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(54) **Method and apparatus for the treatment of wheat kernels.**

(57) Significant improvements to the milling of wheat kernels are possible by sequentially removing the bran layers of the kernels prior to processing in general accordance with conventional milling principles. The wheat kernels are preprocessed by means of a number of friction and abrasion operations to peel or strip the various layers of bran from the kernels. A series of friction machines (208,215,218) followed by abrasion machines (224,230) progressively remove the bran layers and separate the same into generally pre-identified bran layer mixtures. Up to about 75% of the bran can be removed with the remaining bran being essentially confined to the kernel crease and removed during the conventional milling operation. Such preprocessed kernels, when milled in the conventional manner, have higher yields due to less bran contamination. This selective removal of the bran layers also facilitates low cost production of speciality bran products or selective reintroduction of bran layers to flour after, or during, further milling.

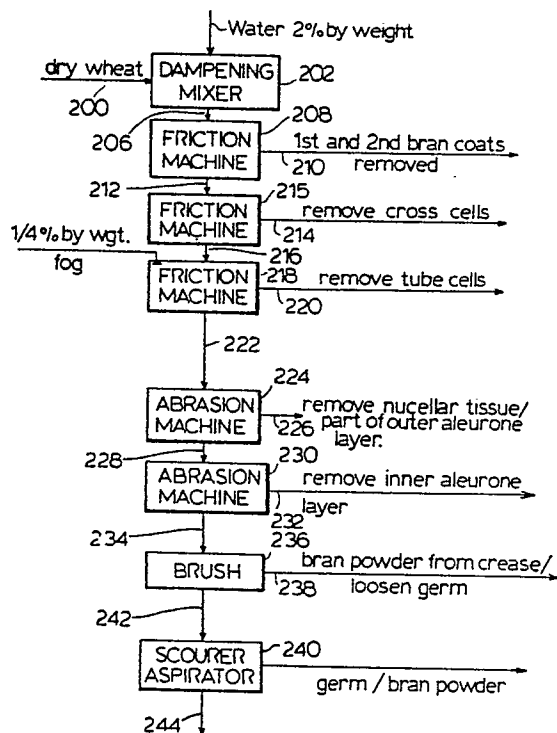


FIG.1.

EP 0 295 774 A3



EP 88 30 3769

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	FR-A- 778 710 (DERMY) * Page 1, lines 18-35; page 2, lines 63-95 *	1	B 02 B 3/04 B 02 B 3/00
A	---	5,14,16-20	
X	DE-A-2 803 527 (SATAKE ENGINEERING CO. LTD) * Page 6, paragraph 3; page 9, paragraph 1 *	1	
A	---	2,5,14,16-20	
A	EP-A-0 218 012 (SATAKE ENGINEERING CO. LTD) * Column 6, line 32 - column 7, line 30 *	1-3,5-9,14,16-23	
A	CH-A- 640 750 (GEBRÜDER BÜHLER AG) * Abstract; page 5, left-hand column, lines 33-58 *	1-5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 02 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 04-08-1989	Examiner OECHSNER DE CONINCK S.P.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			