

HELA SPICE CANADA @ EXPO WEST 2025

Anaheim – March 5-7, 2025

NEWSLETTER OVERVIEW

- This newsletter will be a bit different than normal newsletters.
 We are trying to provide a similar experience to actually travelling to the show.
- The images are set up chronologically and are based on show floor walking to provide a general overview of the types of products being displayed
- For those who don't know, Expo West is one of the largest food shows in North America
- It focuses on Natural and Organic products and the vendors are from around the world and are focused on growing their presence into the US Market
- Every year, there is an increase in ingredient companies displaying products and also packaging and retail equipment companies
- There are sections that cover nutraceuticals and also cosmetics, but 90% of the show is food products
- There are usually between 10 and 12 show floors to walk
- The attendance is huge with daily attendance of approximately 10,000 people. Its busy
- Can be overwhelming, volume of booths and products, the crowds.....





THE SHOW IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Rather than breaking it up by product, recorded things as we saw them. First observation, Jonny Pops were fantastic. Small booths outside the show floors







FIRST DAY OUTSIDE COURTYARD

Hmmmm..... Two new beverages offering benefits. Every year, market product trends come forth, this year it was enhanced beverages.







MORE BEVERAGES OFFERING BENEFITS

From Mountain Spring Water to additional Collagen drink







GREAT TASTING DRINK BEING SAMPLED OUTSIDE

All Natural and Organic ingredients, then Stevia aftertaste, complicated message







BLACK SESAME SEED PASTE AND MORE HEALTHY SPARKLING WATER

SesaONE was here all the way from Korea, great taste







ORGANIC TENT AFTER A 60 MINUTE WAIT IN LINE

Vegan Truffle Butters were a good idea, didn't deliver. Organic Ice Creams Great!

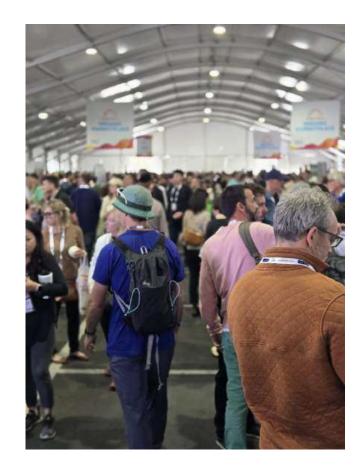


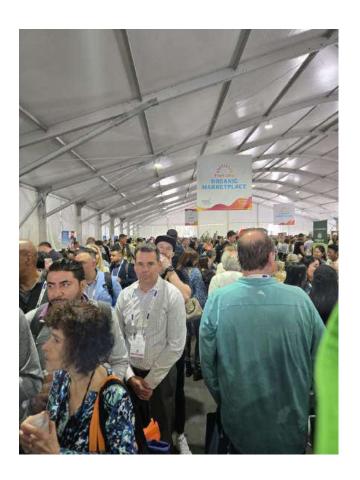




BIG CROWDS IN FIRST DAY ORGANIC NEW PRODUCTS TENT

Very hot and airless feeling. Must have been close to 35 degrees in there







REALLY NICE COCOA AND VANILLA HOT DRINK OFFERINGS

Novel Ayurvedic physician created drinks. Tasted fine, packaging created image







BRAND, BRAND NEW PRODUCTS

Hey! Hunger didn't even have production packaging ready. And the only CBD drink we saw this year







VERY NICHE FLAVOURS AND INGREDIENT PAIRINGS

Interesting concept, not well realized

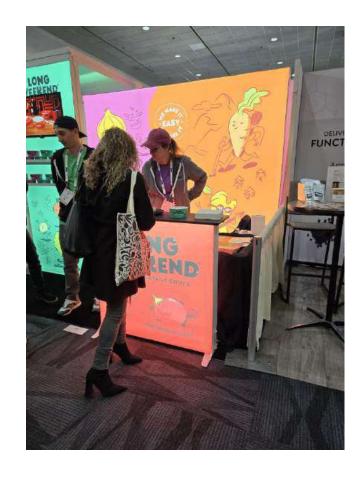


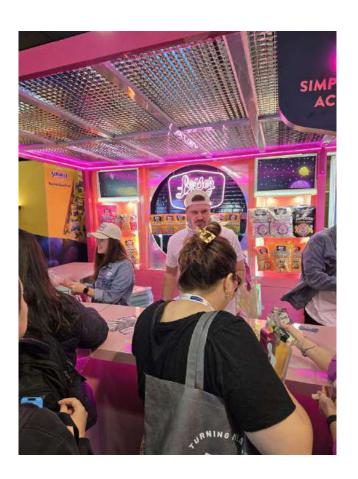




INSTANT SOUPS AND SNACK FOODS WITH VERY CREATIVE FLAVOURS

Exciting Marketing Positions from New Companies looking for attention

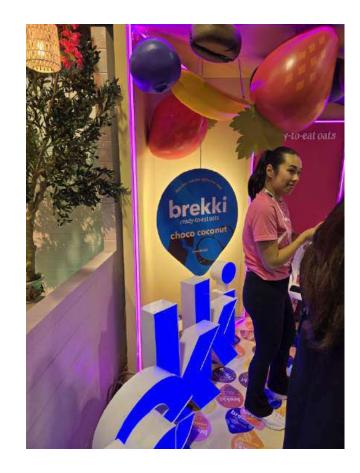






EXCELLENT FRUIT BASED BREAKFAST OATS

Focused on flavours, inclusions and convenience to invigorate older category



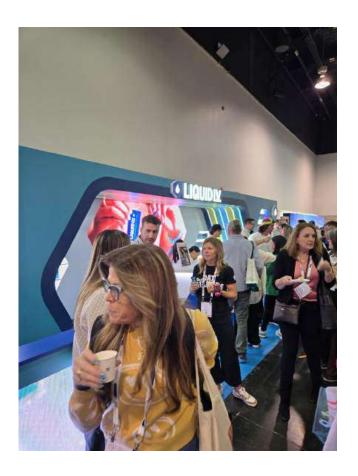




VERY COSTLY THEMED BOOTHS ARE THE NORM

Liquid IV Hydration Multiplier contains electrolytes and nutrients and sci-fi theme







HACCO LINE OF PRODUCTS FEATURED TRADITIONAL ASIAN FLAVOURS

As well, growing number of companies offering fruit and cookie combo snack foods







APPLEWOOD SHOWCASED FANTASTIC CHICKEN BASED SAUSAGES

Impossible had Best New Veggie Product launch. Great taste and texture







SOME COMPANIES SPEND A LOT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

Some have a small table with vegan Worcestershire Sauce



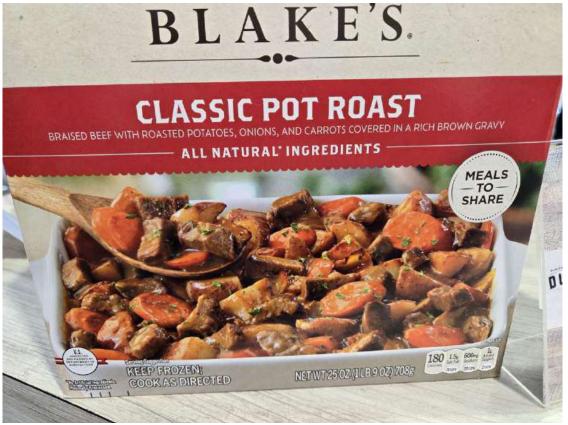




MORE ENHANCED WATERS, FLAVOURED POPPING BOBA - DIFFERENT

And a very traditional excellent line of standard meals – Pot Roast was very, very good

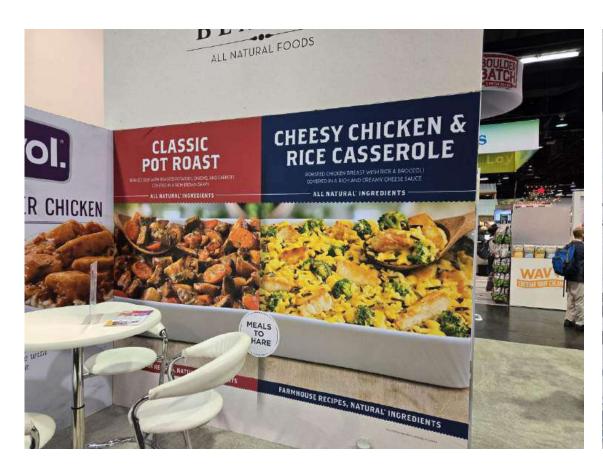






OTHER BLAKE LINE AND EVOL LINE OFFERINGS

All traditional, all offering great taste, texture and visuals in a frozen format







JERKY PRODUCTS GROWING AND OFFERING MORE VARIETY

Birria Bomb was innovative, but we are not sure as to value in marketplace

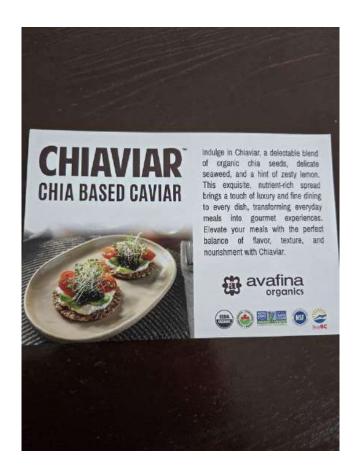






TASTED LIKE CAVIAR, BUT TEXTURE WAS A HAIR OFF

CHIA BASED CAVIAR ORGANIC ORAW PLANT BASED O DAIRY FREE PRESERVATIVE FREE Ø OIL FREE Ø SOY FREE BAVAFINADRSANICS F WWW.AVAFINA.COM

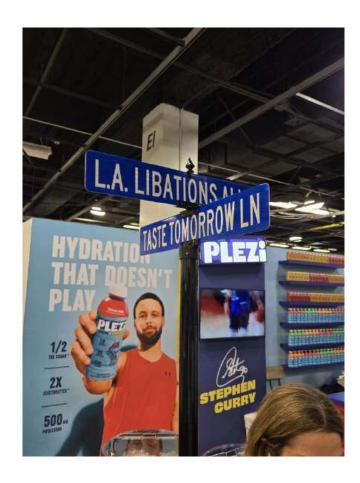




ENHANCED BEVERAGES EVERYWHERE. LARGEST GROWTH SEGMENT

From Mocktails to Super Hydration, even had its own area







MORE JERKY AND PEPPERETTES AND A LINE OF ALL FRUIT/ HEALTHY SNACKS







ALL FRUIT LEATHERS, SOFTER TEXTURE WITH GREAT FLAVOUR

Another enhanced beverage, really being "pushed" by Show Team







ANOTHER ENHANCED BEVERAGE, HEALTHY SHOTS AND DRINKS

Making claims you can't in Canada

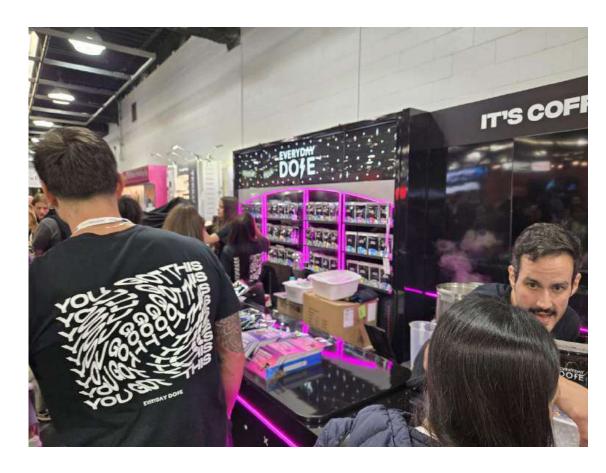






MORE ENHANCED DRINKS

Mushroom coffee caffeine drink with lasting energy and focus and sparkling tea with adaptogens

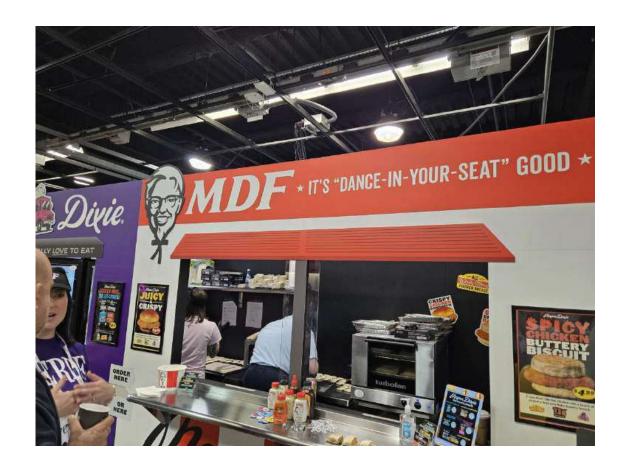






BREADED CHICKEN PRODUCTS WITH QUESTIONABLE BRANDING

Huge crowds and high temperatures about 35 degrees in this room



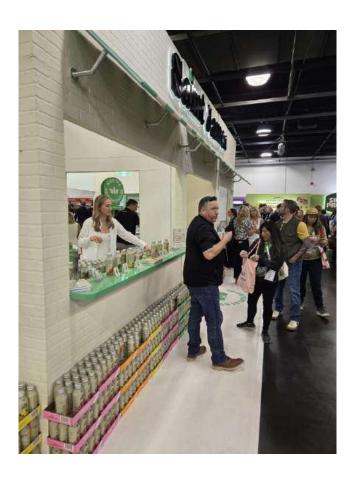




DON'T DISCOUNT CHUCK NORRIS TO SELL BOTTLED ARTESIAN WATER

Or high end booth to sell enhanced teas







ANOTHER MORNING WELLNESS SHOT, LIKE SMELLING SALTS IN A DRINK

Flavoured pork rinds and pork croutons







SPARKLING WATER AND VITAMIN BLEND TARGETING YOUNG ADULTS

We didn't get to try the Caribbean Vietnamese Hot Sauce, interesting mashup

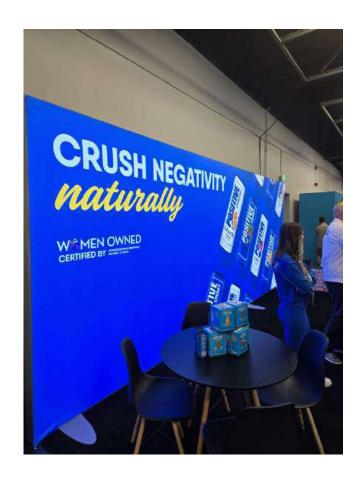






POSITIVE WATERS AND A WOMEN OWNED BOOTH THAT WASN'T PINK!

And a product line with patented bubbles, clean ingredients and natural energy







MORE ENHANCED TEAS WITH GOOD FLAVOURS AND MESSAGE

Smoked butters were fantastic tasting







SANDWICHES MADE WITH CHEESE SLICES AND A MEAT SLICE

Various meats and cheese combos







FREEZE DRIED SALSA KITS, JUST ADD WATER AND STIR

Really really good and easy to transport and ship



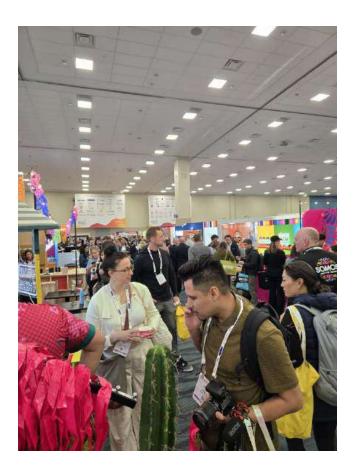




MEXICAN DRIED FRUITS VERY REAL TASTING AND GREAT BRANDING

Busy row, both sides, of just Mexican foods







BAKED MESQUITE BARS THAT TASTED JUST LIKE CHOCOLATE BARS

Really really good and very different

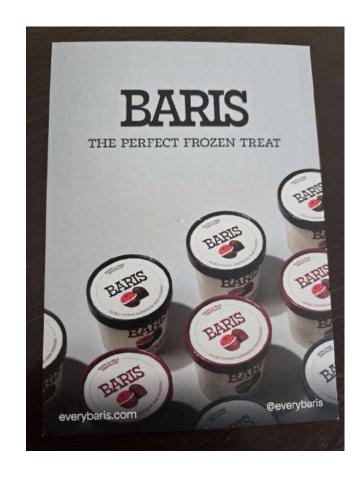






EXCELLENT ICE CREAM, EXTREMELY FLAVOURFUL

Very clean packaging







GREAT FLAVOURS, DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT







FLAVOURED BUTTERS TARGETING INDUSTRIAL USAGE







BREADFRUIT CRACKERS AND REALLY GOOD FRUIT JERKY, FULL OF FLAVOUR







GRANOLA BARS THAT TASTE GOOD AND HAVE A GREAT TEXTURE

Very handy product attributes







BARBIE BREAKS INTO BARS







HEALTHY SNACKING IS ALWAYS A LARGE CATEGORY

These tasted very natural and fresh







THE SEASONE BLACK SESAME SEED PASTE, INTERESTING TASTE

A sharper sesame flavour and very black product colour





FINALLY COLD COFFEE MADE FROM MUSHROOMS, CHAI AND COCOA

No caffeine, great taste





MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM EXPO WEST

Great Show to Attend

- Substantial growth and renewed focus on enhanced beverages
- Substantial drop in products containing CBD and alcohols
- More meat products every year, mostly snack foods
- Increase in ingredient companies and wide range of product offerings
- Major drop in veggie products. Steady decrease over last 4 years
- Reduction in baked goods (cookies, cakes, breads) Great to have the SCIFT Table Top the day the

- A lot more Mexican influenced products and vendors
- Snack foods were everywhere, but were either organic versions of traditional products or new healthier versions
- Event was better organized and the crowds only affected movement down rows
- Reduced number of Canadian companies exhibiting and walking the show. Price tag of \$3,500 USF may have a lot to do with it
- Great to have the SCIFT Table Top the day the show opened. Excellent event as well.



WHY SHOULD YOU WORK WITH HELA SPICE?

- Over 50 years of experience in the North American Food Marketplace
- R&D Team experienced in many different product categories
- Capable of supplying Organic, Natural, Clean Label and Traditional product blends and ingredients
- Experienced in Canadian and US Regulatory Areas
- Ability to create products based on customers' ideas
- Ability to bring new product ideas and fully developed concepts for customer review
- Real plant production experience that enables Hela Spice to create an easy to produce system of blends and raw materials including processing instructions, to make processing simple for companies
- We can adapt procedures to best utilize available plant processing equipment



Contact us for further information. Many more concepts available.

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WE ARE HERE TO HELP

