

Live Data Analysis

DBCSMARTSOFT ALLOWS STAR MILLING TO MONITOR PRODUCTION AS IT HAPPENS

Since going live with dbcSMARTsoft in June, Star Milling Company, Perris, CA, has been able to keep closer track of its feed manufacturing operations and processes, says Lynda McNaughton, the company's controller.

"We're more live with data now," McNaughton says.

She adds that the software allows the company to monitor profitability margins for each and every invoice. This is particularly important as the southern California company produces nearly 400 different animal feed products, for a total of 140,000 tons of feed each year.

Current Owner Bill Cramer has operated Star Milling for 10 years. The company, founded in 1949, manufactures bulk and bagged feed. The majority of the bulk feed is sold to poultry and fish operations.

Tested for Feed Mill Applications

Prior to going live with the software, Star Milling spent several



Star Milling Co. IT Manager and Inventory Manager Greg Carls and Controller Lynda McNaughton.

months testing it.

Greg Carls, the company's IT and inventory manager, was instrumental in testing dbcSMARTsoft for feed milling applications. He says he has been pleased with how smoothly it has worked over the past few months. Traditionally, the software has been used by grain elevators for grain accounting purposes.

"With dbcSMARTsoft, it's now a lot easier to see where we have variance in our inventory," Carls says. He adds that he

can easily drill down to original orders by using the software's flexible query function.

Quick Response Capabilities

Because the software uses a Windows-based platform, Carls can keep both query and detail windows open at the same time, making monitoring much easier than with the UNIX-based platform Star Milling had used previously. Carls explains that the old system could only keep one screen open at a time.

McNaughton likes the ability to query data and download it into an Excel spreadsheet. She can generate a cash report every day, and the accounts payable and accounts receivable reporting functions are easy to balance. She can also make a PDF version of the reports and e-mail them.

"We've been able to keep tighter control of gross margins using the software," McNaughton says.

For example, if an invoice shows a low profit margin, management can quickly remedy the problem.

Feed Milling Company

Star Milling Company

Perris, CA

951-657-3143

www.starmilling.com

- Bill Cramer, President
- John Fiero, Plant Manager
- Missy Morrison, Warehouse Manager
- Greg Carls, IT Manager and Inventory Manager
- Lynda McNaughton, Controller
- Keith Williams, Maintenance Manager

Founded: 1949

Annual volume: 140,000 tpy

Number of employees: 82

Services: Feed milling, sales, and customized feed.

Software Vendor



Kitchener, ON

800-361-2114

www.dbcsmartsoftware.com

Sherry Drutman, VP
North American Sales

Commodity Management Software: dbcSMARTsoft[®], GrainSMART[®], and HedgeSMART[®]

Operating Systems: Vista, MS Windows[™] 95-XP/NT, Citrix, Novell, Unix, terminal server.

dbcSMARTsoft Options: Complete financials; scale interfaces; inventory costing; bin management; production; sales order/invoice processing; sales analysis; and foreign exchange.