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2009 F.W. WITT SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

AAMP has always recognized the important role that suppliers play in our survival and existence. The F.W. Witt Supplier of the Year Award was established to honor a person and/or supplier member who has been devoted to the meat and poultry industry, particularly small and medium sized plant operators. This award is named after Frank Witt, the former owner of a spice company in Yorkville, Illinois. Frank was a person who believed in helping and working with the smallest processors in our industry.

The AAMP Board of Directors this year has chosen to present this esteemed recognition to Mid-Western Research & Supply, of Wichita, Kansas.

Mid-Western Research & Supply was founded in 1986 when Don Walton was working for a meat processor as a purchaser. As he worked with manufacturers, he realized there was a need for onsite expertise, especially in the grinding phase. He soon left that company and started his own business distributing for SPECO Inc., among other companies. In 1996, he had the opportunity to expand his line of supplies and equipment by purchasing the Harned's Supply Company, which was incorporated under the umbrella of Mid-Western Research & Supply.

The Walton family now operates the company with an emphasis on supplying the needs of the independent meat processors. According to the company, they have been blessed with a courteous and knowledgeable staff that enjoys serving the meat industry.

They market a variety of meat processing supplies and equipment for the commercial meat and food processor, as well as individual home processors. Mid-Western Research & Supply prides itself in serving the meat industry. Through their hard work and dedication, they now have customers across the United States.

Mid-Western Research & Supply has been active in many state meat trade associations, as well as AAMP. To maintain good customer relations, representatives of the company attend numerous state meat processor conventions and the AAMP convention. Company representatives have also served on many Boards of these associations to represent suppliers. It is not atypical to see the company's staff participate in all events associated with the conventions, from the Board of Directors meeting to the exhibition hall display, and from educational sessions to the social events.

Over the years, Mid-Western Research & Supply has been very supportive of AAMP and the AAMP convention through their financial contributions as well as participation, and this year is no different as they are one of the main sponsors for the Saturday evening function. Currently, Brett Walton serves as a supplier Director on the AAMP Board of Directors.

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We are indeed honored to acknowledge Mid-Western Research & Supply's service to the meat industry over the past years, and their service to the members of the American Association of Meat Processors. The Association is proud to acknowledge that Mid-Western Research & Supply is the recipient of the 2009 F.W. Witt Supplier of the Year Award.