

CUTTER ASSEMBLY FOR EXTRUDING SHAPED FOOD PIECES

ABSTRACT

A cutter assembly (1) for an extruder includes an elongated extrusion member (9) having an opened feed end (12). The opened feed (12) end is attachable in fluid communication with a first manifold of the extruder. A filling tube (20) extends through the elongated extrusion member (9), which is attachable to a second manifold of the extruder. An extrusion die (11) is formed in the elongated extrusion member (9). The extrusion die (11) is shaped to the general shape of a natural food piece. A cutter member (14) is reciprocally slidable on the extrusion wall (10) and has has cutting surface (35) shaped to the general shape of the extrusion die (11) for cutting extrudate to a desired length as the extrudate exits the die (11).

Fig. 1