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LABOR PRODUCTIVITY - RETAIL CENTER

Work Group Discussion
by

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Increased production is necessary if Retail Food Businesses are to be profitable and prices are to be kept at a reasonable level. To what extent can research contribute to these lofty goals?

While FDRS Members have contributed to, been part of, and privy to research inspired and carried out by private, university, and government research bodies, the lack of recent research pertinent to increasing productivity of retail food operations was of general concern. Some of the subjects suggested for study included:

1. Types of stores such as hypermarkets, supermarkets, speciality, and convenience stores.

2. Service standards for what and whom?

3. Systems - receiving, warehousing, pricing, energy savings.

4. Marketing mixes.

5. Centralization of food related businesses (retail and wholesale).

6. Productivity of management.

7. Segmented marketing.

Some of the roadblocks challenging research were posed as:

1. Regulatory, state and federal.

2. Organized labor.

3. Merchandisers.

4. Inflation.