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## **PINK SLIME**

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**BPI claims settlement with ABC** 'vindicates' Dunes firm's beef product Nick Hytrek, Sioux City Journal Published 9:04 s.m. GT June 28, 2017 | Updated 7:25 p.m. CT June 28, 2017

1981- Eldon Roth, in Amarillo, owner of Beef Products, Inc., invents what was marketed as "Lean Finely Textured Beef."

1992- Moves his operation to South Dakota.

2002- USDA microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein sent internal memo coining term "pink slime."

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2012- ABC News did 11-part series.

2012- BPI says it lost so much business it closed Amarillo plant, and plants in Kansas and Iowa.

Half its workforce was laid off.

2012- BPI sues ABC News (Disney).

2017- Lawsuit settled.

## **Crisis Management**

1- Gather information
2-Quickly write a crisis press release stressing honesty and accountability
3- Fix the problem
4- Be transparent with the public

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What could Eldon Roth have done differently?

Ammonia Hydroxide

Pink Slime



**Mad Cow** 

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1996- Winfrey interview with Howard Lyman "has just stopped me cold from eating another burger."

1996- Drop in cattle prices

1997- Lawsuit filed by Texas cattle industry Paul Engler, Cactus Feeders, lead plaintiff Veggie Liable Law

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1998- Amarillo trial

Federal Court – Judge Mary Lou Robinson

Beef one of the most important industries in the Texas Panhandle

**Oprah Winfrey hugely popular** 

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Media circus International news 22 satellite trucks

Peta
Local restaurants grilled burgers

**Oprah brought show to town** 

Local media had permanent seats
One pool reporter
Tabloids rampant
Jurors not sequestered
Gag order

31 32

PR

Local restaurants promoted beef Texas Cattle Feeders Assn.

**Celebrities throughout Amarillo** 

**Chamber of Commerce** 

Robinson threw out libel law No actual malice Freedom of speech

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**Potential Issues** 

CAFOs GMOs Processed Foods **Crisis Communication**