



## **WHIZARD<sup>®</sup> TRIMVAC TOOL SCORES BIG AT BEEF PROCESSING PLANTS.**

*Bettcher Industries' new tool improves the quality of spinal cord removal, cuts costs, and improves workplace conditions.*

It's not often that a new piece of equipment can deliver great benefits on so many different levels, but that's precisely the case with the new Whizard<sup>®</sup> TrimVac tool from Bettcher Industries. Results achieved in the spinal cord removal operations in both the US and Europe prove it. The tools were introduced because they provide a simpler, cleaner method of spinal cord removal. Installed in 2002, the plants immediately



began benefitting from the TrimVac's advantages over previous spinal cord removal practices. TrimVac tools do a much better job of removing the spinal cord tissue from the spinal cavity of the vertebrae. The vacuum procedure pulls the

spinal cord and its connective tissue towards the cutting device, resulting in greatly improved cleaning of the spinal canal.

The TrimVac's design incorporates a circular blade that cuts and dislodges the spinal cord, sheath, and other debris in the spinal canal, all while a powerful vacuum pressure is operating. The trimmed material is vacuum-conveyed to a separate holding tank for disposal, ensuring that it does not come into contact with the carcass or the operator. It's an exceptionally clean, efficient procedure.

### **Easy Does It**

In addition to experiencing improved results in the spinal cord removal, operators found that their personnel prefer using the TrimVac over alternate equipment. Another type of tool had previously been used that not only lacked the vacuum feature to remove the BSE risk material more cleanly and effectively, it was also so heavy that it required a counterbalance in order to reduce back strain on the operator.

### **Intuitive Design**

Employee training on the TrimVac tool is extremely easy. Operators were trained within minutes, and it required most personnel less than an hour to become proficient in using the tool.



Another important benefit that TrimVac tools bring to processing plants is dramatically improved cleanliness and hygiene of the work area. Spinal cord removal operation had been one of the least desirable workstations, due to the physical exertion, the messy environment, and the threat of exposure to BSE risk material. Once the TrimVac tools were adopted, their vacuum feature and the ability to transport the spinal cord material directly to a canister made for much cleaner floor conditions. The risk of spinal cord remnants found on the floor, benches, or employees' clothing was practically eliminated. As a result, plants no longer encounter resistance from operators when they are asked to work in this area.

### **One More Big Benefit: Cost Reductions**

Another impressive aspect of the Whizard® TrimVac tool is how it can reduce the cost of a plant's spinal cord removal operation. The experience of several US beef

processing facilities has allowed them to *reduce the assigned staff in this area by 50%*. Two operators instead of four are now able to process the same number of beef heads at the same processing speed, thereby lowering the plants' cost-per-head. Also contributing to better productivity is the fact that the TrimVac tool is hand-sharpened once every operating period, utilizing a sharpening procedure that takes mere seconds and is performed by the operator on-line during the production process.

Equally dramatic for these plants has been a 50% decline in hard-dollar service costs associated with their spinal cord removal operation. The TrimVac tools have proven to be far more rugged and durable than the tools used previously.

### **A Great All-Around Solution**

In all, the Whizard® TrimVac tool is a success on many levels. Spinal cord cuts are easier and cleaner ... the spinal cord and sheath are removed more thoroughly ... tools are lighter and easier to use ... the plant has a cleaner environment that's less prone to cross-contamination ... and fewer people are needed for the spinal cord removal procedure. It's a winning solution all around.

*For more information about the Whizard® TrimVac tool, contact Bettcher Industries at (440) 965-4422. [www.bettcher.com](http://www.bettcher.com)*