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# Topics of the Day

- Being an Entrepreneur
- Product Development
- Commercialization
- Working with a Co-packer



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### It is a great time to be an Entrepreneur!





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### Personal Challenge

 When was the last time you ate the same thing for lunch two days in a row and didn't complain about it.



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# Food Trends for 2016

- Unique
- Different
- Better / Healthier
- Products with a story
- Clean Label



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# Why do People Eat? (and what will they pay for?)

- Tastes / Flavors
- Health Benefits
- Memories
- Causes
- Status
- Locations
- Tradition



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### Your Customers are Crazy

- They don't think like you
- They don't eat like you
- They don't use your product the way it is supposed to be used
- They won't pay what you will pay
- They usually will pay much more

### Learning through Beer

#### **U.S. BEER SALES VOLUME GROWTH 2015**



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### The Amazing World of Wine



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#### It's a terrible time to be an Entrepreneur



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### Who's BBQ is Best?







\$4.99

\$2.19

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\$7.49

#### How to Lose Money in Food



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### **Golden Rule of Manufacturing**

### Everything is better with Volume Pricing Efficiency Consistency

#### Unfortunately, Volume comes after the sale

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# The Price of Sugar



\$0.81 / lb – Local Grocery \$0.54 / lb – 50lb bag \$0.51 / lb – 2,500 lbs \$0.47 / lb – truckload bags \$0.45 / lb – truckload totes \$0.42 / lb – tanker \$0.38 / lb – train car

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# Don't Compete

There is always someone Bigger (and less expensive)



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# How to Make a Profit in Food – Step 1

- Think Craft Food
- Have a Unique Product
  - Unique Story
  - Unique Flavor
  - Unique Brand



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# How to Make a Profit in Food – Step 2

- Raise your price!!!
- If you get nervous, raise your price again!
- If people start to complain, ignore them.
- If you raise your price \$1 and lose half your customers, you are probably better off.
- If they are looking at the price, they are not your customers.

### How to Make a Profit in Food

#### **Important Corollary**

- If you raise your price \$1 and lose most of your customers, you were doomed from the start and are better off knowing now rather than wasting the next 10 years of your life.
- Fail Fast. Fail Cheap.

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### **Provide Value**



Kat and Tony Becker Stoney Acres Farms Athens, WI

#### Organic Pizza \$15- \$20 per pizza

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#### **Continual Trial and Error**





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#### **Commercialization of Food**







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# Details, Details, Details

- Non-Disclosure Agreements
- Sourcing Ingredients
- Equipment Purchasing and Maintenance
- Process Authorities
- Documentation
- Contracts
- Negotiations

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### Shelf Life and Coding





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# Acronym's Galore Why you want a Co-Packer

- GMP's
- HACCP
- FSMA
- GFSI
- Audits and Auditors



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### Entrepreneurs don't like Co-Packers

• Entrepreneurs are Artists



Co-Packers are Scientists



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#### Co-packers don't like Entrepreneurs



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### Good Co-packers can:

- Save you time
- Provide resources
- Provide expertise
- Provide certifications
- Save you money if you grow

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# **Control your Recipe**

- Taste your own product regularly
- Require your co-packer to document all changes to your recipe (including supplier changes)
- Require your co-packer to give you a copy of the batching instructions

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