

# Robert M. Higgins

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Detail oriented Senior Hydrogenation Machine Operator with over 12 years of experience in edible oil processing. Proven track record of maintaining 99% production uptime and strictly adhering to SQF and HACCP standards. Expert in managing high pressure nickel catalyst reactions and optimizing batch cycles for increased throughput.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Senior Hydrogenation Operator | Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) | Des Moines, IA

*Apr 2016 - Present*

- Lead the operation of three large scale hydrogenation reactors for the production of bakery shortening.
- Reduced catalyst consumption by 14% through precise temperature control and improved agitation monitoring.
- Spearheaded a safety initiative that resulted in 1,200 consecutive days without a lost time accident.
- Managed the transition to a new DeltaV PLC control system, completing the project 2 weeks ahead of schedule.
- Execute daily quality control tests for Iodine Value (IV) and refractive index to ensure 100% batch consistency.

### Process Operator | Bunge Limited | Decatur, IL

*Aug 2010 - Mar 2016*

- Controlled the hydrogenation of soybean and palm oils while maintaining strict adherence to GMP and SQF Level 3 standards.
- Improved filtration efficiency by 20% by implementing a new cleaning schedule for the pressure leaf filters.
- Mentored 6 new hires on the handling of flammable hydrogen gas and nickel catalyst safety protocols.
- Monitored high pressure steam and cooling water systems to maintain reaction temperatures within a +/- 1 degree range.
- Authored 12 new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the refining department.

### Production Assistant | Cargill | Eddyville, IA

*Jun 2007 - Jul 2010*

- Assisted in the daily operation of oil refining and bleaching equipment for vegetable oil production.
- Performed hourly equipment inspections which identified 5 potential pump failures before they occurred.
- Maintained accurate production logs for over 500 batches annually in compliance with FDA regulations.
- Cleaned and prepared reaction vessels for catalyst changes, reducing downtime between batches by 15%.

## EDUCATION

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### Iowa State University | Bachelor of Science | Industrial Technology

*Aug 2003 - May 2007*

### Des Moines Area Community College | Associate of Applied Science | Chemical Processing Technology

*Aug 2001 - May 2003*

## SKILLS

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High Pressure Vessel Operation, Catalyst Management, PLC Control Systems, Refining & Filtration, Analytical Testing (Melting Point, IV), Batch Processing, HACCP Standards, OSHA Hazardous Materials Handling, Lockout/Tagout (LOTO), GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices), Emergency Response Protocols

## CERTIFICATIONS

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Certified Food Safety Manager (CFSM) | National Registry of Food Safety Professionals (2021)  
OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Safety | U.S. Department of Labor (2018)

## LANGUAGES

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English (Native)  
Spanish (B2 - Professional Working Proficiency)

## ACTIVITIES

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### **Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)**

Active member attending annual conferences to stay updated on edible oil processing innovations.

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

Volunteer responder for local industrial park safety drills and disaster preparedness.