



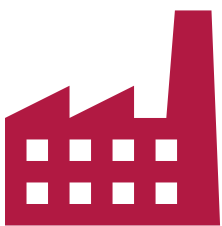
INDEPENDENCE PREMIUM FOODS

Media Information Kit

About Us

Independence Premium Foods (IPF) is a food manufacturer committed to producing superior-quality foods while nurturing the local community where it operates. The company was newly founded in 2023, with the goal of building lasting business partnerships by promoting strong collaboration while adhering to quality, safety, and high excellence standards.

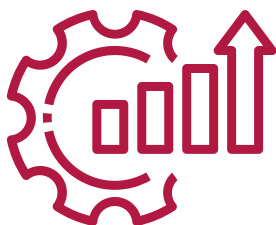
IPF plans to invest in significant enhancements to its Independence, Iowa facility to ensure it will be compliant with all USDA and FDA certification requirements. The company is dedicated to maintaining the highest standard in every aspect of its operations, promoting strong teamwork and supporting the economic development and growth of Independence, Iowa. The company's core values are Quality, Integrity, Safety, Collaboration, and Transparency.



**125,000+ SQ FT
Facility**



**230 employees
at peak production**



**150+ million lbs
production
capacity**



**CapEx: \$15M in
planned facility
improvements**

Our Mission

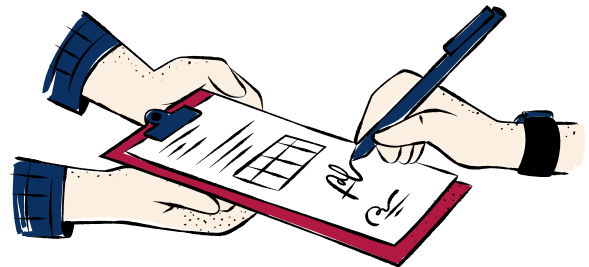
Produce superior quality foods, build strong business partnerships, promote teamwork, and nurture our local community.

Our Vision

Our goal is to be a leading and innovative food manufacturer, dedicated to delivering creative and scalable solutions to our partners through our expertise in quality, safety, and excellence.

Our Leadership Team

Our leadership team has more than 90 years of combined industry experience and is dedicated to delivering innovative and scalable solutions to our customers. They are also focused on creating a sustainable business that consistently produces win-win results for IPF and its business partners as well as its employees and the local community.



Contact Us



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Senior Leadership

Jereb Pape - Plant Manager

Jereb Pape is the Plant Manager of Independence Premium Foods (IPF) and is responsible for overall production management and operations of the IPF facility. He boasts more than 15 years of experience in the food manufacturing industry and has extensive knowledge of numerous food production processes, integration of operating systems, employee relations and teambuilding, facility planning and construction, and supply chain management. Jereb previously held many managerial positions for several Fortune 500 companies: Hormel Foods, Cargill, and General Mills. Before embarking on a successful professional career, Jereb also served 4 years in the United States Coast Guard as an Operations Specialist. His experiences have molded him into a strong business leader committed to his community and industry.

He is a graduate of Strayer University with a B.A. in Business Management and has an MBA and a master's degree in of Strategic Leadership from Mount Mercy University. In addition, he has completed the Certificate Program in Labor Relations from Cornell University, and most recently is a graduate of the Leadership Iowa program where he is currently a co-chair for the 2024 class.

Born in Iowa, Jereb currently resides in Cedar Rapids with his wife, Samantha, and two children, Aiden (5) and Savannah (2). In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, golf, travel and most importantly spending time with his family.



Jereb Pape

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Maria Drilling - HR Manager

Maria Drilling is the HR Manager for Independence Premium Foods (IPF). She is a seasoned professional with a wealth of knowledge and experience in HR related issues such as hiring, on-boarding, coaching and development. Maria also has extensive experience as a learning & development leader, factory safety evaluator, and operations manager.

Prior to joining IPF in the fall of 2023, she worked at General Mills for over 11 years in a variety of leadership and managerial positions, and prior to that, she spent 15 years with Donaldson Manufacturing as an Operations Leader.

Maria is a true Iowa native, having lived in Iowa all her life. She graduated cum laude from Upper Iowa University with a B.A. in Business Management. Maria is married to her husband of 34 years, George, and enjoys spending time with his daughters Cheri and Cari, along with grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She loves to bake during her spare time and often tinkers with recipes to try to make it better than the original. During the winter months, her go-to activity is wearing a warm hoodie and watching sappy and funny movies.



Maria Drilling

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Senior Leadership



Mike Loecke

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Mike Loecke - Maintenance Manager

Mike Loecke is the Maintenance Manager responsible for ensuring the seamless operation and maintenance of Independence Premium Foods (IPF). His daily responsibilities at IPF include overseeing all equipment operations and maintenance, general facility maintenance, scheduling and managing the facilities team, as well as inventory and vendor management. During his 24-year professional career in food manufacturing, Mike has accumulated extensive knowledge and expertise in food quality, safety, environmental, and maintenance issues. He is adept at managing crises, diagnosing problems, allocating resources, and managing vendor relationships. Additionally, Mike is keenly dedicated to instilling a strong work ethic in his team, committed to providing exceptional customer service, and fostering a strong sense of teamwork.

He is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, with a B.A. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry, and has also received specialized training in various maintenance/reliability methodologies, labor relations, procurement/storeroom, and project management throughout his professional career.

Mike is proud to be born and raised in NE Iowa. He and his wife Maria currently reside in Ryan, IA and have three grown sons: Tye (25), Raub (20), and Shae (18). Outside of work, Mike enjoys working on his farm and takes pride in raising cattle.



Omar Amador

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Omar Amador - Operations Manager

Omar Amador is the Operations Manager of Independence Premium Foods (IPF) and is a proven leader who specializes in driving operational efficiency and collaborative teamwork. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, where he was part of the Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Technical School, Omar has worked for more than 20 years in numerous leadership and managerial positions for General Mills, Tyson Foods, and Beef Products Inc. In his role at IPF, Omar will be responsible for managing daily production and inventory, implementing quality controls, supervising the production team, and optimizing overall operational efficiencies.

Over the years, Omar has completed a variety of leadership training programs including Dale Carnegie Leadership, Frontline Leadership Academy (General Mills), and Operations Leader Training (Tyson Foods). Additionally, during his time serving in the U.S. Air Force, he received specialized training as part of the Air Force Specialty Journeyman Internship.

Omar resides in Waterloo with his wife Kelly and son Ethan (6). A dedicated father, he relishes spending time together with his son golfing and working on their 2005 lime green Mustang GT convertible.

Facility Photos

Exterior



Freezer Space



Ovens



Facility Photos

Production Area



Employee Break Room



Conference Room

