

Time to gather again

Sporting a new format, Prophet's annual QX user group meeting will be held on 30 September. After focusing on user queries and suggestions, clients can discuss ways in which Prophet can make its system work even better during the morning session. After lunch, a technical workshop with users and systems champions will be held. Here, the focus will be on new key QX features.

All QX clients will be invited, but please contact the Prophet office for further information.



Managing info the RF way

Being at the forefront of managing information, Prophet is taking warehouse management to a new level of efficiency by incorporating RF solutions with existing management applications. Thus clients are able to track products within the warehouse and control materials movement and storage within their warehouse more accurately.



Prophet senior software developer Pieter Mouton explained, "The objective of our warehouse management system is to provide a set of computerised procedures. This will handle the receipt of stock and returns into our clients' warehouse facility, model and manage the logical representation of the physical storage facilities and manage the stock within the facility. Plus, the procedures will enable a seamless link to order processing and logistics management to pick, pack and ship products out of the warehouse."

With this new addition Prophet aims to help clients optimise the costs of timely order fulfillment by handling resources economically.

Expanding steadily

After starting up in 2001, PE Coldstorage (PECS) has grown from a capacity of 1 200 pallets to its current 8 528 pallets. This year PECS opened its second depot at Coega. Not only does this depot have a cold storage capacity of 5 328 pallets, it has an intake facility that can offload five consignments simultaneously, plus 19 dock levellers of which seven are in a drop temperature environment. An added feature is Prophet's

customised RF scanning system to manage intakes, stock and dispatches in real time. The company also has increased its exporter customer base from 10 to 20.

PECS focuses on containerised citrus exports. At present, the company loads an average of 60-70 containers a day, although the Coega facility recently has loaded a staggering 93 containers in one day while receiving and offloading 1 557 pallets.

Technologically, the fruit export business moved forward at an alarmingly fast pace. Therefore, in 2002, PECS was one of the first cold stores to adopt Prophet's Koldstor warehousing system, described by admin manager Sharon van der Merwe as "the beginning of a new revolution in the cold storage industry". She continued, "Without the Prophet team, PECS wouldn't be able to deliver the service that our clients have

become accustomed to. Koldstor meets all our clients' needs at the click of a mouse. Most importantly, we're able to keep up with the fast pace at which information needs to be distributed. Almost 90% of our exporters are currently using QX. Our systems are 100% integrated and information is real time."

PECS is committed to expanding the Eastern Cape fruit industry. Said Van der Merwe, "Pack houses, transporters, exporters, freight forwarders and shipping lines are all partners in our business and with the help from the Prophet team, we're able to supply each partner with the information required."



A champion for all reasons

When implementing either Pr2 or QX, project management is the key to success: taking responsibility for the system and its implementation. Decide who's doing what and when and make it happen. But before implementation it's essential to formally appoint a systems champion (SC) for the project. Usually, this person will be an experienced, senior and knowledgeable member of the organisation who will act as the overall project manager from the client's perspective.

The authority and requirements of this role shouldn't be underestimated or allowed to be undermined and must be made clear to all staff at the client site(s). All senior management tiers, including the main and executive boards, should support the SC to ensure the cooperation and support of all departments and managers throughout the project duration.



The SC has to learn the whole system, take ownership and responsibility for the project, coordinate all aspects and staff involved in the client's operation and work towards achieving all tasks and deadlines set in the project plan. To

equip SCs with the relevant degree of product knowledge and understanding to take on this role, Prophet offers a 10-day SC training course.

Once SCs have been appointed and trained, they must confirm their understanding of the system that will allow them to manage the process. Thereafter, project implementation will commence.

After undergoing training, the SC will have the responsibility of training departmental champions (DCs) in the basic use and understanding of Pr2 or QX and the user interface.

The DCs must sign-off to the SC to confirm they've attained an appropriate basic level of understanding of either the Pr2 or QX system. They should be comfortable working within the various screens, using some of the basic functionality of the user interface.

Van Wyk concluded, "Where this isn't the case, additional training will be required from Prophet."

Prevent hearing loss

Occupational hearing loss costs the SA economy millions of rands each year, despite companies investing in disposable hearing protectors for employees. HASS Industrial is the first



company in SA to manufacture custom-made hearing protection to international standards. Fruit packhouses, cold rooms and tractor drivers are prime candidates for this essential safety device.

Noise-Ban™ Elite is a custom-made hearing protector to assist in combating noise-induced hearing loss in the workplace, while providing optimum communication in noisy locations.

HASS Industrial claims that with correct use of Noise-Ban™ Elite and implementation of the hearing conservation programme, companies can expect possible major cost savings because of fewer compensation claims, as well as reduced noise-induced stress and fatigue levels.

For more information contact Pieta van Deventer on 012 3333131 or e-mail pieta@hass.co.za

'Qlik' for Newvision

Karsten Farms' exporting arm Newvision has joined the Qlikview movement to better business management. This single product revolutionises business intelligence with fast and powerful visualisation capabilities.

Speed to market is critical to fruit exporting success - cutting decision times and getting the whole supply chain responding in sync to market demands. As such, QlikView provides intelligence on customers, merchandising, operations and overall performance to move products on the shelf faster than the competition.

