

Bullish future



A leading global exporter of fresh fruit, food products and wine from South Africa, the AfriFresh Group has acquired extensive farmland throughout South Africa to influence quality and consistent supply control for its global customers. Despite the recession, the company is expanding and according to new development director Roy Fine, it has the vision, passion and expertise to cope with challenges ahead.

Founded in 1992 as an import business to supply retailers with out of season fruit, the company today is one of the top five South African fruit exporters. It continues to specialise in the export of grapes and citrus while developing its apple and pear business. With its head office in Cape Town, AfriFresh employs more than 2 000 people.



Fine said, "We currently have numerous pack houses and around 20 farms with a total area of more than 32 000 hectares. The EU represents 40% of our total volume. Other export markets include Asia, Russia and the Middle East."

The group also exports many renowned South African FMCG food lines through its food business, Berfin. These brands



comprise among others Mrs Ball's Chutney and the Ina Paarman range. African Pride Wines, the group's wine business, exports around 300 000 cases of wine to more than 30 countries under the brands 'Footprint', 'Cape Grace' and 'Lady Anne Barnard'. Other well-known South African wine brands are distributed in selected markets.

Fine explained that one of the key strengths of AfriFresh was its long history in the fresh produce industry, which has resulted in a passion for farming and working with producers. "As part of our innovation drive, we're intent on being leaders in new fruit varieties, as well as improving our packaging and shipping procedures."

He confirmed that AfriFresh continually sought to work with additional people and groups who could add value to the business and assist with its expansion plans, while meeting critical issues around food security.

Making strides

Ringed in 2010 for Prophet SA are two new clients for its Prophet QX system.

- For more than 20 years, Damco has been providing customers with transportation and logistics solutions wherever they are in the world. From single shipments to integrated supply chain management, the company does it all. Today, it's ranked as one of the world's leading providers of freight forwarding and supply chain management services.



With 270 offices throughout the world and a staff of 10 500 logistics professionals, Damco moves volumes of more than 2.5 million TEUs and over 60 000 tonnes of air freight annually. Customers include many of the world's largest companies that boast some of the most advanced supply chains.

- The Farmsecure Group contracts farmers throughout Southern Africa to grow produce on its behalf and provides structured working capital and risk mitigation services for the grain, oilseed, livestock and fruit sectors. Through its technology division the group also trades and distributes crop inputs such as fertiliser and herbicides, manufactures fertiliser and de-salinates irrigation water.



Getting fruity

The Prophet team was out in force at Fruit Logistica 2010, the leading trade fair for the international fresh produce trade. Held in Messe, Berlin from 3 - 5 February, the show attracted 2,283 exhibitors and more than 50 000 trade visitors. Prophet director JD van Wyk was extremely pleased about the excellent networking opportunity and foresaw a great improvement for the fresh produce sector in 2010.



1. Paul Stofberg, MD Prophet SA; Deleria Smit, director ZIBO; Freek Dreyer, director Umlimi; and Marius Denton, GoReefers. 2. L to r: Dawie Kok, DAMCO; Chris Baard, DAMCO; and JD van Wyk, Prophet SA.

Data - PROTECT IT!!

- by Frikkie Burger



SQL Server is a highly capable database in terms of storage capacity and performance. It can be used successfully to manage large stores of data, providing a database management

system for anyone who needs it and can work with it properly.

No industry today can afford not to engage in an efficient data protection plan. To ensure safe and secure corporate data, a sound and wise investment in a backup and restoration strategy is required. If an organisation considers data important, then it should focus on data protection and be willing to bear the associated costs.

Database management is vital since it decides the importance of different results obtained in the past for improving future results.

Thus it can be seen that quality improvement is dependant in part on the quality and application of databases within an organisation.

To manage the database properly and keep it performing at an optimal level, routine tasks must be taken care of on the database. These routine tasks include SQL Server maintenance jobs that will not only keep the data and the engine performing at satisfactory levels, but also will keep the data backed up to mitigate a potential disaster.

The only way to be ready for a disaster is to plan ahead and ensure that the SQL Server maintenance plan and disaster recovery measures in place

will work. A good SQL Server maintenance plan can do wonders if planned correctly, implemented successfully and managed properly.

A Database Maintenance Plan is "a set of specific, proactive tasks that need to be performed regularly on databases to ensure their adequate performance and availability". There are many different maintenance plan types that will help in maintaining the integrity and performance of the database overall. They include plans such as: shrinking a database; backing up a database; performing an operator notification; updating database statistics; verifying the database integrity; cleaning up leftover maintenance files; executing a SQL



Server Agent job; executing a Transact-SQL statement; rebuilding an index; reorganising an index; and cleaning up database histories.

SQL Server contains two built-in tools to help with the process of creating a database maintenance plan. These tools exist in the SQL Server Management Studio and are known as the Maintenance Plan Wizard and the Maintenance Plan Designer. They ensure that the most critical maintenance tasks are included in the maintenance plans and performed on the database servers requiring management.

The Database Maintenance Plan Wizard relies on a graphic user interface to

give the user the ability to visually create and implement one or more jobs within SQL Server that will run under SQL Server Agent. These jobs can check the database integrity automatically, get rid of unused space within the database to increase performance, reorganise indexes and create backups of the database and transaction logs.

Found in SQL Server Management Studio, the Maintenance Plan Designer is a drag-and-drop graphic user interface. It allows manual design and creation of Maintenance Plans from scratch, or modifying Maintenance Plans originally created using the Maintenance Plan Wizard. The Maintenance Plan Designer offers more features than the Wizard and this, coupled with the

element of manual control, means you can create more comprehensive, flexible and customised Maintenance Plans than possible with the Wizard.

More advanced methods include the use of T-SQL scripts and PowerShell. T-SQL scripts run in combination with SQL Server Agent to perform database management.

They're extremely flexible when it comes to database maintenance. Another one of the more advanced methods of creating a maintenance plan involves using PowerShell scripts, which is Microsoft's latest command-line shell scripting language. It's much more complex and has better error handling.

Maintenance plans are essential and absolutely essential for organisations dependent on accurate and stable data. Take action now and put plans in place to ensure safe and protected data.

Source: SQL Server Maintenance Plans - Brad McGehee