

turning knowledge into solutions

AB Produce flying high with first class procedures

AB Produce is developing first class procedures thanks to help from Food Processing Faraday and the Food and Drink Forum, building on their successful collaboration from the CHIEFS project (Championing Innovation between the Engineering and Food Sectors).

AB Produce is a medium sized company who produce vegetables, mainly potatoes, for retail, food service and wholesale markets. Successful increase in production volumes they have enjoyed recently has severely stretched their current resources and procedures. They are considering further expansion to the site in the future but firstly need to install the correct process flows and 'value stream' production into their current operation.

Through an Innovation Support Grant (ISG) AB Produce were able to access the expertise of the Faraday's Innovation Consultant David Walklate and the Forum's Manufacturing Innovation Manager Emma Swinscoe. Their experience enabled him to deliver a plan to improve process flows, control and efficiency with the 'prep' area of the factory. This would mean AB Produce could then grow on solid foundations.

The team were tasked with clearly defining short term improvements that can be readily implemented and to give direction for medium and long term aims and actions. From their time within the company David and Emma identified the following recommendations:

- New simplified control documentation including 'late customisation'
- Pareto analysis of the product catalogue
- Short term machinery improvement and layout changes
- Standard Operating Procedure's and CI recommendation
- Process flow change
- Suggestions on automation and semi automation

David said 'The project involved mapping the current operations, the process flow and order systems. We used value stream mapping, physical movement maps and pareto analysis to develop short, medium and long term solutions to allow AB Produce to reach world class processes.'

Martin McQuaide, Operations Manager at AB Produce, states 'David and Emma fired the enthusiasm of my team considerably, and they are all looking forward to resolving the work flow issues, and adopting the suggestions made. Their approach to the task, and the way they interacted with my staff, bringing them on board, was impressive, and I would have no hesitation in recommending their work to others.'



To know more about how your company can benefit through innovation support from Food Processing Faraday contact enquiries@fpfaraday.com or telephone 01664 420066

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