

NEWS RELEASE



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For immediate release

FOOD MANUFACTURERS GET LEAN WITH HELP FROM THE LEAN LEARNING CENTER

Novi, Mich., March 29, 2004 – The food industry is taking advantage of lean manufacturing, long recognized as a successful strategy for improving processes in the automotive sector. Companies like snack food manufacturer Wise Foods (Atlanta, Georgia), dairy producer Land O' Lakes (Minneapolis) and poultry processor Simmons Foods (Siloam Springs, Ark.) have taken advantage of the lean services offered by the Lean Learning Center, a provider of lean curriculum, and affiliate company Achievement Dynamics (ADI), a nationally recognized lean consulting firm.

Wise Foods documented a \$500,000 savings within three months after working with the Lean Learning Center and ADI. Specific improvements that Wise recognized included the solving of a persistent quality problem. By studying the problem at its most basic level through a kaizen, the company was able to eliminate it through a \$50 investment. Wise also was able to let go of the lease on a second warehouse due to better inventory control. After only a year of lean implementation, Wise achieved a net cost reduction of \$2.2 million.

Incorporating the principles and practices of lean systems, services offered by the companies are designed to streamline processes, improve food quality, eliminate waste and increase productivity throughout the food manufacturing enterprise. A few areas that can be targeted for process improvements include:

- Reduction in changeover/cleanout time

- Reduction in SKUs
- Plant consolidations
- Warehouse reorganization and consolidation
- Packaging waste reduction
- Processing waste reduction
- Line design and implementation
- Order entry efficiencies
- Product launch cycle time reduction
- Capacity analysis, generation and/or allocation

Using proven principles and practices of lean manufacturing, organizational development, human resource development and process improvement, the Lean Learning Center and Achievement Dynamics partner with their client organizations to deliver sustainable operational performance improvement. The companies provide a full complement of lean transformation services for a broad range of industries including aerospace, automotive, healthcare, communications, public utilities, retail and more. For more information, visit www.leanlearningcenter.com.

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