



# Smithfield

## SMITHFIELD FOODS:

Providing good food responsibly means going above and beyond to be good stewards of the environment



*Above photos: Smithfield Foods helps put healthy meals on children's plates by providing fresh and processed meats to 1600 Kids Cafes, serving low-income kids nationwide. Below: Smithfield employees in action.*



### Overview

With sales of \$12 billion, Smithfield Foods is a global food company and the leading processor and marketer of fresh pork and packaged meats in the United States. Through its wholly owned locations, independent operating companies, and joint ventures, the company produces more than 50 brands of pork and turkey products along with more than 200 gourmet foods.

### Social Responsibility Issue

Consumers increasingly pay attention to the conditions in which food is raised and processed. In the past, Smithfield Foods was criticized for a perception of poor environmental practices, and the company was fined for environmental violations. To address these issues and develop best operating practices, the company began utilizing an environmental management system (EMS) to identify and manage operational elements that could affect the environment, and to reward employees who advance the initiative.

### Solutions

In 2001, Smithfield Foods' Murphy-Brown livestock production subsidiary became the world's first livestock production company to receive ISO 14001 certification, the EMS standard that includes formalized practices to protect the environment, including manure handling, waste treatment systems, water conservation, sanitation, and good housekeeping practices. Dennis Treacy, vice president, environmental and corporate affairs, is a former director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality who now leads the efforts.

"Using ISO 14001 gives us not only a framework for good practices but also third-party verification to let the public know we're walking the talk," Treacy said. By 2009, Smithfield Foods had 578 worldwide 14001-certified facilities.

Additionally, through its Environmental Management Award, Smithfield Foods recognizes its employees for outstanding efforts in implementing the company's environmental policy and practicing local stewardship. Categories focus on production processes, energy and water conservation, waste reduction/pollution prevention, wastewater treatment, and community outreach. The company also recognizes existing best practices by giving an award to the Best Recycling of a Previous Year's Project.

Smithfield Foods was also recognized for its efforts: In 2008, the company received the first McDonald's Sustainability Award; in 2009, four subsidiary facilities received Environmental Achievement Awards from the American Meat Institute Foundation.

"It's exciting to work in a place where this is happening," Treacy said. "Ten years ago, plant workers just went to work and went home. Now, they're rewarded to think innovatively. It's not a finger snap—it takes time to get trained and work as a team. But we know if we don't pay attention to environmental protection, worker safety, and food safety, we're out of business."

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Company name:** Smithfield Foods Inc.

**Location:** Smithfield, Virginia

**Web site:** [www.smithfieldfoods.com](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com)

**Founded:** 1936

**Scope:** Global

**Employees:** 57,000

### Measurement

Smithfield Foods focuses on continuous improvement. For instance, the Wilson, NC, plant reduced truck deliveries, saving fuel and wear and tear of vehicles, as well as providing annual savings of almost \$56,000. In Wichita, KS, a team added photo sensors to control wash water for hot dog sticks, saving 14 percent of overall plant water and 41 percent of rinse water. And a Polish plant put in a closed loop glycol system to replace single-pass cooling water, annually saving 2.4 million gallons of water.

### Other SR Involvement

Smithfield Foods is committed to environmental leadership, food safety, employee safety, animal welfare, and community involvement. Find more information on its social responsibility efforts at <http://www.smithfieldfoods.com/responsibility/reports.aspx>.