

PC Methods Helps Allied Blending Spice up their Software Solution

The Challenge

Allied Blending's lot tracing process was slowing down production as it was manual. Their accounting system was a good program but they needed it to be personalized to meet their food manufacturing business requirements.

The Solution

PC Methods fixed automated the lot traceability process and upgraded Allied Blending's system to the newest version of Sage Pro for even greater efficiency.

The Result

Allied Blending is saving an estimated 30% of their time with a 1-click PO receipt, automated lot tracing process and far less steps with their Accounts Receivables.

Allied Blending & Ingredients (ABI) is a multi-dimensional manufacturing enterprise dealing in proprietary, value-added food blends and a widely diverse range of ingredients. With over 25 years of experience ABI manufactures ingredients used in making many of the foods consumed in our country. Joe Landis, Systems Administrator for Allied Blending explains, : "You probably eat one of our products once a week and don't even realize it because we are at the very beginning of the manufacturing process. One of our most popular products, called Free Flow™, is used in the manufacturing process of shredded cheese, and another popular product is a BatchPak™, used in the tortilla industry."



Allied Blending & Ingredients headquarters is located in Keokuk, Iowa and they also have a manufacturing facility in Bell, CA and a warehousing facility in Garland, TX. From these three locations they provide first step ingredients to secondary manufacturers across the United States as well as in Europe.

The Missing Ingredient to a Great System

As a food manufacturer, Allied Blending must follow very specific rules in order to comply with government regulations – ensuring the safety and quality of the foods they produce. Allied Blending was using an out-of-the-box software application made for manufacturing companies called Sage Pro. The only challenge was that this application wasn't specific to the food industry and therefore didn't quite meet all of ABI's requirements.

Joe comments, "Sage Pro is great because all different kinds of companies can use it. From manufacturing businesses that assemble bikes, cars, clocks or food – it will work for their industry. However we needed to get a little bit more functionality out of it to meet the Food Process Manufacturing requirements. For example, 'lot tracing' is imperative to our business as we track every raw material 'lot' that comes into our facilities. Our lab tests each one to make sure it meets the specifications for food manufacturing ensuring the proper quality assurance. The Sage Pro system had an 8 character restriction for lot tracking numbers which worked, but if we happened to have a longer number – we'd then have to do our tracking in Excel, which led to double data entry and was becoming tedious as we were experiencing significant growth."

With a desire to help their employees work smarter, as well as save time and



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Company Profile

Industry

Food Manufacturer

Headquarters

Keokuk, IA

Other Locations

Bell, CA

Garland, TX

System Profile

Sage Pro

System Manager

Accounts Payable

Accounts Receivable

Inventory Control

Purchase Orders

Bills of Lading

Sales Orders

Work Orders

Production Entry

Shop Control

Pro Alert



reduce duplicate data entry and the inevitable typos that come with it, they looked to the Sage website for help.” It was there that Allied Blending found several different software partners, and they ended up choosing PC Methods. Of their decision Joe reflects, “We chose PC Methods because of their expertise Sage Pro and Food Manufacturing. They also provided the best pricing and could accomplish what we needed within our timeframe.”

The Right ‘System’ Blend Provides a 30% Savings

PC Methods got to work right away, fixing the lot traceability issues and upgrading Allied Blending’s system to the newest version of Sage Pro. As a manufacturing company – Allied Blending couldn’t simply ‘stop work’ to upgrade their system and therefore needed to do it on a weekend. “The team at PC Methods had no problem with working around our schedule. They came in, performed a large system upgrade, and installed the modifications in one day – giving us zero downtime! I don’t know too many companies that would do that – they really went above and beyond.”

Allied Blending is now operating efficiently and saving time and money thanks to PC Methods. With a newer version of Sage Pro, Allied Blending has a 1-click PO receipt which makes their shipping and receiving departments much more efficient. Not to mention their Accounts Receivable department now has far less steps when posting cash. PC Methods was able to modify screens to handle the larger lot numbers, and Joe estimates that they’re saving about 30% of time previously spent doing things the hard way. With a customized software solution to meet Allied Blending’s specific requirements, they are providing better quality overall. Joe concludes, “If you’re looking a solution provider to help you – PC Methods can make Sage Pro do anything you need it to do - whether you’re in food manufacturing or making mouse traps – and all for a great price!”

About Precision Computer Methods



Precision Computer Methods, Inc. was founded on the following principles. We exist as a company to build long-term relationships for the mutual benefit of our customers, our vendors and our employees. We sell systems that work for your business. We design and build the best software systems in the world--quality never goes out of style. Best means value as well as engineering quality. We won't sell you a jackhammer when a tack hammer will work just as well. We believe in and care about our employees - and we expect a lot out of them. We are committed to continued career growth for our employees consistent with business reality and consistent with serving our customers and vendors. We believe in and care about our vendors - and we expect a lot out of them in return for our business and the fact that we will try to help them do the job we want them to do for us. These beliefs have served our company since its founding and continue to be the principles that govern our business.