

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVITY NEWS

*“for improving operating margin with **Continuous Process Improvement tools**”*

Volume 8 Issue 1

Q1 2017

A Greeting From Our Founder

Happy New Year Everyone!

2017 will be an exciting new year for us at Sustainable Productivity Solutions (SPS)!

Business is growing and we are adding great individuals to our team. The first is David Hein, a Santa Cruz native with a graduate degree from the University of San Francisco and an undergraduate degree from University of California, Santa Cruz. He has the newly created role of a Client Advocate. His main responsibilities will be business development and retention. Lately, he has been calling current clients to gather feedback on how to improve our services.

The second new team member is Daniel Bruhn. Daniel is from Spain and recently graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering. He will be taking on the role of Operational Engineer and will support our current engineering team of Derek Michelen, Katy Griffin, and Michelle Ebersole.

We are expecting our team to continually grow throughout the year. As a firm, SPS is doing more work helping farming companies along the Central Coast in establishing their Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) culture. The CPI culture market seems to be growing exponentially!

To assist with getting the word out about building a CPI culture, Katy and I will present SPS' strategy for building a CPI culture at both the World Ag Expo and the Granular Ag Symposium in February.

Other activities this year include an expansion of

our training services. This year, the seminars on Continuous Process Improvement and Employee Engagement will be offered 8 times, including 3 times in Arroyo Grande and 2 times in San Jose, California.

In addition, to better support clients in the Silicon Valley and the Bay Area, we are opening a Simulation Training Center in Sunnyvale, CA in late March. This will provide engineers and analysts training and skill development in using simulation software while building their own simulation models.

In this newsletter, we are sharing two stories of Continuous Process Improvement efforts that used LEAN tools. On Page 2, there is a story of a Kaizen that SPS helped facilitate for Berry Pack of Oxnard, CA, and then, on Page 3, there is a story of an application of 5S at Greenheart Farms of Arroyo Grande, CA.



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The Kaizen of Berry Pack

In early January, the SPS team facilitated a Kaizen at Berry Pack with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their kitting operations.

What is Kaizen?

A Kaizen is an opportunity for a business to bring workers together to solve problems in their production. For a number of days, usually 5, the workers and leaders think of ways to improve their production process. The individuals that work most with the process are key in finding the inefficiencies in it. The solutions are then prioritized and then enacted to increase productivity and reduce operating ratios.

Michelle enjoyed “seeing everybody engaged and coming up with great solutions.”

This Kaizen was challenging for Derek as he helped with translating from English to Spanish to assist the Spanish speaking workers in the Kaizen.

Derek said “It can be difficult to switch languages when you are facilitating but we were able to engage the Spanish speaking individuals, which is great.”

For Berry Pack, at the end of the Kaizen event, the team came up with twenty-four solutions to their process failure points. They are currently working on the fifteen most practical of those solutions to increase their efficiency and productivity.

Berry Pack Kaizen Team



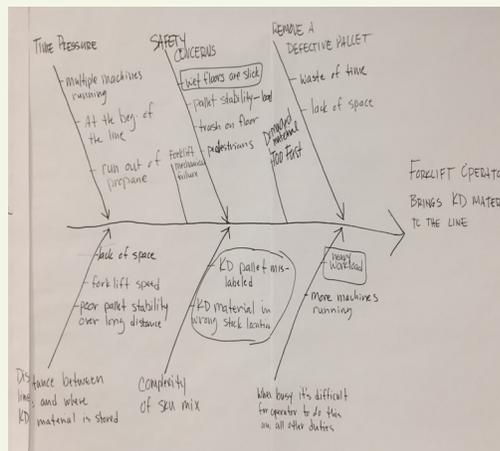
Unique 2 Day Kaizen Approach

SPS uses a two day Kaizen approach. This approach, explained by Michelle Ebersole, was used because “it takes people away for a lot less time from their work and the days are pretty long and intense. With only two days, you can stay more focused and power through it.”

Outcome

This was the first Kaizen event for Derek Michelen and Michelle Ebersole. The two of them gained first-hand experience in facilitating and leading a Kaizen.

Fish Bone Created During Kaizen Event



CONFERENCE CALENDAR

50th World Ag Expo
February 14-16,
2017
Tulare, CA

HIMSS Annual Conference
February 19-23,
2017
Orlando, Florida

Granular Ag GROW 2017 Symposium
February 21-23,
2017
San Francisco, CA

Health Care Systems Process Improvement
March 1-3, 2017
Orlando, Florida

IISE Annual Conference
May 20-23, 2017
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

**79th Annual Grower
Shipper Golf &
Gala Event**
June 22-24, 2017
Salinas, CA

**IISE Engineering &
Lean Six Sigma**
September 25-27,
2017
Orlando, FL

**Association for
Manufacturing
Excellence**
October 9-13, 2017
Boston, MA

**Western Growers
Association Annual
Conference**
November, 2017

SME FABTECH
November 6-9, 2017
Chicago,
Illinois

Greenheart Farms 5S Effort

The Story

The main focus of the 5S effort at Greenheart Farms was on organizing the tool cage and repair carts used by the maintenance team members

The SPS team started with just one tool box from one of the maintenance carts and used that cart as the example for the other four carts.

All of its contents were taken out and spread out on the ground.

As SPS member Derek Michelen translated between Spanish and English, the SPS team and the mechanics were able to pick what were the essential tools they needed to perform their daily duties and where those tools were organized within the tool box.

Shadow boards will be made to help keep track of what tools are missing from each tool box. The aim of the shadow board is to achieve an organized workplace where tools, supplies and equipment are stored in appropriate locations close to the work area or work stations.

Weekly inspections are also occurring to make sure the new procedures are being sustained.

The Takeaways

For the Greenheart Farms workers and for SPS crew, this was a very positive experience. For Derek, "it reinforced the idea that starting with small tangible changes, while utilizing LEAN tools, is the first step in this journey towards a continuous process improvement culture."

Jordan Marcellus, who is the Director of Propagation of specialty crops, said "It was an eye opening experience. In the past, it was common to replace missing or misplaced tools without much effort to find them first. Now that we know exactly what we have and where it should be, redundant spending has been minimized and we are more confident replacing those things we actually need. "

As to if the workers were sustaining the new standardization of tool boxes, Jordan was told they have kept up with keeping the tool boxes organized.

The maintenance workers also saw value in it. Katy Griffin "saw a sense of pride in their organized boxes" when the 5S effort was completed.



Simulation Training Center Opens March, 2017

With the increasing need for process flow simulation use in the Bay Area, Sustainable Productivity Solutions is opening a Simulation Training Center in Sunnyvale, CA in March 2017. The goal of the training center is to provide Bay Area professionals with a mechanism for developing their simulation modeling & analysis skills.

The initial offering will be a six week, one evening per week, training class where participants learn the basics of how to properly execute a simulation study. In addition, the participants will also go through the process of building and analyzing a model that is related to their current job.

The weekly class will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, and the training center will be open from 6pm to 10pm for participants to work on their model. A variety of simulation software will be supported.

Our instructor has over 20 years experience training simulation engineers, and has taught simulation at multiple universities. In addition, he has experience with 9 different simulation software products.

Initial class will start Wednesday March 22. If you are interested in learning more, please email Dhein@ReduceOR.com.

2017 Seminar Schedule

Building a Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) Culture - Improving productivity improves our bottom line. Learn to use the most commonly used LEAN tools and the critical CPI principles.

Improve Employee Engagement - Employee engagement is critical to increasing productivity. Learn how to use praise, delegation, and conflict resolution to improve employee engagement.

Our **2017 Seminar schedule** is as follows. Please email dhein@ReduceOR.com to learn more.

Scotts Valley

April 12th- 13th

September 6th – 7th

Arroyo Grande

March 8th – 9th

June 14th- 15th

October 11th – 12th

San Jose

May 10th- 11th

November 8th- 9th

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Contact us when you need to generate sustainable productivity solutions for challenging operational issues.

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