



MAXIMIZE INVENTORY VISIBILITY & CONTROL.

Effective inventory management is critical to the economics of efficient protein processing and distribution operations.

Maintaining the right amount of stock is critical to meeting customer demands. But it's not as easy as just having extra stock on hand. Over-purchasing stock can tie up valuable cash resources, incur warehousing expenses, and create losses on items with sell-by restrictions.

Do you know *exactly* what's in your cooler right now? Most importantly, do you know how much it's worth right now? How much it was worth 2 days ago, or will be worth tomorrow?

Provisions enterprise resource planning (ERP) software is an on-demand, turnkey business management solution for protein processors and distributors that want to work more productively, reduce operating costs and consistently meet their customers' requirements for fresh, high-quality products.

Provisions' inventory control and warehouse management system (WMS) tracks inventory from the time raw materials arrive to the shipping of finished goods. This fully integrated solution reduces stock level requirements, lowers warehousing costs and decreases expenses for tasks such as picking, packing, warehouse transfers, physical inventory, and shipping of product based on better understanding of stock movement.

In addition, the software improves inventory visibility. Managers can view inventory information in multiple warehouse locations in real-time and quickly determine what's been purchased, what's been sold, where product is, who needs it, and when you can get it. Sales reps can use Provisions' convenient Inventory Inquiry Lookup to display the date of receipt of all products, production date, how long the product has been at that location in inventory and more.

It Starts with Serialized Lot Tracking

With Provisions, you always know exactly which vendor provided you with a product, which customer took delivery of it, what you have on hand and where it's located in the freezer or warehouse.

Provisions assigns a unique number to all product as it's received into inventory. The lot number is associated with the lot number of the original purchase order, and is contained in a barcode that can be scanned to track inventory movement, be it assigned to a new location, a customer's order or to a production work order.



Provisions simplifies lot tracking through production and accurately accounts for processed inventory. The software provides raw material yields and calculates exact costs for finished product, and our sales team always has access to processed inventory so they know exactly what is available for sale—even before raw material is received.

John Kinnealey, President
T.F. Kinnealey

In addition to the lot number, barcodes can include production location, pack weight and date, inspection, vendor information, PO, expiration date and other information.

Product can be transferred from inventory to production by simply scanning the inventory bar code label and transferring the product to a work order or production location. To maintain full traceability, the production order generates new lot numbers for the finished products that in turn are linked back to the original product number, again, via a unique bar code label. The software maintains a digital record of the original lot number, even for items that go through multiple production processes and have new item numbers subsequently assigned to them.

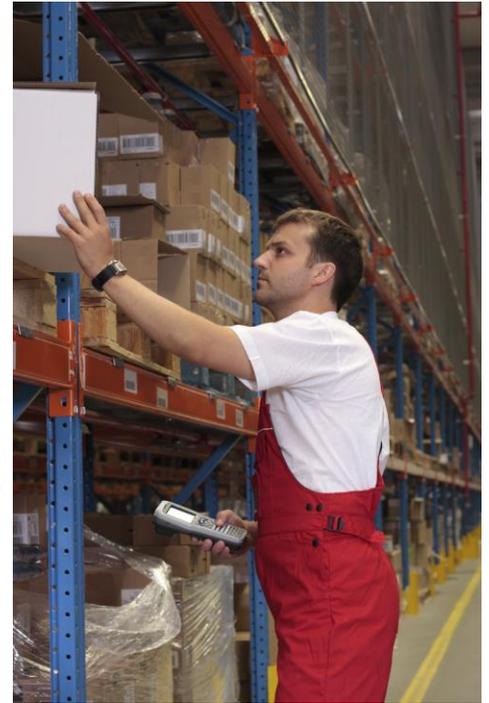


Provisions' inventory replenishment ensures you always have product on hand to fill anticipated orders, while keeping excess stock to a minimum. The software alerts you when it's most advantageous to re-order stock. Average lead time, historical or seasonal-based sales, and number of days' supply to stock can be used to dynamically set reorder point and preferred stock level for each item.

Save Time and Increase Efficiency with Barcodes

Wireless, hand-held bar code scanners throughout the warehouse, freezer and other areas of the facility let you scan product to track inventory movement to a new location, a customer order or to a production work order or location. Warehouse personnel simply scan the inventory barcode to transfer product to various work cutting stations and other work centers. The software automatically alerts pickers if there are more aged options for a particular product.

Using barcodes allows you to process your inventory much faster than any other manual method. Think of the length of most universal product codes (UPCs), which are 12 characters or more. You could type those numbers into your system, or you could activate a scanner with one press of your finger and have the computer do the typing for you. All of those saved keystrokes add up to a surprising amount of extra time for you to do other things for your business. Barcode scanning can also significantly reduce errors created by manual entry of information.



In addition, an integrated, barcode-enabled inventory control solution will help your company avoid growing pains as you add more products. As your inventory expands, this system builds scalability into your business, meaning the barcode system will work the same, regardless of whether you have one item, 100 items, or 10,000 items.

Understand Your Yields

To replenish inventory, you need to periodically order, or create more inventory. This can be done by ordering sub-primals and producing the cuts that those pieces typically yield, or managing several different process steps to create more inventory.

No matter how simplistic or complex the process, yield is a driving factor in how you will produce, and price, the finished product. How do you value your bi-products? How do you track your yield? How do you price labor? To what extent does the finished product price factor in these finer points of yields?



Actual yields vary depending upon a number of variables, including the size of the primary product (larger animals generally have a better yield), season, sex of the animal, and the skill of the cutter. However, with profit margins under pressure, it only takes small deviations in yield before black figures turn into red.

Provisions' flexible yield management and costing capabilities can increase your profits. You can monitor yield, in real-time, for individual processing lines and react quickly should the actual yield deviate from the expected. In addition, you can use all data capture processes to set up different yield control points that combine the various aspects of the production process in different ways.

Provisions supports a wide range of scales for data capture and includes a user-friendly control screen that lets you manage the system and view status in real time. Data from the entire production process can be viewed in reports or accessed on system screens.

Sophisticated Costing Capabilities Built-In

Costing and pricing your goods are essential to maintaining a profitable food distribution and processing business.

Provisions automatically calculates exact costs for finished goods and supports cost-plus pricing, so you can factor in labor, packaging, delivery costs and other charges so you can set strategic prices that are both attractive to customers and increase your profit margins. The software also provides a detailed audit trail so you can quickly demonstrate your true costs and margins. In addition, you can centralize standard and actual costs so price changes can be applied quickly to lot finished products, and bill of materials roll-up allows for quick re-pricing and costing.



By-Product Costing, Tracking and Production

Provisions' costing capabilities increase profitability by providing up-to-date cost information that can be used in product pricing strategies. In many meat processing organizations, by-products are typically assigned a market value and costs are applied to multiple products. With Provisions, by-product item costing can be based on the actual weight of the by-product rather than a standardized cost. By capturing and analyzing the actual versus standard or estimated costs for by-products, our clients are able to make better pricing decisions.



Respond Quickly to Food Safety Issues

Provisions' serialized lot control saves considerable time in the event of a food safety recall by quickly identifying the source and age of any product back to the received incoming material. A detailed Recall Report traces the supplier, inventory in-stock, products manufactured, and customers for any final product. This capability is important for actual recall events, as well as performing mock recalls and verification of traceability for third-party audits and certifications (e.g., organic certification).

Ready to get serious about inventory control?

Contact Jim Levy at (800) 422-4782 or jlevy@caisoft.com.



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