



François Léger
Owner & CEO
FPL Food, LLC

François Léger is the owner and CEO of FPL Food, LLC, the largest privately owned, fully integrated beef processing facility in the Southeast. A calculated risk-taker, Léger possesses the ability to build a team from the ground up and turn a business around with little or no capital investment. Working his way from the bottom to the top of the beef industry, Léger has filled the diverse roles of logistics manager, planning manager, financial controller, salesperson, production director and senior vice president before reaching the peak in his journey to success as CEO of FPL Food.

After more than 20 years of experience in the beef industry across the globe, Léger bought a facility and opened FPL Food, LLC in June 2004. Headquartered in Augusta, GA, FPL is now the 10th largest beef business in the U.S. The company wholesales traditional and specialty products to a number of leading retail chains and partners with the largest retail chain in the world, Walmart. Over the last 17 years, the company has more than doubled its annual sales from \$250 million to \$550 million.

Bringing a wholly unique approach, Léger has brought his vision of being 100% vertically integrated to reality. It starts at Châtel Farms by selecting the proper cattle breed and raising them on a healthy diet of custom-blended local grain while maintaining the utmost humane treatment of livestock by providing state of the art facilities. Châtel Farms livestock is completely DNA traceable through IdentiGEN's DNA Traceback process which verifies the source of the meat. From Châtel Farms, cattle are then processed in Augusta and specialty cuts are fabricated, thus fulfilling the distinctive pasture-to-plate experience.

Léger attended the French Institute of Management and is fluent in English, French and Spanish. He first became interested in the beef industry 40 years ago and continues to progress in the field today.

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