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Howard

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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEARING, BRANDING, AND COOKING**

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(76) Inventor: **David Howard**, Kellyville, OK (US)

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 801 days.

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Primary Examiner — Drew Becker
Assistant Examiner — Preston Smith

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A23C 3/00 (2006.01)

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

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **426/523**; 426/383; 426/520; 426/509;
426/510; 99/443 C; 99/330; 99/485

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 426/383, 523; 99/443 C, 330, 485
See application file for complete search history.

An apparatus and method for continuously searing and/or branding the surface of and continuously cooking a food product wherein the cooking oven is different from the searing and/or branding apparatus. At least a portion of the vapor product produced in the searing and/or branding apparatus is preferably delivered into the oven such that the food product is cooked in an environment comprising the vapor product from the searing and/or branding apparatus. The vapor extraction rate from the searing and/or branding apparatus is also preferably controlled to maintain a desired vapor product temperature in or flowing from the searing and/or branding apparatus.

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28 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

