



Turning Grapes into Wine

How one vineyard stomped out manual processes in favor of technology

Summary

Producing food and beverage products can be challenging. Food safety regulations, maintaining compliance, and product shelf-life all rely on efficient systems to keep everything in check. See how this producer gave their processes a boost with an automated data collection solution.

About Scheid Family Wines

Scheid Family Wines (Scheid) has farmed wine grapes in Monterey County, California since 1972. With 4,000 acres of sustainably certified vineyards located along a 70-mile spread of the Salinas Valley and a state-of-the-art winery, Scheid is fully integrated to bring high quality estate grown wines to the marketplace.

Situation

Scheid implemented a warehouse management software (WMS) solution called ACE Warehousing to improve tracking and real-time inventory of raw and finished goods. To track production materials and output through bar coding, Justin Perino, General Manager Finished Goods Operations, needed to integrate mobile computing and printing solutions to support their bottling and warehouse operations.



Challenge

To avoid non-compliance and be able to follow food safety guidelines and requirements more easily, Scheid needed to implement the right technology to efficiently track, trace and control production output.

Workflows: With multiple bottling lines and varying employee skill levels, quickly and efficiently streamlining workflows with a solution that can stand up to the rigors of a fast-paced, multi-user plant was important.

Visibility: Scheid lacked real-time inventory visibility. Tracking raw materials and finished goods left procurement to risk overbuying or running out of materials and selling was difficult when new products launched.

Occasional mock recalls from retailers required Scheid to collect data and respond within 2 hours. “With paperwork being filled out by multiple people for each line, it was a challenge to complete quickly,” said Perino. “Interpreting the data and then entering it into the system left room for errors,” he added.

What is ACE Warehousing?

Embedded in Microsoft Dynamics NAV, ACE Warehousing enhances NAV WMS, providing mobile, real-time, access with improved control. For Scheid, their goal was to use ACE to improve worker productivity and inventory accuracy.



Solution

Barcom recommended mobile computing devices as well as bar code label printers to replace manual processes. Workers could be more productive using features like image capture without having to manage more than one device, and the flexibility of bar code automation allowed them to mine the system for exactly the information they needed. Here's what they selected:

Honeywell CK75 Handheld Computer

The CK75 mobile computer is ideal for their tough environment. It enables employees to get more done at the point-of-work without compromising accuracy. Lightweight and designed to fit comfortably in the hand, the CK75 meets the needs of Scheid's diverse workforce.



Zebra GK420 Desktop Label Printer

For on-demand label printing, the compact size of the GK420 makes it easy to install units in various locations around the plant to print pallet tags for both incoming and outgoing shipments. Also used for inbound shipments (like glass bottles), workers simply print a label on demand, without disrupting workflows, when one is missing or has fallen off the shipment.



Scheid Family Wines produces over 20 regionally distributed brands for specific clients or distributors. For more information please visit www.scheidfamilywines.com.



Results

With this new system in place, efficiency has improved greatly:

Lot Tracking: Scheid can now track location of materials like corks, screw caps or glass down to a 10 to 15-minute window; including when they were added to the production line.

Real-time Inventory Accuracy: Greater visibility into dry goods inventories, with tighter controls on materials needed in advance of bottling. Sales can now see when new products are coming off the production line, enabling shorter sales cycles. Inventory accuracy for finished products improved to 99.9%.

Food Safety Requirements: Having an automated data collection solution allowed them to maintain a successful record of compliance and traceability.

"The system has provided great value to our operation and customers," said Perino. "We anticipated this type of investment would show returns immediately, which was spot on," he added. A couple of factors helped Scheid meet their ROI goal:

1. The ability to effectively manage both dry goods and finished goods.
2. Inventory management is easier now, so they aren't buying material they don't need.

"Barcom made it very easy for our team," said Perino. "We trusted that they would provide us with the right equipment to make the transition from manual processes to automated solutions, and they did just that."



IS YOUR INVENTORY A CHALLENGE TO CONTROL?

Contact us today to find ways to streamline operating efficiencies throughout your warehouse. BARCOMINC.COM | [423-855-1822](tel:423-855-1822)