


*The Secret  
is Out...*





## BALDOR PRODUCTS ARE A KEY INGREDIENT IN BUSH'S BEST PRODUCTION SUCCESS

In 1908, the year Henry Ford developed the first Model T automobile, A.J. Bush, along with his sons, started Bush Brothers & Company as a tomato cannery. One-hundred years and three generations later the company, still family owned and operated, is the largest manufacturer of prepared beans in the country.

The company captured the baked bean market after launching the "Secret Family Recipe" advertising campaign in 1995. The television commercials feature Jay Bush and his canine companion Duke, a less than trustworthy guardian of the secret family recipe. Today the company produces more than 40 products, including their famous baked beans, which are marketed under the "Bush's Best" brand name.

The majority of the company's production comes from its Chestnut Hill, Tennessee facility. The plant produces millions of cans per week in a state-of-the-art facility that underwent a complete overhaul in 2004.



Baldor•Reliance motors and Dodge TIGEAR-2 reducers are used on high-speed can conveyors throughout the Bush Bean facility. The reasons are clear for the maintenance team - the products perform under extreme conditions with little or no maintenance.

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Michael Rife, maintenance planner and buyer, Bush Beans

### Choosing the Best Products to Produce the Best Beans

Michael Rife, the plant's maintenance planner and buyer, was a member of the design team that helped plan and implement the plant expansion project at the Chestnut Hill facility. One of team's responsibilities was to find the best motors, gearboxes and bearings to use throughout the new facility. "We had the opportunity to travel around the country, visiting the best plants in all types of industries," says Rife. "After our research, it was clear to us that if we wanted our plant to be among the best, we needed to specify Baldor•Reliance and Dodge products."

Rife says the team also understood the value of making a product selection based on the total cost of ownership, not just focusing on the purchase price. "We know that you get what you pay for, and sometimes trying to save a buck up front will cost you so much more in the long run," says Rife. "We wanted Baldor•Reliance and Dodge products because we knew these products would provide long term performance despite the demanding high speed applications and the harsh washdown conditions."

Rife and his team have not been disappointed. Even as the plant continues to expand production to meet the growing demand for Bush's Best, the motors, gear reducers and bearings are still performing. "We chose products based on what we felt was a good TCO strategy," explains Rife. "It's a nice feeling to be able to look back and know that we made the right choices."



You'll find a variety of Baldor•Reliance motors throughout the Bush Bean plant, including this Standard E® Washdown Duty motor running the blancher. The plant has also chosen to install Dodge E-Z KLEEN bearings on all the conveyors.



Another reason for their success, according to Rife, has come from choosing the correct style of product for a particular application. That's why, he says, you'll find a variety of Baldor•Reliance motors throughout the plant, from standard washdown duty, to paint-free and all-stainless steel motors. "When it comes to motors we get the performance and long life we want in all

these designs," says Rife. "I have always been strong on Baldor•Reliance motors, I like them and I'm very happy with all of the units we have in the facility. Both inside and out, it's just a better motor, it lasts and that's exactly what we are looking for."

Maintenance free is another reason why Rife is satisfied with the product choices

they have made. "I like the Dodge TIGEAR-2™ reducers because I don't need to change the oil – the product comes with the oil already in it and all I have to do is take it out of the box and put it on," explains Rife. "They'll run forever and the lack of required maintenance on this product saves me a lot of time."



In addition to no maintenance, Rife also says that TIGEAR-2 reducers can handle the harsh working conditions. “These units run in a corrosive environment,” says Rife. “There is the bean juice, the cleaning chemicals, and the high pressure washdown – it’s all very tough on these products. But we have very good luck with them.”

The bearing of choice in the plant is the Dodge E-Z KLEEN®. “We chose the polymer-housed ball bearings because they can take the washdown and still perform and look good,” comments Rife. “We do try to take care of them with a good vibration analysis program, but this is a very good product and we just don’t lose bearings.”

Rife feels so strongly about these products that he continues to ask OEMs to use Baldor•Reliance and Dodge products on equipment being built for this plant. “Based on my 33 years of experience in this industry, I feel really good about the motors and mechanical products that we use and I plan on sticking with them,” says Rife. They are easy to install, easy to maintain and they last. I’ve been doing this a long time and have seen these products perform – I’ve got no problem recommending these products to anyone else.”

**Above and Left:** Baldor•Reliance stainless motors, Dodge TIGEAR-2 E-Z KLEEN reducers, and Dodge E-Z KLEEN stainless bearings are designed to offer superior long-term performance, even in the toughest environments with regular high-pressure sanitizing.

**Right:** Dodge E-Z KLEEN polymer-housed ball bearings are the standard in the Bush plant. These bearings feature a corrosion resistant insert, and a solid polymer housing with no cavities or fillings to trap contaminants. An active antimicrobial agent in the polymer prevents fungal and bacterial growth.

