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**United States Patent** [19]

Miller

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,238,493**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 24, 1993**[54] **COATING AND BREADING APPARATUS**[75] Inventor: **Michael E. Miller**, Bellevue, Ohio[73] Assignee: **Stein, Inc.**, Sandusky, Ohio[21] Appl. No.: **735,783**[22] Filed: **Jul. 25, 1991**[51] Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup> ..... **B05C 5/00; A23P 1/08**[52] U.S. Cl. .... **118/16; 118/13;**  
118/308; 118/312; 99/494[58] Field of Search ..... 118/13, 16, 24, 308,  
118/312; 99/494[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner—W. Gary Jones

Assistant Examiner—Todd J. Burns

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Oldham, Oldham &amp; Wilson Co.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

This invention provides a cost effective, simple and sanitary breading machine suitable for coating a variety of food products, such as poultry, with different types of breading materials. After coating of upper and lower surfaces of food products introduced into the breading machine, a significant dwell time within the breading machine is achieved in the construction to allow breading material to more effectively set up on the coated food products. The coating machine further includes structure to enable the food products introduced therein to be flipped a plurality of times, wherein additional coating material is continuously applied to alternate sides of the food products and desirable coating characteristics are achieved. The coating machine and process for coating food products as set forth herein provide a food processor with a means to more effectively and efficiently coat large volumes of food products with breading material without sacrificing desirable characteristics which yield a high quality and more appealing breaded food product.

**9 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets**