



US009510610B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Howard**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,510,610 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 6, 2016**

(54) **PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PRECOOKED BACON SLICES**

USPC ..... 426/510, 523, 511, 236; 99/443 C, 99/443 R, 447, 355  
See application file for complete search history.

(75) Inventor: **David Howard**, Bristow, OK (US)

(56) **References Cited**

(73) Assignee: **Unitherm Food Systems, Inc.**, Bristow, OK (US)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

3,212,426 A \* 10/1965 Lewus ..... A47J 27/04 126/369  
3,873,755 A \* 3/1975 McKay ..... 426/523  
4,354,815 A 10/1982 Bardsley et al.  
4,582,484 A 4/1986 Sandor

(Continued)

(21) Appl. No.: **13/401,167**

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(22) Filed: **Feb. 21, 2012**

EP 1386544 A1 2/2004  
GB 1092769 A 11/1967  
JP 2000296167 10/2000

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2012/0148719 A1 Jun. 14, 2012

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Related U.S. Application Data**

Ahmed Elamin, "Spiral Oven Reduces Operating Costs, Claims Manufacturer", Dec. 6, 2007, Publisher: Decisionnewsmedia, 2 pages.

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/013,337, filed on Jan. 11, 2008, now abandoned.

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

*A23L 1/01* (2006.01)  
*F27D 11/00* (2006.01)  
*A47J 27/16* (2006.01)  
*B65G 27/02* (2006.01)  
*A21B 1/00* (2006.01)

*Primary Examiner* — Erik Kashnikov

*Assistant Examiner* — Preston Smith

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — GableGotwals

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... *A23L 1/0121* (2013.01); *A23L 5/13* (2016.08); *A23L 5/15* (2016.08); *A23L 13/00* (2016.08); *A21B 1/00* (2013.01); *A23V 2002/00* (2013.01); *A47J 27/16* (2013.01); *B65G 27/02* (2013.01); *F27D 11/00* (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A process for producing precooked bacon slices comprising the steps of (a) conveying bacon slices through a spiral oven, (b) indirectly cooking the bacon slices in the spiral oven using a cooking medium which is circulated within the oven at a low rate sufficient to prevent the bacon slices from being displaced on the conveyor, and (c) adding steam to the cooking medium as necessary to at least reduce the percentage or substantially eliminate the presence of air in the cooking medium.

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC ..... A23L 1/01; A23L 1/31; A22C 5/00; A21B 1/00; A47J 37/00; A47J 27/16; A47J 37/04; F27D 11/00; B65G 27/02

**3 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet**

