

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu
aesearch@umn.edu

Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Outlook Forum 2003 February 20 & 21, 2003

Consumer Insights- the Key to Opportunities

By

Bruce T. Peterson, Jr.

CONSUMER INSIGHTS - THE KEY TO OPPORTUNITIES

Bruce T Peterson, Jr..
SR VP/GMM -Perishables
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc

The Age of the Consumer is NOW

- Consumer insights are not just a retail issue anymore
- The very best producers are connecting with the end user
- Supplier/Retailer relationships are taking on a new dimension

3 Key Areas of Consumer Insights

- The growth of the Hispanic population
- Personalized shopping experience
- Age of Convenience

The Growth of the Hispanic Population

- Fastest growing segment in the US
- Not just a major metro issue
- Several "generations" of Hispanic shopper
- Family size / language / product assortment all influential
- Largest marketing opportunity at retail

Personalized Shopping Experience

- The Internet provides easy access to information
- Personal travel has increased significantly
- Multiple sources to obtain products and services
- "Mass Market" has been replaced by "Mass Customization"

Age of Convenience

- People are generally "time starved"
- Cooking is moving to "hobby status"
- Nutritional benefits of natural foods are synthetic additives to other foods.
- 55% of total food consumption is done with food service

Historic Supply Chain Roles Are Changing

- New partnerships are being formed to better serve the end user
- Traditional supply chain lines are blurring
- # 1 item in Wal-Mart B.L.M. is "Consumer Insights"

How Does This Impact You?

- Producers need to connect to the end user
- How do you provide solutions to consumer needs?
- How can you differentiate yourselves from your competition?
- Do you know who your competition is? (think "share of stomach")

Consumer Insights Are The Key To

Opportunities!

- Consumer insights are NOT just a retail issue
- Supplier/Retailer relationships are changing
- The best suppliers are ALREADY connecting to the consumer