



Chris Rufer rents first tomato truck as a college summer job.

• 1970

1977

The Morning Star Company incorporated. (Trucking only)

Los Banos, CA Ribbon Cutting Day - July of 1990.

1990

1983

Founded Ingomar

Packing Company.

The Morning Star Packing Company,

Paradise Tomato

formed.

Kitchens partnership

1995

Packing Company,

Williams was founded.

was founded.

2002

Company, Santa Nella

Purchased Valley Sun Products, Inc. (Sun-dried tomatoes)

2009

1992 1995

> Cal Sun Harvesting was founded. Now Cal Sun Grower Services.

2003

Joined CA Masterplant. (Greenhouse & transplanting)



### World's leading tomato ingredient processor.

Our mission is to produce tomato products which consistently achieve the quality and service expectations of our customers in a cost-effective, environmentally responsible manner. We provide bulk-packaged products to food processors and ingredient and finished products to the foodservice and retail trade.

At Morning Star, we deliver superior customer value through our dedication to providing a reliable supply of consistent quality product, value-added customer service, and sustainable pricing from innovation and scale. With three tomato processing facilities throughout California, we are the most geographically diverse processor in the industry - increasing our reliability of supply.

### It all started with one truck and a vision.

In 1970, Chris Rufer began Morning Star as a one-truck owner-operator, hauling tomatoes from fields to processing plants. Today, Morning Star supplies over 40 percent of the nation's markets with ingredient tomato paste and diced tomatoes. Our sales of tomato products are over \$800 million annually. And we still haul our tomatoes from the fields - just as our owner began his journey in 1970.

Morning Star operates factories with the largest production scale in the world, with innovative affiliate companie vertically integrated with a purpose. As the first processor to operate a dedicated processed organic line, it's clear that Morning Star thrives with constantly changing environments and markets. We have pioneered changes in production technology that have helped increase efficiencies throughout the industry. We have the broadest involvement in the global tomato industry and are active in tomato research to constantly find new ways to improve operations and deliver superior customer value.









Major paste expansion at Williams facility - increased capacity 65%.

2015

California Container Company was founded.

2017

Doubled fire-roaster capacity at Liberty Packing Company.

2020

Doubled foodservice pouch line capacity at Liberty Packing Company.

2023

Additional evaporator added at Williams facility - increases efficiency.

2024

2014

Major paste expansion at Liberty Packing Company increased capacity 30%. 2015

Dedicated organic line added at Liberty Packing Company. 2020

Dedicated line added at Liberty Packing Company for steam peeling, organics, specialty, R&D, and formulated sauces. 2024

Taste evaporator added at Liberty Packing Company.

# Why Morning Star



Extensive domestic and international industry relationships.



Diverse product offering to accommodate shifting market requirements.



Innovation focused ensuring consistently improved operations.



Organizational culture empowering colleagues to initiate change.





# A reliable supply of consistent quality.

Our factories' geographically unique locations allow us to minimize the risks of crop failure and inclement weather by sourcing a proportionately equal volume of our tomatoes from most, if not all, counties that grow tomatoes in California. On an annual basis, we carefully select and contract with around 150 California family-owned and operated growers to ensure the quality and quantity of our tomatoes.



### California is the most prolific tomato growing region in the world for a reason.

Our ripe tomatoes, picked at the peak of season, are grown throughout California's Central Valley. Known for its predictably long, hot and rain-free summers, this fertile valley consistently produces 10 to 12 million tons (approx. 9.1 - 10.9 million mT) of processed tomatoes every season, which account for approximately 96% of the US tomato ingredient market and 33% of the global tomato ingredient market.

#### Field-to-factory freshness and efficiency.

We harvest and haul our tomatoes from the field to the factory in the lightest weight trailers available. These allow us to bring in the freshest tomatoes around the clock in fewer loads, then process and pack them within 4 hours of harvesting.

### Value-added customer service.

At Morning Star, we offer our customers the greatest value by providing a comprehensive product offering, deep customer relationships with knowledgeable and resourceful Customer Service colleagues, and world-class product support from our technical and packaging engineers, QA/QC team and industry analysts. Our commitment to our customers is to deliver their specified quality, with excellent customer service, at prices that help them compete effectively.



- Our engineers and technicians can analyze your process and recommend ways our products will work best for you.
- Logistics and Customer Service colleagues are here to meet your needs and help solve problems.
- Our industry analysts research and report on key industry trends so you can better plan for the future.

We share information and encourage the free exchange of ideas. We believe that having a vested interest in every aspect of the business, from seed to final product, allows us to better serve our customers.





### Industry leader in size and innovation.

At Morning Star, we consistently strive to improve quality, increase efficiency, expand our operations, and create sustainable pricing through new and innovative technology, economies of scale, and vertical integration. Morning Star supplies around 10% of the world's ingredient tomato products, and has an average tomato paste production capacity that is three times that of the balance of the California industry.

## Los Banos, California (South) Built in 1990

Processing capacity: 665 tons/hour
31% Equivalent tomato paste
218,017 Pounds/hour
Annual potential production of paste
approximately 450 mil pounds

# Williams, California (North) Built in 1995

Processing capacity: 1,348 tons/hour 31% Equivalent tomato paste 441,859 Pounds/hour Annual potential production of paste approximately 800 mil pounds

#### Santa Nella, California (South)

(Liberty Packing Company)
Purchased and rebuilt in **2002** 

Processing capacity: 1,319 tons/hour: (970 paste | 232 diced | 117 other)
31% Equivalent tomato paste
328,257 Pounds/hour
Annual potential production of paste approximately 755 mil pounds
Annual potential production of diced approximately 540 mil pounds

#### A history of innovation.

Our founder was the first to build a business exclusively producing and marketing ingredient tomato paste in California.

#### First tomato processor to:

- Market the 300-gal bag-in-box bin
- Develop the patented StarPak container
- Employ low energy gravity unloading systems

#### Built to sustain a global industry.

Built for large scale efficient production, our factories' simple designs leverage gravity and size. This enables us to maintain reliable production throughout the season, including a dedicated organic line at our Santa Nella facility.

- Use natural cooling ponds
- Install a dedicated organic processing line
- Make important advancements in tomato paste production equipment used in the industry today.

#### Our vertical integration has a purpose.

Our high level of vertical integration allows us to identify and control costs, then pass these benefits on to our customers. We grow approximately half of our transplants and transplant them in the fields. We also harvest and truck virtually all of our tomatoes.

Greenhouse Transplanting Growing Harvesting Trucking Factories



### Sustainable practices for a healthy environment.

In partnership with our suppliers, we use economically viable practices to protect scarce resources; improve air, water, and soil quality; protect wildlife resources; and conserve non-renewable mineral resources. We reduce waste and pollution through technological innovation, conserve energy, and economize our use of water, pesticides and nutrients to those biologically required for a successful crop.









Morning Star encourages its growers to invest in drip irrigation systems, which are the most efficient way to irrigate. Water is applied by precise application which allows for better utilization of our precious resource.

#### Every drop of water counts.

Like any other resource, we do our best to reuse the water which we consume. Our factories have several system's with recirculating loops of water. Two to three different loops of water deliver and transport tomatoes into the factory. The evaporators use another recirculating loop inside the steam generation system, which returns the steam to the boilers, instead of being vented into the air.

#### Conserving electricity.

Our facilities are specifically designed to minimize electrical power consumption. One primary way is the maximum use of steam turbines. Another is accomplished through the use of cooling ponds for the water used by evaporators. Water is pumped to the top of evaporators where it flows out the bottom and back to the cooling pond by gravity. Considering the massive volume of water that flows through the system, pumping the water only once saves approximately 2.2 million kilowatt hours per year, per factory.







#### Resource recovery.

Our standard practice is to recover as many usable resources as possible from the various plant by-products. Most peel is further processed. Seeds and the remaining peel, called pomace, can be utilize it in a multitude of ways, including soil amendments, animal feed, or dehydrated into an ingredient powder for pet food. Seeds can be made into a nutrient rich additive.

#### Efficient natural gas consumption.

Natural gas is primarily used to heat water to produce steam which is then used for a variety of purposes, ranging from heating product to turning turbines. We continually try to reduce the volume of natural gas which we consume.

#### Responsible packaging solutions.

The containers we ship our product in are signs of our commitment to conserve and reuse. Just like other resources we use in the enterprise, we encourage our customers to recycle and reuse the containers we ship to them along with the tomato product.

#### **Driving less.**

Our trucks haul two specially designed lightweight trailers that carry, on average, two tons more tomatoes per trip and still stay under the legal weight limit. This means fewer trips from the field to the factory, resulting in reduced emissions.













### Products you can rely on.

In addition to traditional ingredient products, we also offer additional organic products, green tomato products, crushed tomatillos, chile sauce and purees, custom formulated tomato products, tomato concentrates, high-fiber tomato pulp, ground pomace, dried tomato, foodservice and retail pouched and canned tomatoes, and several additional R&D products.

#### **Products**

Hot Break Paste (26% - 31% NTSS)

Cold Break Paste (29% - 37% NTSS)

Concentrated Crushed (26% - 31% NTSS)

Ground in Puree

Puree (1.07)

Diced (3/8" to 1" cut)

Random Kitchen Cut in Puree

Fire Roasted Diced (1/2" or 3/4" cut) Sun-Dried Tomatoes

#### **Organic Products**

Organic Hot Break Paste (31% NTSS)
Organic Cold Break Paste (31% NTSS)
Organic Concentrated Crushed (26% - 28% NTSS)
Organic Diced (1/2" and 3/4" cut)



300-gallon aseptic bag-in-box



55-gallon aseptic fiber, plastic, and steel drum



30lb bag-in-box (sun-dried) 25lb bag-in-box (sun-dried)

#### Dedicated organic line for all season processing.

Morning Star offers a fully dedicated organic processing line at our Liberty Packing facility. By dedicating an entire processing line to organics, with a paste and diced production capacity of 320 tons/hour, we can consistently deliver high quality organic tomato products all season long. This consistency comes from sourcing our organic tomatoes throughout the season, instead of at the beginning when they may not be at peak quality.

#### Ask your sales colleague about our extensive line of innovative value-added products.





