Gagné Foods Benefits from Lean Training for Food Manufacturers

Growing Maine Company Improves Efficiency and Saves Money

BATH, ME – Gagné Foods Inc. is a Bath, Maine producer of high-quality ready to bake biscuits and food products sold in over 500 markets nationwide. Over the past few years, the company has seen tremendous growth that allowed Chef Michael Gagné to expand production from the kitchen of his popular Georgetown restaurant, the Robinhood Free Meetinghouse, to a brand-new state of the art manufacturing facility in Bath. Today, the company is positioned for continued growth fueled by a commitment to produce the highest quality products for its customers while utilizing the safest and most efficient production techniques available.

Recognizing the importance of operating an efficient high production facility, Chef Gagné reached out to the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership for assistance in improving the work flow and inventory system of his new facility. Maine MEP Project Manager Bill Whittier then worked with the company to develop a Lean Manufacturing training and implementation plan that involved employees at all levels and their ideas for process improvement and waste reduction.

The systematic Lean implementation resulted in immediate return on investment for the company. “Implementing the Lean process has been a tremendous benefit to Gagné Foods,” said Chef Gagné, “In addition to addressing inventory problems as a result of our expansion, the Lean process has also allowed the staff to be vested in their own solutions when problems arise.” Chef Gagné estimates that this training has already saved the company money, and will allow Gagné Foods to continue its strong growth into the future.

“The success of implementing Lean Thinking to food processing at Gagné Foods shows how valuable Lean techniques can be in any production setting,” said Maine MEP Project Manager Bill Whittier, “Gagné Foods’ success in streamlining inventory and empowering employees through Lean will be invaluable as the company continues to grow.”

For more information on how Maine MEP can help your business, call our office at 207-623-0680.

About Maine MEP

Maine MEP is an affiliate of the NIST under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP is a network of manufacturing extension centers that provide business and technical assistance to smaller manufacturers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2000 manufacturing and business “coaches” whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits, and enhanced global competitiveness. For more information on the Maine MEP program call 1-800-637-4634 or visit www.mainemep.org.