

KOSHER CONSUMERS UNION - ב"ס ד'

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א' שלית"א אל כבוד הרבנים, שליט"א

RUBASHKIN-AGRI, KOSHER SUPREME Etc.

Kosher supervised by KAJ, OU, Lubavitch, Margareten, zeilingold.
The OU does not employ an onsite Mashgiach, relying totally on KAJ.

Many individuals & רבנים are very disturbed because א' שלית"א has undertaken to give a Hashgocha to AGRI plant without realizing the מכשול

רמב"ם- "אבל בדברי שמים אם לא חזר בו בסתר מכלימין אותו ברבים ומפרסמים חטאו ומחריפים אותו בפניו ומבזין ומקללין אותו עד שיחזור למוטב", עכ"ל כסף משנה-פשוט

RUBASHKIN-KASHRUS "SYSTEM":

I spent 3 days in the plant a few years ago. It is very disturbing that the RUBASHKIN Management, owners & רבנים מכשירים have no interest in having anything more than basic kashrus standards, eg. "רוב, הפסד מרובה" etc. were many of the deciding factors, if that much!

"SYSTEM" OF MARKING NEVEILOS:

Rav Kohn (KAJ דיין) was satisfied with a "bluff" system where the shochet would flip a light switch which would turn on a light by the "בדוק" so he'll know that there is a "נבילה". Which one is anybody's guess, as there is a 10-15 minute carcass travel time from the shochet to the bodek.

Note: The lunch, breakfast, coffee breaks are not the same time for the shochet and the bodek, so there are times that no bodek is there when the shochet flips the light switch.

The KAJ דיין claimed the whole time that the system is foolproof. Let me therefore quote from an October 31st, 1991 RUBASHKIN letter to the USDA inspector, "The system we have now to identify (miscuts=Neveilos) is not foolproof, for the mis-cuts we have daily". I was therefore forced to circumvent the Rav Hamachshir ר' חיים הרה"ג by going to the USDA in Washington, DC to have the "נבילות" properly marked.

I personally observed that when an animal was still very much alive (after shechita) they *shot it in the brain* right away & it was used as a kosher animal. It is an accepted practice by all רבנים המכשירים NOT to use such an animal.

Qualification of the Rav Hamachshir:

הרה"ג הרב מ. ניושלאס, זצוק"ל called me down to his house & wanted to know what I could tell him of personal experiences I had with ר' חיים קאהן (KAJ דיין) in Kashrus. I inquired of הרה"ג הרב מ. ניושלאס, זצוק"ל why he wants to know? The last words he told me at that conversation were "צדק חיים קאהן א"צ אין לחסור קל אין אלז צנינים סן צנות"..

RUBASHKIN-BAIS-YOSEF system "BLUFF":

NOTE: For Sephardim non Bais-Yosef is "TREIF".

Rubashkin's so called "בית יוסף" meat is all a "BLUFF". The RUBASHKIN רב המכשיר is of the stated opinion that all of RUBASHKIN meat is "בית יוסף" & that nobody really knows what is or is not בית יוסף meat. RUBASHKIN commonly send to caterers so called בית יוסף meat for Sephardim and there will be 1 or 2 pieces marked accordingly "בית יוסף" & the rest isn't "בית יוסף". Rubashkin's so called בית יוסף meat is a consumer bluff!

Another more recent episode, RUBASHKIN sent out a בית יוסף order that had only 1 piece marked AGRI style בית יוסף, it was sent back by the Mashgiach for a replacement order of all בית יוסף. RUBASHKIN sent the replacement order, all marked & labeled as בית יוסף, the Mashgiach refused it 'cause he put secret "markings" on the previous order, and discovered that Rubashkin sent them the same identical order again "re-labeled" בית יוסף "AGRI style".

It is a common RUBASHKIN practice to ship meat & poultry without the required "חותמות". When calls are made to complain & question it, they say דיין Kohn will look into it, but you may use it. "There really is NO heter!"

RUBASHKIN-ניקור "System":

The system at RUBASHKIN is that non-Jews do the physical "ניקור" which is then checked by the "משגיח". The רב המכשיר was shown that the "משגיח לניקור" physically can't handle the load and some meat goes by without being checked. He responded "there isn't enough full time work for 2 people, only for 1 1/2 people & we can't hire a half a person so we'll leave it with one Mashgiach till there is enough work for two full time people". Therefore, too often "NON-MINUKER" meat is shipped to caterers. Most customers don't know enough about ניקור-so they unknowingly use it & don't complain, so we don't even become aware of most of the tragic episodes.

RATIO OF KOSHER "system":

The quality of RUBASHKIN's Black Angus is the cheapest available in the market (per USDA inspector, "low grade") yet they have the highest ratio of "Kosher, Glatt, Bet Yosef" (including their veal) than most others. (\$\$).

INTIMIDATION OF SHOICHTIM "SYSTEM":

The RUBASHKIN plant has a creative way of getting kosher production up by their שוחטים ומשגיחים. If the שוחט is a production machine then RUBASHKIN pays the tuition, otherwise the שוחט must pay his own tuition for his children etc. They use other "shtik" also.

A number of רבנים המכשירים rightfully insist that their kosher certified caterers kasher the kitchen equipment if any Rubashkin (including KOSHER SUPREME) products were used prior to their certified caterer's cooking there.

RUBASHKIN = KOSHER STYLE: There is much more to write as to why this plant's products aren't for a "Frum Tzibur". I can't say its all Treif Chas v'sholom, but it's 999, *Hebrew National*, Agri/Rubashkin = Kosher style".

A MAJOR RUBASHKIN PROBLEM:

Another major problem strictly with RUBASHKIN's beef operation is the following: RUBASHKIN owns the slaughterhouse and doesn't have sufficient access to get rid of their "טריפה" meat competitively. Rubashkin therefore made a deal with Shop-Rite to take off their hands as much טריפה meat as possible, so Rubashkin will give them a special deal on the Kosher AARON'S meat. RUBASHKIN therefore has a tremendous \$\$\$ incentive to *designate* as much meat as possible as *kosher/Glatt* versus not kosher etc.

The "system of kashrus" in the RUBASHKIN plant is "Don't have any system" so it'll be impossible for anyone to catch & track all of the kashrus problems.

What others say!

There are many other רבנים who also have personal knowledge of the RUBASHKIN operation & I don't think any of them would disagree with the above conclusions.

RAV WEISMANDEL'S INSPECTION & COMMENTS:

, מנחם מאיר ווייסמנדל, הרה"ג ר' מנחם מאיר ווייסמנדל, Shlita told me a few years ago (2-3?) that he was in the RUBASHKIN plant & was very unhappy. I do recall one of the very disturbing episodes that he told me about. The RUBASHKIN plant retains as their בודק none other than רב זינדף who worked for years for the Israeli Rabanut. רב זינדף is working for RUBASHKIN for many years as the expert בודק & gets compensated accordingly (to the # of kosher/glatt). The Israeli "Bodek-Chutz" Rav Zeidoff was removing a lung "sircha" by pulling in a way that the "pri-Migadim" declares as unacceptable & "Treif".

רב זינדף asked shockingly!

"Gevald", w-h-a-t a-r-e y-o-u d-o-i-n-g-?"

He responded "you will see it wouldn't leak with warm water". The בודק put in the air-hose and put in just a little bit of air (*not enough even to fill the lung, let alone blow up the lung as required*) and put on warm water "see it doesn't leak". הרה"ג ר' מנחם מאיר ווייסמנדל took the air-hose and started blowing up the lung as required, at that point the bodek-chutz took his knife and made a cut into the lung & said יעצט בלאז די לינג.

Note: Once the lung is CUT it is impossible to blow up the lung to check it. "מאכיל נבילות וטריפות"!

RAV WEISMANDEL'S CHANGES: I sent a fax to ר' מנחם מאיר ווייסמנדל, Shlita a few weeks ago asking what changes did he make in the plant & what changes

he still intends to do? His response was that it's all internal, that he doesn't want to put anything in writing but I could call him. The רב also will not share his reports about what is going on in the kashrus Department of the Rubashkin plant. I don't understand what is the big secret of changes in an unacceptable Shechita? Unless of course no significant changes are made, then his response all adds up \$\$.

In a food manufacturing facility such as a flavor house there are confidential ingredients & processes, but in a Shechita? The mere fact that there are secrets in a "schechita" is a serious concern in itself. When I once asked ר' מנחם מאיר ווייסמנדל if he would use Lubavitcher Shochtim? Rav Weismandel responded "לכתחילה" not, but otherwise nu nu.

Kashrus should not be a matter of price & convenience, as "טימטום הלב" is a very dear price. Woe to us that we witness this day!

"SPECIAL PRODUCTION (label) -BLUFF"!

In the practical world it is impossible to make a special production at RUBASHKIN! "Why"? In order to have an acceptable special kosher production you need certain requirements, among them are the following; a) that we consider the standard production as a NON-ACCEPTABLE production אפילו בדיעבד,

b) That the owners & management must have an interest in producing a truly "special kosher production", which both of the above are not applicable to the RUBASHKIN plant. It is sad, but the fact is that the RUBASHKIN management thrives in doing "געשעפט" with the "nar'ashe" consumer.

SWITCHING LABELS? ?

I asked Rubashkin to install a bar-code system in order to keep track of each animal after it's cut up to know if it's כשר, גלאט, בית יוסף, מנוקר, נמלח etc, besides the elimination of the stealing of carcasses from the plant. We know why they refused to install such a system; because they can't switch labels for their convenience.

RUBASHKIN commonly switches labels, as it was found on numerous occasions that on top of a non-Glatt label was stuck on a Glatt label, 'cause they were short for an order. The Non-Jewish RUBASHKIN truck drivers have in their possession a box of different kosher labels to put on to boxes of meat as per a store's request (*I have 1 of those boxes of labels that I saw fall off a truck*).

MARGARETEN SPECIAL PRODUCTION =labels

The MARGARETEN brand (by Rubashkin) is a "SPECIAL PRODUCTION", yet, the cuts of meat that the MARGARETEN does NOT accept, are commonly available

with *Margareten* "label" especially wholesale. The "Nar'asher" consumer accepts MARGARETEN product.

Rubashkin-special production- New Rav Hamachshir:

The Shoichtim, Bodkim-were the regulars. The Nikur, salting etc- regular unacceptable system.

Oi, I almost forgot, "Special production" labels were used.

Rubashkin Business plan:

The "Nara'sher" consumer (and our רבני המכשירים) know that the plant always utilizes the same kashrus standards, but the "nara'sher" consumer wants a "special-label", so we'll give them a label they feel comfortable with.

!צצר סומר פרי"ט ז'ק וואן צצר נצר קואט אין אארק!

Rubashkin decided recently to utilize רב ווייסמנדל as the plant's additional Hashgocha by utilizing the so called "Special production-label", façade. רב ווייסמנדל, Shlita evidently doesn't see the "set-up", therefore others are taking a fresh look at רב ווייסמנדל standards being utilized in his other Hashgochas. א גזעאלט פון פונבר'ט אונז פופציק טויזנט צאלעאר א יאר, גי"ט נישט צ פוס.

It is a shame that the RUBASHKINs are utilizing the tactic of offering large sums of money to רבנים ומוסדות to get their unacceptable meat products to be used by the ציבור.

The worst scenario in kashrus has always been dealing with a "שקרן". We are confronted with individuals who have a keen ability to utilize additional lies to cover previous ones.

HASHGOCHAS IN GENERAL:

A השגחה shouldn't automatically become one's "פוסק". A השגחה should present the facts pertaining to kashrus, so each רב can decide for his constituents if it is acceptable.

"מפני מה נכנס יהוד-ה"....?

A few years ago (when he was going up in kashrus) I asked „, מה שחיסל הרב"ג ר' מנחם מאיר ווייסמנדל, "what will prevent רב ווייסמנדל from seeing the \$\$\$ Dollars and doing what many others have done in kashrus by lowering their standards?" רב ווייסמנדל responded "I know that you Rav Shain are guard for these types of things, so you'll watch me." An additional reason is, I am writing to all parties that can do something to stop this fiasco. I never believed it will really happen. I just can't give up, "זה התפקיד שלי".

GEVALD! רב זינדף The expert Bodek is still working at Rubashkin/Supreme (for רב ווייסמנדל as well).

The best thing for the Kosher Consumer is there should be as many kosher purveyors as possible but NOT at the price of Kashrus "חס ושלום".

Every responsible individual in Kashrus is "מתפלל" not to have the "נסיון" of financial gains that outweigh kashrus concerns.

Rockland Kosher used to be a very reliable kosher butcher shop. Now it is selling the RUBASHKIN products unbeknown to the Consumer, therefore it is time to find other sources for your meats & poultry Where is the "חשן" "משפט" part of Halacha? The owner of Rockland kosher is the "ראש הקהל" of כתב-ווינוניץ. I don't know him personally, therefore, if any רבנים or others can have a "השפעה" on him that he shouldn't carry Rubashkin, would be a "מסיר מכשול דרבים".

As stated, some רבנים מכשירים require their caterers prior to making the affair, to kasher all facilities that used Rubashkin products. The Sephardim especially must now find a new source for their בית יוסף meat products as well, including cold cuts etc. We are cognizant of the inconvenience this causes to the educated kosher consumer.

"כל מי שבידו למחות ואינו מוחה, ...Pick up a phone to Rabonim & to your constituents, mispalilim, Caterers & to the owner of Rockland kosher-845-425-2266 Fax 845-425-2371 etc. One should therefore not purchase anything at Rockland Kosher, in Monsey, NY

We are aware that some insignificant improvements were instituted in the Agri plant, e.g. a larger chiller was installed. We must be very astute and realize that we are dealing with individuals who have absolutely no problem in stating an outright lie without blinking. Therefore they will make many false claims, don't be misled. The statement that רב ווייסמנדל is not utilizing Lubavitch Shoichtim or that some שוחטים wives have shaved their heads (like they do in India) for financial reasons (even if you believe them) etc is all irrelevant to the acceptance of the finished product in a Heimishe home. Don't be the "nar'asher consumer they cater to.

PETA pictures!

I'm sure that you are familiar with the PETA Organization that wants to ban שחיטה in the USA.

Among some of the serious concerns that appear in their pictures is the removal of the קנה / trachea immediately after the Shechita.

The information that we have obtained from sources that must remain anonymous for obvious reasons is as follows; שוחטים ובודקים may be unaware of the true reason it's done.

In order to overcome the shortage of kosher & Glatt animals, Agri & KAJ's דיין have opted to utilize some uncommon avenues that are nevertheless brought in Halacha, e.g. "נעבד הריאה", an animal or "goy" damaged the lung somehow-besides the standard "הפסד מרובה" etc.

The ריאה / lung in an animal is an organ that constantly expands & contracts in the cavity of the

animal. The **ריאה** is a free-hanging organ attached to the animal only by the tissue & muscle of the **קנה / trachea**. Once one cuts the supporting tissue & muscles around the **קנה** it is basically detached from the animal, held only by the **סירכות לדופן** if any.

שחיטה while the animal is still in the shechita position, a non-jewish worker (the **שוחט** leaves the room) utilizes an 8 inch (approx) knife to enlarge the opening around the **קנה / trachea** & also cutting into the “diaphragm/ **טרפס** area. He then use a meat-hook to grab & pull the **קנה/trachea** a few inches & cutting off the **קנה/trachea** near the lung.

The concerns are that by making the cut along the diaphragm / **טרפס** area & around the trachea one may (in)advertently also puncture the lung. The knife is inserted quite deeply into the neck area thereby risking cutting the **סירכות** of the upper lung lobes. **שמלה חדשה**

Another serious concern is that by hooking & pulling on the trachea it will rip and dislodge the **סירכות / adhesions** that go from the lung to the **צלעות** and or also some **סירכות** on the lung itself and then having the \$\$ opportunity to call it Glatt or at least kosher.

After the above procedures, it is practically impossible to check the lungs properly for Glatt or **סירכות**. First of all, the trachea which is utilized to blow up the lung is gone, as it was cut off. Second of all, there may be in all likelihood a cut in the lung from the knife used to enlarge the area to facilitate the removal of the trachea. Thirdly, there are no **סירכות** per se. At AGRI the **בודק פנים** has a paper with the shape of a lung that is marked for the **בודק חוץ**. ONLY places that are marked on the diagram are checked visually.

The Rabanut of Israel that did unknowingly on & off permit Rubashkin products has now banned them. Now you know the rest of the story “why they forcibly remove the **קנה / trachea** right after **שחיטה**”.

One **רב המכשיר** is attempting to cover himself by claiming by his “kosher supreme” (labeled!) shechita they only cut off part of the trachea without hooking & pulling. A good try, if it would only be half true.

The reasons given by some plant **רבנים** for removing the trachea including; blood-shot prevention, less pain to the animal, removal of the sweet breads etc may be true. Nevertheless, all of the serious **מכשולים** & severe kashrus consequences must take precedence.

The design of the pen’s head restrainer is not proper. The metal bar should come way below the neck’s **שחיטה** area. The **שוחט** is obviously afraid of nicking his knife on the metal bar, so he must do a controlled **שחיטה** with 7-8 **הולכות והובאות** (a possibility of **שהיה** exists). An experienced **שוחט** utilizes 1-2 **הולכות והובאות**. Because of this “controlled-cut” the **שוחט** obviously is not severing all of the arteries, requiring an unacceptable “2nd cut”. Severing all neck arteries causes an almost immediate total collapse of the animal. In addition the **שוחט** should be standing on the side of the animal that his knife hand is closest to the pen & furthest from the head, enabling a wide open cut including severing all of the arteries. Electric prods are not a recommended tool at kosher slaughter.

It is grave enough that one should seriously consider kashering their utensils. We have no doubt that many Rabonim **מבקשי האמת** are advising their constituents to kasher their keilim without making a “tumult”.

The Margareten, Rav Weismandel, Rav Hatchuel, Lubavitch, KAJ, Zeilingold, Spiegel, Steinmetz etc are going to claim they each have a “special-run” & aren’t involved in the regular production. One of the problems is that none of the workers in the plant are aware of any special productions & procedures “bluff”, only “which label to attach”.

DON'T FOR A MOMENT BELIEVE ANY ADS THAT STATE “their-Special production” IS DIFFERENT.

שמלה חדשה- הסכמת אחרונים- אצל לנענע כדי שינתקו הסירכות ע"י נענוע, אין להקל בשום מקום, דאין אנו בקיאים האין היא הנענוע, ובמקומות שנהגו לאסור בכל סירכות, אפילו ניתקת בקל או ע"י נפיחת הריאה, מנהגא הוא - ואין להקל להם.

פרי חדש בשם תשובות רד"ז - נהגו בקלת מקומות: . . . תופס בקנה ומושך אותו למעלה בכח, [meat hook] וכן ללדדים. ולריך שיעשה באופן שזרור שלא יהיה סירכות מנתקות בתנועה זו, ואין לעשות כן כי אם במקום שנהגו.

יש ליזהר שלא להניח אצל העכו"ם בין שחיטה לבדיקה בלא שומר, דשמא [קח *] יכניס העכו"ם ידו וינתק הסירכות. אצל אם רגילין העכו"ם בכך, אסורה אפילו דיעצד מן [שך] הסתם, דהוה ליה כמצטל תקנת הבדיקה. (וצספר דמשק אליעזר: דאפילו בטבח ישראל יש לחוש לכתחילה, אם יש עליו חששא קלת, עכ"ל)

מטה אשר [קח *] יכניס. ר"ל שיכניס ידו דרך בית הלואר וינתק הסירכות במקום שידו מגעת, ויש ליזהר בזה אף

בעצמי ישראל כל אשר לא חמון צם, כתב בשלחן גבוה: דהוא
הנהיג צירושם תוצצ"א, שלא יכניס הנכרי סכינו קודם
הבדיקה דרך הגרון לחתוך סביב הקנה והושט, כדי שיכיה
נוח לו להוליא הריאה, דשמא יכתוך איזה סירכה שצאונות
עליונות.

כף החיים-אות לה' ז"ל וסיים דהדבר תלוי על מי שיש
צידו למחות לצטל המנהג הרע הזה ואם אין ידם משגת
השוחט בצדק יטריף אותה צידים ואין צזה משום אופר
את המותר יעו"ש

שמלה חדשה- וכל שאינו נזכר בכל זה, הוא מאכיל
טריפות לישראל. ולכן אין למנות כי אם צדק כשר וירא ה'.

מטה אשר- ולא יטעה עלמו ע"י רמאות הנופת, שהאדימו
פניו והוא כסיר נפות, ורוח לפוני"ת אינה מנצנת.

At Agri all of the above concerns are being violated,
in addition to the **חותמות**, **בשר שנתעלם**, **חוקות**, **ניקור**, **מליחה**, **בשר שנתעלם**, **חותמות**,
problems that are deliberately out of control, therefore
one should be **מה דר** and **קשרים** kasher their **כלים**.

On a number of **אכש"ר** unjustly publicized
a misleading ad. The ad was intended to proclaim that
the **שחיטה** shown on the PETA pictures was
considered basically kosher. But the **מכשול לרבים** that
the **פחו כמים** ad caused is incomprehensible. The ad
also indicated at least to the kosher consumer that the
system of **שחיטה** & **קשרים** at AGRI-Rubashkin is at
an acceptable standard, without ever visiting the plant
& observing first hand.

The **רבנים** that signed should have
known the **מכשול לרבים** this ad may cause. They
should have addressed their letter of approval to the
plant, USDA & PETA only, not to the **ציבור** at large .

It is known to many of the **חותמים** that there are many
serious problems at Rubashkin (regardless of whose
label is attached) from the **שוחטים** through the actual
חותמות, **בשר שנתעלם**, **וכו'**. **ניקור**, **מליחה**, **בדיקות**, **שחיטה**

הרה"ג רב **Rubashkin's "Kosher Supreme"** under
proclaimed **ווייסמנדל**, שליט"א
\$\$\$ Mission accomplished \$\$\$!

The cold facts & the basic הלכה verdict, "It was
a mission impossible, that failed the
טימטום הלב resulting in ! **ציבור החרדי**

"Learn how to withstand animosity, and to weather
unpopularity, and carry on the struggle,
to uphold Hashem's ideals". **הרב שמעון שוואב, זצוק"ל**

"However, there is a conspiracy of silence with
respect to 'Treif' meat sold under the seal of
unqualified, so-called 'Rabbis', who affix a totally
worthless seal of approval..., perhaps, they are
unwilling to demean the honor of the Rabbinat".

"The honor of the Rabbis is also dear to me,
but the honor of the Torah, which is relegated to the
ash heap, and the honor of the truth, which is trampled
underfoot are much more dear to me—and where
there is desecration of G-D's name, we do not give
honor to the Rabbis." **הרב שרגא פייוול מענדלאוויץ, זצוק"ל**

Fellow Jews, have you no fear for the great and terrible
Day of Judgment? In that day you will no longer be
able to come up with excuses (e.g. "I didn't know") or
with a shrug of the shoulder. **(R' Shraga Feivel Mendelowitz Z"L)**

The **ע"פ מסורת** has been guided all the years **עם ישראל**.
We are being confronted lately with others that are
attempting to side track us from the **מסורת**, claiming
that in our day & age we can be a **מחדש**. They don't
realize that **חדש אסור מן התורה (ח"ט)**. Once one
sidesteps the **מסורת**, history has shown time & again
they ultimately become **מינים ואפיקורסים, ר"ל**. To give a
השגחה to a plant that has always skirted our **מסורת** is
being negligent in preserving **כלל ישראל** existence.

ר' שרגא פייוול מענדלאוויץ ז"ל writes—"I accuse the very
great **רבנים מכשירים** don't you see what has become of
our youth? Don't you know that our children have
become gamblers, gangsters, candidates for the electric chair,
etc only because they've been raised on **"נבילות וטריפות ר"ל"**

**"The truth must be heard, even if the public
does not like the sound of it, whatever the
circumstances, regardless of consequences, the truth
must be stated-loudly, clearly and unequivocally"**.
הרה"ג ר' אהרן קוטלר, זצוק"ל

The bottom line is, the **KAJ's קאהן** in
conjunction with the **Rubashkin's** orchestrated all
of the problems. Now they also employ **רה"ג רב**
the **Rav of Nitra** (whom we understand is also
a prominent member of **התאחדות הרבנים**) to join them
in furthering the deception of the **ציבור החרדי**.

ז' סבת תשס"ה , / ' ' e f 3 ' ' 1