

FRESH MEAT WAREHOUSE GOES FROM MANUAL TO AUTOMATED - COSTS REDUCED BY OVER 50%



CARGILL MEAT SOLUTIONS (EXCEL BEEF) – FRIONA, TX

Cargill Meat Solutions, formerly Excel Corporation, specializes in beef processing for the consumer market. A global leader in the beef processing industry, they provide various grades of boxed beef products to both wholesale and retail distributors as well as to high-volume end users. The organization employs over 30,000 people in eight countries.

Background

The distribution center operations utilized a strictly manual operation, which was very labor intensive. The warehouse had no automation and was struggling with accuracy issues, high volumes of product damage and poor delivery. Order picking was paper driven and boxes were hand-stacked in trailers.

To stay competitive in today's marketplace, beef industries facilities often have the capability to ship anywhere in the range of 30,000 to 70,000 boxes a day. Doing that in a manual mode is extremely complicated. In addition, the company was often penalized for inaccurate shipments, which translates into lost revenues. In essence the facility had difficulty filling orders effectively or efficiently.

Cargill partnered with *RETROTECH* to automate its facility, based on past experiences

in Dodge City, KS. *RETROTECH*'s custom software, and competitive price were deciding factors in choosing an integrator. *RETROTECH*'s system partner, Cisco Eagle of Dallas, delivered the extensive box conveyor system. The conveyor system represents well over 1000 lineal feet of Hytrol conveyor, specified by Cisco Eagle to meet the rugged requirements of handling beef boxes. *RETROTECH* selected ViaStore mini-load SR Machines to deliver the very high through put needs of the box buffer.

Highlights of the Operation

- Flows charts were used to create a successful design.
- Inbound flow, product mix, capacity, number of boxes stored, number of boxes shipped; average throughput were analyzed.
- Specific order fulfillment needs were analyzed; fresh beef is a short turnaround item, therefore time-based performance matching products to orders and shipping is a critical element in order fulfillment.
- Distinctiveness of the system includes boxes being transported through a 650 ft. skyway from processing to a box storage and order delivery system.

Benefits of the *RETROTECH* Solution

- Shipping costs dramatically reduced.
- Material handling software allows the distribution center to drop orders from the corporate headquarters.
- Box orders to the dock are all fully automated, in sequence, without any manual intervention.
- 100% trace ability, any box at any time.
- AS/RS has storage capacity of 78,400 cartons translating to 9 million lbs of beef.
- Distribution center can receive boxes from production at over 40 boxes/minute and ship 40

RETROTECH, Inc.

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boxes/minute out in order to achieve its peak operating goals.

- Simultaneous, real time visibility of production, customer orders and inventory, allowing shipping managers to optimize orders for freshness, accuracy, and profits.

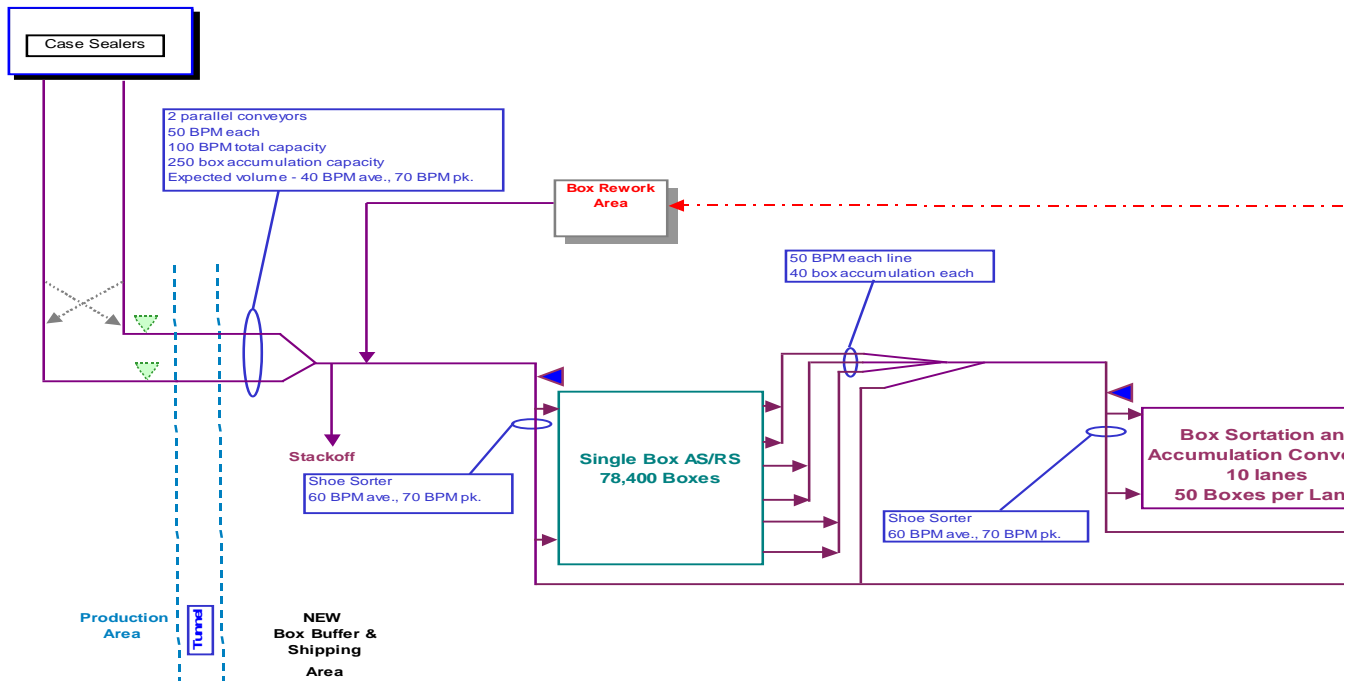
RETROTECH Advantage

RETROTECH provided Cargill with solutions that met and in certain areas exceeded their goals. The company is now efficiently and effectively storing, loading and shipping products in real time and Inventory is accurate. RETROTECH custom WMS and material tracking and control software allows each shipment to be filled accurately and on time. The software is focused on meat industries issues for freshness, transportation, sequence of boxes to palletizers and extendible conveyors, and 100% trace ability of products. Employee

safety has been improved as a result of reduced handling of boxes.

This distribution automation not only supports Cargill current business but also creates a strategic advantage in today's competitive marketplace.

The distribution center represents a profitable investment in processing plant distribution Cargill Meat Solutions has made using RETROTECH'S design and implementation skills.



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