially contained pieces of metal on August 26, 2004.
- **Greeley, CO** - ConAgra Beef recalled more than 350,000 pounds of fresh and frozen ground beef products due to potential contamination with *E coli O157:H7* on June 30, 2002. Unfortunately they were not able to recall the contaminated beef before some had been consumed. People contracted *E coli* in 16 states and one person died after eating the products.

OTHER: ConAgra is very secretive about their legal proceedings. Most companies list current litigation in their annual 10-K report, which, while intended for shareholders, is available to the general public. However, ConAgra lists only a few legal highlights and the following statement: "The company is a party to a number of other lawsuits and claims arising out of the operation of its businesses. After taking into account liabilities recorded for all of the foregoing matters, management believes the ultimate resolution of such matters should not have a material adverse effect on the company's financial condition, results of operations or liquidity." Likewise, they give a vague statement about product recalls: "In the past, the company has issued recalls and has from time to time been involved in lawsuits relating to its food products."

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