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# Saddlepacking of Poultry Portions

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## Saddlepacking

Saddlepacks appear to have been first introduced by [Cryovac](#)<sup>2</sup> for poultry portions in July 2005. The individual pouch of the saddlepack contains two pieces. The main advantage of saddlepack are:



Saddlepacked breastmeat from GoldKist<sup>1</sup> Farms

- The customer effectively buys a bulkpack which she can leave in the freezer, and she opens and uses one portion at a time, thaws and uses in her next meal.
- More economical packing material than traypacks
- You do not need secondary packing

Saddlepack concept has not caught on in India yet. Is it because no one has tried it or perhaps because of the perception that the home refrigerator is a less reliable storage device than the store freezer in

times of poor power security? Unlikely - because the target households generally have adequately powered inverters. Saddlepack has the advantage of lower cost versus traypack and the ability to induce the housewife to buy significantly larger quantities of poultry everytime she visits the supermarket. With larger purchases, chances of product deterioration in transit back to the home refrigerator are reduced.

A packing material supplier known as [Dade Paper](#)<sup>3</sup> appears to have taken this concept one step higher. It is offering pre-printed saddlepack packaging material stock in seven parts (marked Monday through Sunday). Frozen poultry meat portions packed in these pouches are designed to maintain FIFO adherence and reduce confusion in service kitchens.

### What type of machinery is suitable for making saddlepacks ?



The 8000 MH Thermo Form Fill Seal Machine from [Ossid](#).<sup>4</sup>  
Alternatives available from [Multivac](#)<sup>5</sup> and others

The 8000MH Thermo Form Fill Seal Machine from Ossid (formerly known as Mahaffy & Harder) is a typical machine for making saddlepacks.

Saddlepacks can be made Ambient, vacuum or MAP and depending on this decision, the material can be selected. The product shown above uses a breathable, rollstock thermoformable film that can be configured into a lay-flat format. The saddlepack poultry consists typically of six perforated pockets but can have more. It forms a hermetically-sealed, multi-unit vacuum-pack which is leak-resistant.

Are we headed towards increasing sale of portions as against whole broilers? Quite likely as this seems to be the global trend. From 1962 to 2007 percentage of whole chicken sale in USA<sup>6</sup> has fallen from 83 to 11 while that of portions has risen from 15 to 43. Saddlepacks would be excellent for generating large volumes with high speed lollypop (tulip) making machinery - now available from Meyn. Contact APTEC.

### Case Study

[Costco's recent initiatives](#)<sup>7</sup> include the elimination of Styrofoam trays from meat packages and the use of Saddle Pack-style packaging in which meat is delivered in six individually sealed packets. The design is more environmentally sound and enables consumers to freeze unused portions without repackaging or rewrapping products. Costco currently markets different chicken parts in saddle packs - including boneless/skinless breasts, split breasts, drumsticks, thighs, boneless/skinless thighs and wings.

<sup>1</sup> Gold Kist was acquired by Pilgrim's Pride in Jan 2007

<sup>2</sup> Cryovac - <http://www.sealedair.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Dadepaper - <http://www.dadepaper.com/>

<sup>4</sup> Ossid - <http://www.ossid.com/>

<sup>5</sup> Multivac - <http://www.multivac.de/> Also local agent at [ritesh.dhingra@laraon.com](mailto:ritesh.dhingra@laraon.com)

<sup>6</sup> National Chicken Council, USA <http://www.nationalchickencouncil.com/>

<sup>7</sup> Costco - [http://www.meatanddeliretailer.com/CDA/Articles/Retailer\\_Profiles/](http://www.meatanddeliretailer.com/CDA/Articles/Retailer_Profiles/)

