

WaudWare talks about its traceability and technology systems

By MELANIE RICHER

"A good inventory system should integrate a traceability component — it's the smart way to go," said Charles Waud, president of WaudWare, a software solutions company based in Brampton, ON.

WaudWare provides the produce industry with software solutions to effectively manage inventory and fulfillment issues, and that can lead to improved profitability and performance.

"Our software is a complete system you can run your entire business on, including inventory, accounting, traceability, costing, security and reporting — all the different pieces

someone in the produce industry would need," said Mr. Waud. "When you compare our Produce Inventory Control System with other generic packages, it's easy to see how specific our software is for the produce industry."

Mr. Waud understands the complexities faced by the produce industry. For more than 20 years, WaudWare has worked on mostly produce-specific technology software solutions. It currently has over 50 companies in the produce industry running its software. Mr. Waud has spent his entire working life in software solutions, first in the distribution of industrial supplies, where he received his grounding in

working with companies that buy and sell products, then in the produce industry. More than a profession, computers

not only provides traceability but also helps our customers figure out the true costs and ultimately profits.

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— Charles Waud

better that traceability be at the core of an inventory system rather than a separate entity that has to be integrated."

WaudWare is positioned as the leader in Canada on traceability software for the produce industry. The company sells, installs and supports the software it offers and stays up to date with ever-changing technologies to ensure it provides ongoing enhancements. WaudWare also provides IT support and consulting for customers that require it.

With the lightning speed at which technology advances, it can be a challenge to stay up to date with current and future practices — or with the produce industry itself. WaudWare ensures that it does just that by regularly reading industry periodicals, both produce and technology, and attending produce and programming conferences.

WaudWare also regularly brings in experts from various areas to train the team on its respective expertise.

"Networking and talking to customers and industry keeps us in the know on the issues and helps us understand where and how we can help," said Mr. Waud. "We will be at the CPMA show and are looking forward to providing demos and talking technology solutions while on site."

Training seminars offered by OPMA for quality controllers

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the three sessions: identifying how defects are scored, how to inspect fruit, and how to inspect vegetables.

The first session includes a look at how federal inspectors select samples from a load and how percentages of defects are determined.

The second session deals primarily with determining

maturity and ripeness of the product in helping decide whether a formal inspection is warranted. Specific commodities are examined, but many learnings would also apply to most fruit.

The final session devoted to vegetables includes taking a look at how to deal with defects that are within tolerance but affect the appearance of a commodity.

have been a passion for Mr. Waud since his early teens; he started programming at the age of 14.

Additionally, he is the past president of the Brampton Board of Trade and currently serves on the board of directors for the Ontario Produce Marketing Association.

"We have traceability at the core of our products and always have. We help keep track of where everything you have come from, what you did to it and where it got sold," he said.

"Our solutions are designed to be easy to navigate and they don't require any extra work beyond running inventory through a business," he noted.

"Traceability is crucial in the event of a food-safety recall," said Mr. Waud. "PICS software

"Traceability has been a foundational component of PICS software since day one," he said. "When the Produce Traceability Initiative was launched, I realized that standards for the industry would likely be developed. So I joined the technology committee to learn about these standards and assist with defining best practices for the industry that we can then pass on to our customers."

"From what I observe, companies in Canada that are dealing with the U.S. are further along in their implementation of PTI. The slower start to join PTI in Canada may be because it doesn't appear that there is as much pressure from government or Canadian retailers at the present time. This may change," said Mr. Waud. "It's



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