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'Pink Slime' Beef Reportedly Fills Supermarket Shelves

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(NewsCore) - Hold onto your stomachs.

The former director of food safety for Beef Products Inc., the South Dakota-based [company](#) that manufactures the now-infamous "pink slime," told The Daily that there's even more of the noxious concoction in supermarket meat than in the nation's school lunches.

While the US Department of Agriculture limits the amount of ammonia-treated meat byproducts in a serving of ground beef to 15 percent, ex-Beef Products Inc. director Kit Foshee said that big meat suppliers routinely add even greater portions of pink slime to store-bought hamburger.

"Originally, there was no limit to the amount of this stuff you could mix in," Foshee said. "And some of these companies are adding as much as 25 percent to their beef."

Foshee said he was fired by BPI after he refused to mislead the company's customers about [health benefits](#) of adding its "lean finely textured beef," or LFTB -- trim that contains connective tissue and glands which is ground and treated with ammonia -- into pure ground beef.

Pink slime was thrust into the national spotlight following stories by The Daily and other news organizations which revealed that the substance is found in school lunches. With all the media attention, Foshee said he wanted people to know that the problem is much more extensive.

Contacted for comment, BPI said it was unable to answer questions.

Leading the industry pushback on the pink slime story, the American Meat Institute countered that ammonia-treated LFTB was "valuable, lean, nutritious, safe beef."

"The USDA, after consultation with the FDA, has determined that this use of ammonium hydroxide is safe and it has been in use for this purpose since 2001," the AMI said in a prepared statement.

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