## **Irradiated Beef Coming To A Store Near You**

By Bill Henning **Penn State** 

Test marketing of irradiated ground beef began in earnest in May in retail stores in Minneapolis. Since then, most major packers have product in some supermarkets and are watching consumer reaction to it.

It is not being heavily advertised and is being offered only as frozen patties.

Most of the product in the retail stores is being treated in the Titan plant in Sioux City, IA. Irradiated product should be available in Pittsburgh soon and Schwann's is also distributing it (although the availability is not known publicly).

Some packers see more acceptance in food service than in retail so are focusing more on the restaurant market.

The amount of product cur-

rently being irradiated by beet processing companies represents only a fraction of the eight billion pounds of ground beef produced in the U.S. each year. How much more irradiated beef will be produced will depend upon consumer response.

Company officials indicate they view irradiation as a consumer choice issue. The public will ultimately decide whether

they consider irradiation acceptable.

Many highly respected organizations, including the Food and Drug Administration, USDA, Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the American Medical Association recognize the benefits of irradiation.

Although consumer advocates have quietly accepted the irradiation process as another intervention step in food safety, the issue has not gone without detractors. A New Jersey assemblyman has introduced state legislation to halt the sale and distribution of irradiated food.

"We know irradiation generates carcinogens," said Mike Perrone, legislative assistant tor New Jersey assemblyman, John Kelly. He cites a study in India that found children who ate irradiated wheat had chromosome abnormalities.

The authors of that study also found chromosome abnormalities in monkeys and rats fed irradiated foods, Perrone said.

He added that all of the studies were published in peerreviewed scientific journals.

Perrone also said the New Jersey College of Medicine found that Chinese medical students who ate irradiated food had chromosome abnormalities. The legislation has 46 cosponsors, which Perrone said makes it likely to pass the assembly.

# ignature



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#### (Continued from Page A1)

sitions, which included the opening of a new production facility in Emmaus.

Active in his community, he has served as a township supervisor and member of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Council as well as being an officer and member. At his church, he has served as a deacon, on the board of trustees, and the board of Christian education. He is also a director of the Union National Bank, Souderton.

Clemens enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time at his

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retirement home in the mountains of Tioga County. For eight years, he served on the Pennsylvania Game Commission, holding offices of vice president and president.

An avid supporter of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Livestock Sale, Clemens can always be seen in the front row supporting the very important youth segment of agri-industry. He has been a board member of the Pennsylvania Livestock Association for many years.

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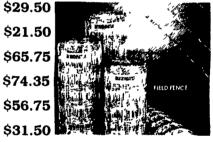
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