

AGRICULTURE



"I've been able to generate our company budget with one system and not have to piecemeal several Excel spreadsheets"

Mark Chafin, Manager of Budgets and Reports

Summary

Paramount Farms is one of the world's largest suppliers of pistachios and almonds to companies like Sunkist. The budgeting process at Paramount consisted of merging a host of Excel spreadsheets together which was error prone and not an efficient use of the budget manager's time. The company needed to integrate their legacy systems and reports to deliver a solid, annual plant budgeting process which included the analysis of cost drivers such as workforce costs, plant costs, shipping, etc.

About Paramount Farms

Paramount Farms grows 100 million pounds of pistachios and 25 million pounds of almonds a year on 40,000 acres of trees in the San Joaquin Valley in Lost Hills, California. Its goal? The 17-year-old, privately held company is striving to boost its pistachio crops by 50 percent in the next five or six years and double its almond yields in three years ... all while becoming the low-cost producer of nut products worldwide. The company employs anywhere from 800 to 1,200 people.

Outcome

Paramount Farms selected Host Budget for their budgeting solution. Within twelve days, the company was up and running, leveraging the Web-based budgeting solution. With spreadsheets and template that look like Excel, the learning curve was short. Users now access their budget templates through an online Excel interface. Chafin, the budgeting and reporting manager says "the software makes my job easier, giving me more time to focus on analysis". The company is able to generate a corporate budget with one system, simply. With the integration of the legacy systems, Mark Chafin is in a position to have access to budget details at his fingertips for management meetings or company presentations. With Host Budget, financial analysts work closely with plant managers to identify spending trends and ways to cut costs. The process is then documented and shared.

Industry

Agriculture

Product

Host Budget

Challenges

- Consolidating multiple budgets completed in Excel
- Effectively analyzing operational cost drivers
- Reporting on budget variances – planned vs. actual
- Integration with legacy systems
- Finding a cost-effective, yet robust budgeting system

Solution

Paramount Farms is using Host Budget to:

- Streamline the budgeting process with Web-based budgeting templates
- Analyze cost drivers at a detailed level
- Deliver more detailed reports on budget variances
- Identify spending trends and create new cost-cutting programs

Benefits

- Centralized budgeting system eliminated spreadsheet "hell"
- The power to see corporate spending clearly
- Ability to increase revenues with new cost-cutting programs