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# Natural Notes

A newsletter containing information for and about the food ingredient industry from Van Drunen Farms

## Fresh Perspective: Drum-dried Fruits

When looking for an economical way to add fruit to your products, *Drum-dried Fruits* from Van Drunen Farms (VDF) are the smart choice, for many reasons.

VDF *Drum-dried Fruits* are made from high-quality raw materials. The pureed fruit is dried in a high-capacity drum dryer that removes the water and produces a thin, flaky dried fruit product which can be milled to different flake or powder sizes. Drum-dried fruit products reconstitute immediately, retain much of their flavor, color and nutritional value, and are an economical choice for adding real fruit to your products.

Drum-dried fruit flakes and powders can be easily added to bakery products like quick breads, muffins, breakfast bars, and pancake or waffle mixes. Use drum-dried fruit ingredients to flavor fruit chips, baby foods, and drink mixes such as smoothies, shakes and energy drinks. These versatile forms of fruit are also designed for use in fruit sauces, fillings, jams and jellies, yogurts, ice cream and sorbet. Drum-dried products are also used (as a thickening agent) to control viscosity and water activity in your product.

Using drum-dried fruit is a unique, cost-effective way to add the nutrition of real fruit to your diet.



As one of the largest suppliers of freeze-dried and drum-dried products in the country, VDF offers a continuous supply of quality products that enhance and ensure a flavorful, functional and successful product for you.

VDF offers a wide range of drum-dried berries and other popular fruits such as cranberries, blueberries, raspberries and strawberries, pomegranate, acai, apples, mangos, passion fruit and more. And, customization is our specialty—customized drum-dried fruit blends are available for your specific application and processing requirements. Give us a call—the experts at VDF are ready to assist you.

### Drum-dried Fruits Available from Van Drunen Farms

- acai
- apple
- apricot
- banana
- blackberry
- blueberry
- cherry, tart
- cherry, sweet
- cranberry
- guava
- mango
- orange
- papaya
- peach
- pear
- pineapple
- plum
- pomegranate
- raisin
- raspberry
- strawberry
- watermelon

# Garden Gab: Drum-dried Pumpkin



and desserts, to even different types of beverages. People want pumpkin!

*Drum-dried pumpkin* is a great way to include the sweet pumpkin taste when you need to control the water activity of your product formulation. In many applications, pumpkin powder or flakes can be used as a replacement for wet pumpkin puree or concentrate.



*VDF Drum-dried Pumpkin* products consist of a clean, cooked pumpkin puree that is drum-dried and then milled into sized flakes or powders. The result is an easily water-dispersible pumpkin ingredient that can be added directly to recipes. Use in bread mixes, muffins, bagels, cookies, pancakes and other baking mixes, confections, pastas, sauces, dips or spreads, smoothies, and even to flavor beer.


When you think of pumpkins, Thanksgiving is sure to be one of the first things to come to mind. While Pilgrims and Indians almost certainly enjoyed pumpkin on that first Thanksgiving feast, pumpkins were already an important everyday source of food for Native Americans.

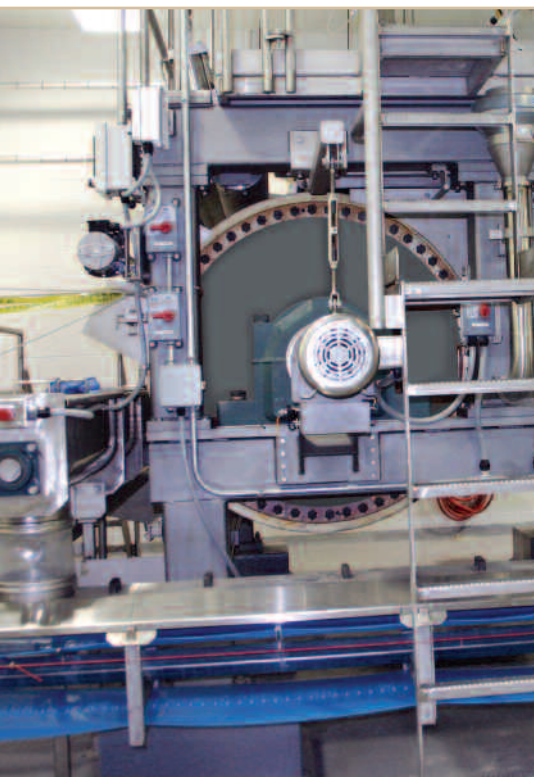
Today, pumpkins are still a popular flavor for fall cuisine—from breads

Real pumpkin can also add nutritional value to your products. Pumpkin provides fiber, potassium, vitamin C, iron and more.

*VDF Drum-dried Pumpkin* products are available year-round in conventional and organic form, as a flake or as a powder.

Product	Code	Pack Size
865	-4 Flakes	20lbs.
865.1	-40 Powder	50lbs.
C76	-16 Flakes	40lbs.
D1.1	-20 Powder 	40lbs.
D52	-8 Flakes 	44lbs.

 Organic product



## Van Drunen Voice: Drum-dryer Expansion Update

In October 2008, VDF opened a new 12,000 square foot state-of-the-art expansion to its drum-drying facility. The expansion, which allows for continuous flow of product from initial mixing to final packaging, includes three new double drum-dryers, plus the necessary prepping, mixing, cooking and packaging equipment and processing lines required to support the additional production capacity.

VDF now has eight double drum-dryers in Momence, Illinois. The expansion was also designed with improvements to the following: GMP standards, in-room construction,

equipment capabilities, and operation and maintenance features.

This new expansion will not only serve to provide greater production capacity, but will also provide greater flexibility and segregation required for simultaneous multiple product runs.

Drum-dried powders and flakes are great for bakery mixes, baby food products, smoothies, chip coatings, nutritional supplements, and more.

Popular drum-dried products include: pumpkin, sweet potato, carrot, sweet corn, apple, cranberry, blueberry, strawberry, and pomegranate.



# Product Focus: **FD Tart Cherry**

When looking to enjoy an antioxidant rich fruit, *Freeze-dried Organic Tart Cherry* products are an easy way to reap the health benefits of this “super fruit” year-round.

Also called a sour or pie cherry, tart cherries have some of the highest levels of disease-fighting antioxidants found in fruit. In addition to being antioxidant-rich, tart cherries are also a natural source of vitamin A & C, fiber, potassium, magnesium, iron, and folate, making it easy to see how they earned their place among the “super fruits.”

Enjoy the health benefits and lively flavor of tart cherries anytime with *Freeze-dried Tart Cherry* products from Van Drunen Farms. The freeze-drying process preserves the natural flavor, nutrition and color of the fruit, so it’s a convenient way to add the fresh taste of cherries to your products. Use in a variety of food applications including bakery and confection applications,

cold and hot cereals, salads, and snack and trail mixes—anywhere you want to add great flavor, nutrition, and an organic cherry product to your ingredients list.

*Freeze-dried Organic Tart Cherry* products from Van Drunen Farms are certified organic, grown without pesticides, and preserved without food additives, leaving the pure, natural goodness of cherries. Van Drunen Farms procures their organic cherries from the U.S. and Europe, two of the largest tart cherry producing regions in the world, providing year-round availability for its tart cherry ingredients. Also, with drying facilities in the U.S. and Europe, Van Drunen Farms provides a distinct advantage for our customers. With production and the drying facilities being in such close proximity, raw materials are processed and preserved at the peak of freshness—the result is a great tasting cherry product.



Product	Code	Pack Size
89.2	Whole	20lbs.
89.3	-20 powder	40lbs.



## CHERRY FACTS

- There are more than 1,000 different varieties of cherry trees in the U.S.
- Almost all cherries blossom in a three week span from late May to early June.
- Approx. 10 varieties of cherries are commercially produced.
- Each cherry tree produces about 7,000 cherries/yr.
- The U.S. cherry crop is approximately 300 million pounds/yr.
- Nearly 75% of the U.S. cherry crop comes from Michigan.

Source: thenibble.com

## Contact Information

**Irv Dorn**  
Sales Manager  
(815) 472-3100 x129  
idorn@vandrunen.com

**Lisa Bouquin**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 472-3100 x137  
lbouquin@vandrunen.com

**Carl DeVries**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 472-3100 x127  
cdevries@vandrunen.com

**Kevin Haartman**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 472-3100 x135  
khaartman@vandrunen.com

**Darrell Hanson**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 472-3100 x136  
dhanson@vandrunen.com

**Ross Peterson**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 472-3100 x138  
rpeterson@vandrunen.com

**Tim Zylstra**  
Sales Representative  
(815) 472-3100 x140  
tzylstra@vandrunen.com



300 West 6th Street  
Momence, Illinois 60954

[www.vandrunenfarms.com](http://www.vandrunenfarms.com)



# Freeze-Frame: Traci Jurcak



## Bluegrass IFT Supplier Night

Louisville, KY  
October 13, 2009

## Chicago IFT Supplier Night

Rosemont, IL  
November 11, 2009

## Minnesota IFT Supplier Night

Minneapolis, MN  
October 27, 2009

- Traci has been a Customer Service Representative with Van Drunen Farms for 3½ years.
- Her responsibilities include: entering domestic and international orders, preparing domestic and international documents for shipping, scheduling bookings with freight forwarders, maintaining order updates for customers, and assisting with the day-to-day needs of customers.
- When she's not in the office, Traci enjoys spending quality time with her family—husband Dave, teenage daughter LeAnne, and brother Todd. Traci lives in Momence, IL.

## In The Light

*"How good and pleasant it is when  
brothers live together in unity!"*

*Psalm 133:1*

*Here's your new issue  
of Natural Notes!*

300 West 6th Street  
Momence, Illinois 60954  
vandrunenfarms.com

