

NEWS RELEASE

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Process Improvements for Profitability and Safety

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Has your business slowed down in the 'new economy'? Now is the perfect time to make improvements that will help you prepare for the next wave of growth and improve the profitability of your operation.



Profitability: to help reduce industry wide cost and waste caused by product recalls, it is more important than ever to implement traceability procedures into your operation. More and more, companies are demanding proof of traceability of the products coming through your organization and into theirs.

How traceability works: Part of your receiving process is that when product arrives, it is identified in your system as to where it originated. You may potentially be combining this product with others (i.e., processing or packing) before selling and shipping to customers. In this case, keeping track of the product all the way through your operation is critical. That way, if there's ever a recall, when a customer or supplier notifies you of the item's lot number(s), you can quickly identify where it came from and where it went.

Consider the June 2008 tomato advisory that lasted nearly four weeks, warning that Canadian and U.S. consumers should avoid certain types of fresh tomatoes due to a potential connection to the Salmonella Saintpaul outbreak. If everyone involved had had traceability processes in place, the advisory would still have occurred, but it would have been resolved much faster and prevented the waste of tons of tomatoes. Speed of resolution contributes to profitability for produce businesses and confidence for consumers. Traceability for profitability and performance, regardless of company size, just makes good business sense.

F. Charles Waud is the President of WaudWare Incorporated, a software development company specializing in software for business. PICS (Produce Inventory Control System) and WebPICS were designed specifically for businesses small and large in the fast-paced produce and distribution industries. For more information call (905) 846-9737 or visit www.waudware.com

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