

# TORTILLA TROUBLESHOOTING

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# PROBLEM CATEGORIES

- Quality issues
- Shelf-life issues
- Cost issues

## Quality

- Size and symmetry
- Texture and product integrity
- Flavor and color

## Shelf life

- Mold and bacteria
- Textural changes

## Cost

- Production efficiency
- Waste
- Yield

## CORRECTING QUALITY PROBLEMS

Size and Symmetry:

Dough temp/mix  
time/dough water

Protein quality

Dough relaxer

Proof time

Equipment adjustments



## CORRECTING QUALITY PROBLEMS

Texture/Product integrity:

Baking powder,  
emulsifiers, gums,  
fats/oils

Scaling weight

Oven conditions

Cooling conditions

Cooking/steeping-corn

Supply chain issues



## CORRECTING QUALITY PROBLEMS

Flavor and color:

Food  
acids/preservative  
systems

Oven conditions

Lime usage/rinsing-  
corn

Supply chain issues



# SHELF-LIFE ISSUES

- Cleanliness of production environment
- Preservative systems (mold inhibitors, gums, emulsifiers, etc.)
- pH control
- Moisture content and Water activity
- Quality of packaging and seal
- Control of conditions of supply chain

# COST ISSUES

- Yields
- Production Capacity
- Production Efficiency and waste
- Staffing and use of overtime
- Production Support (Quality of raw materials, preventive and corrective maintenance, deep cleaning/sanitation)

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF PROBLEM PREVENTION

- Do you define and assure consistent production standards?  
(raw materials, times and temperatures, etc.)
- Do you communicate and recognize best practices?
- Do your people know how to adjust for changing conditions?  
(raw material variation, humidity and temp. variation)
- Are new people in your organization successfully oriented  
into your company culture?
- Are you incorporating lean manufacturing concepts in your  
production facilities?

## QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK HERE

- What would I have to do in order to make my shelf-life goals?
- What are the “trade-offs” in seeking a longer shelf life?
- How can I make my flour tortilla more label-friendly?
- How can investment in \_\_\_\_\_ reduce my production costs?

That's all folks!  
Thank you