



Professional Development

Increase your knowledge of what your systems can do, and get valuable insight from your industry peers at our quarterly Special Customer Seminars. See dates and seminar focus points at the right, or call (336) 841-7289 for details.

Upcoming Events

• CPEPC 2009 Convention – Moncton, NB Canada – June 7-9, 2009

The Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council's 2009 convention is coming up fast. With the number of Canadian customers growing each year, CFS will be there!

• Meat Processing Xchange – Park City, UT – June 14-17, 2009

A series of executive-level meetings for connecting real needs with real solutions. This invitation only meeting group clears away the clutter and gets right to the point!

• Summer Special Customer Seminar – Greensboro, NC – June 25-26

With CFS's entry into the Egg Industry, the focus of this seminar will be R6e, a special egg version of our popular inventory tracking software, and Tally Scan, shown on page 3.

• Autumn Special Customer Seminar – Greensboro, NC – Aug 16-18

Our autumn seminar gets back to Process Tracking, our tried and true system of tracking products from farm to fork. Find out how you can satisfy this growing global trend.

FocusTime

Spring 2009



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FocusTime

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What we do...

Computerway Food Systems provides systems using electronics and computers for high speed overhead weighing, grading, and product tracking, from "source" through actual plant manufacturing processes and into finished goods. CFS provides turn-key solutions and IT support for these systems. CFS is expert in integration of computer systems with "plant floor" operations.

SYSTEMS

- Weighing
- Process Tracking
- Inventory Tracking
- Labeling
- Quality Control
- Data Integration
- Recall



Spring Special Customer Seminar Success

In the first major format change since the institution of the System Manager Seminars in August '99, fourteen people from ten companies in the United States and Canada joined with CFS at the Grandover Resort and Convention Center in Greensboro, NC on March 19th and 20th to learn about the new developments CFS made in 2009 and to put in their "two cents" on future developments in 2010 and beyond.

After breakfast and a welcome by CFS President William Altenpohl, we kicked off our Spring Special Customer Seminar by introducing R6e, a specialized version of our popular inventory control software for the egg industry (*See page 3 for more details*). After watching a video of our success at Maxim Eggs in Boling, TX, attendees were shown what their own version of R6 could do to improve their processes and what to think about when making a decision to upgrade (*See page 2*).

After a short break, our guests were treated to a step-by-step visual demonstration of Process Tracking, showing all in attendance how easy it is to track products from "Farm to Fork," a growing concern to both consumers and managers in today's world.

Turning to our Sizing System customers in attendance, we learned about the advancements made in our Wolf software, including preparations we are making towards future technologies with Airchill (*See page 3 for more information*).

The weather cooperated with those who chose to golf on the state's #2 rank courses, with the predicted downpour holding off until the 16th hole. Others were able to enjoy the luxurious spa facilities, or just relax around the pool or in their king rooms overlooking the golf course.

A cocktail party with the CFS employees was followed by a delicious dinner which ended in time for everyone to get their rest and be ready to tour the CFS office in nearby High Point (*see below*).



Bill (right) shows Shannon Heath and Chris Chavis the new B15G

SCS Customer Questionnaires – What did we learn?

Attendees at our Spring Special Customer Seminar (see page 1) were given many opportunities to give their input about what features are not only cool, but also can give a great ROI. After reviewing the questionnaires that were turned in, our programmers and designers are able to look through fresh eyes and focus on what is most important to you.

Of interest to everyone were inquiries into the upgrade process: Why and how. We've addressed the "why" in the article to the right. Our programmers have also designed an upgrade "order" to help you lay out a plan based on your specific configuration. Please call (336) 841-7289 to discuss a plan for you.

We also learned what software features are your priority, (defining your own reports in Excel), saving labor costs, and increasing traceability.

We learned which icons are easy to understand and which ones could use a little more work.

On the sizing side, we learned that pre-chilling information is more important than data integration between facilities.

If you were unable to attend, additional copies of the questionnaires are available via email from ldicola@mycfs.com.



What you need to know before you decide to upgrade.

We asked accomplished managers what things to take into consideration when upgrading your systems

We've all been there before: plugging away happily on our PC or telephone, only to be struck with equipment envy when we see someone else has the latest and greatest new gadget. Should we go for it, or should we wait? Here are the points you need to consider and the questions you need to ask yourself before you decide whether or not to take on the daunting task of upgrading your complex inventory systems.

Before you can tell where you want to go, you have to know where you are. HelpDesk is staffed with a live person 24/7 and can help you determine what version you currently have. Often, it's as simple as checking out the opening screen.

What's in it for me?

Obviously, the most pressing reason to upgrade is when you want or need to do something and you can't do it with your current version. Also, CFS is constantly adding support for new hardware and operating systems.

But the "funnest" reason to upgrade is when you find a useful feature that you didn't even know you needed! CFS takes requests from processors just like you from all over the world. We incorporate those suggestions in to new versions. Using the latest version means you get the benefit of different viewpoints and ideas without reinventing the wheel.

What's the latest?

CFS is currently introducing version R6 of our inventory and production software and moving from Progress V9 to OE10.

Progress has made a major upgrade in OE10. This version has been specifically designed to be "open," allowing you to use your data in ways you never thought possible. It has "Web Services" built in which opens a whole new world to the programmers here at CFS.

Progress OE10 also supports the latest versions of AIX, Windows, and Linux, so as you add to or replace your old hardware, you may need it.

What's so great about R6?

Our programmers have designed R6 with OE10's best features in mind. Are you familiar with the weather, news, or stock pricing "widgets" that you can add to your desktop? These are examples of the built-in Web Services that we can now use. We can do the same thing with your data, giving you instant access to what is most important to you. These do not

Upgrading your systems mean you must have someone actively take the reins

need ODBC drivers, but allow you to see your data in real-time straight from your database. The most popular report writers even list Web Services as a data source.

One of our most requested features is easier reporting in Excel. R6 can handle this easier and faster than ever before. After very simply creating a data source, run Excel and be walked through the process of selecting the tables and fields from your database, and easily limit your selection with filters and sorting. Since our software is web-based, you can even run it from anything with a wi-fi browser. even that new phone!



At CFS, the chicken came first. And now we're starting to count and keep track of eggs too! We have just finished the installation of our first inventory system into Maxim Eggs in Boling, Texas.

We were very pleased to be given the opportunity to prove that our systems cross into industries other than "just" chicken. And what a wonderful time we've had learning, customizing, and developing new technology to suit the specific needs of shell egg processing! We unveiled R6e specifically for the egg industry.

One of the first opportunities we had to demonstrate the flexibility of our systems was to create a special way of scanning to accommodate the nested pallets used in egg processing plants. Without the ability to scan all the boxes on a completed pallet, and needing both hands to stack the pallets, our traditional handheld scanners were not the best way to palletize.

We introduced the "Tally Scan" (See photo above) at our Spring Special Customer Seminar (see page 1) to rave reviews in the chicken industry as well. We are now in the process of

modifying the system for washdown capabilities! This is just one example of how CFS can customize any system to any size plant in any industry. We were able to design and create an on-the-fly hands-free scanning system to speed the process of palletizing up to ten pallets at a time. The scanning stations in an egg processing plant are very close together, so adding a verbal confirmation specific to each pallet's scanner eliminated confusion as to which box had been scanned for which pallet.

Call (336) 841-7289 for more details!

EYE ON IT Industry Trends

Air Chilling has been used in Europe for more than 45 years, but it is just now beginning to gain ground here in Northern America.

Air chilling can take up to two hours longer than water chilling, With that amount of time before processing even starts, how do you know how to set up your sizing systems?

The developers at CFS have added a new module to the Wolff ISS software for situations just like this. By weighing and grading the birds before entering the chiller, we can now give you real-time reports of what will be coming down the line hours from now!

SOFTWARE What's Coming?

Emergency and disaster plans are the buzz words that you

actually need to listen to!

Rebound Disaster Prevention provides continuous monitoring of both the primary and backup servers. It ensures that bad data is not replicated on the secondary server, enables that server for reporting functions, and keeps upgrades and patches in sync on both servers. Contact CFS for more information at (336) 841-7289.



This Quarter's HelpDesk Technology Tip

Q: What preventative measures can we take to make our pallet printers even more stable?

A: Networked pallet printers are the way to go. Datamax I-Class printers can have a network card installed (See image at left.) to bypass print servers and line drivers.



When the printer is on the network, you can browse to the printer's web server by typing: [http://\[IPAddress\]](http://[IPAddress])— it will show you the status of the printer (i.e. Paper Empty). We are also looking in to updates to print services for Linux boxes. Contact Laurie Mudri at the HelpDesk for more information: lmudri@mycfs.com or (336) 841-7289 ext. #324

Printer	Datamax Corporate
Printer Status	Idle
Error Message	Paper Empty
Printer Message	OUT OF STOCK

