



Predicting production requirements is a piece of cake for Creekside Custom Foods

Executive Summary: Creekside Custom Foods uses ProcessModeler simulation software to optimize production processes

Problem:

Creekside Custom Foods was in a period of rapid growth with continually increasing production volumes of existing product lines and new product lines being introduced at a consistent pace. As well their own name brands, Creekside Custom Foods is producing a number of third-party name brands under contract, each with increasing volumes and demands.

Along with the increased production comes an increased demand on the existing resources and infrastructure. Some, but not all, product lines have undergone changes to the production methods. Staff levels have also increased to accommodate the increased production levels.

Implications:

Production volumes are approaching critical numbers under current infrastructure. Increasing the staff levels have solved some, but not all, of the problems associated with the rapid growth. Unless new production methods are tested and utilized, Creekside Custom Foods may be unable to grow and new contracts may be lost. Each increase in staff must be justified in terms of productivity due to pressure from their parent company.

Solution:

- Analyze and model each production process using ProcessModeler simulation software.
- Provide measurements for productivity, costs, cycle times, and resource allocation.
- Optimize current production processes under each measurement.
- Suggest new production methods and test against current methods using simulation.

Key Findings:

- Observed and documented the processes for producing three different product lines.
- Modeled each process using ProcessModeler.
- Used ProcessModeler to optimize key production methods using production rates and productivity as objectives.
- Identified opportunities to reduce costs by improving utilization of existing equipment and labor.
- Identified capacity increases using more effective production methods for certain product lines, and better utilization of staff for others.

Outcome:

Creekside Custom Foods has been able to reduce their overhead costs due to a better utilization of their equipment.

Despite increased staff levels, productivity has increased by 11% with increased output volumes as high as 125%.

Bottlenecks in production have been eliminated allowing for optimal production rates.

The need to shift to different production methods as volumes increase has been identified, and alternative methods have been tested and justified.



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