



Skills grant paves way for improvements at Paramount Citrus

Customer:
Paramount Citrus

County:
Hidalgo

Industry:
Citrus packaging
NAICS: 115114

TMAC Services:
Lean Enterprise

Who to contact:
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Paramount Citrus of Mission, Texas does more than just package fruits; it performs just about all aspects of farming and management, according to Plant Safety Supervisor Eddie Canales. “We grow, harvest, maintain it as far as farming goes,” said Canales. “Pretty much everything besides eating the fruits.” A one-stop shop, Paramount harvests, processes, packs and delivers grapefruits and oranges; 70 percent of which are from its own groves.

The Situation

With a smorgasbord of farming, packaging, delivery and management activities, it was vital for Paramount to find ways to make sure all its operations were running smoothly and efficiently. Quick to recognize that, the company enlisted the help of TMAC to offer on-site training on Lean Manufacturing principles to eliminate waste, increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve the flow of materials. Funds from the federal STC Skills Grant brought in TMAC experts to train and coach company employees.

The Solution

In May 2014, TMAC introduced a six-week program in which 23 plant associates were trained on Team Building and Lean Tools. The training was held twice a week, four hours a day of which two were on training and the other two on project implementation. TMAC Specialist David Ortiz said the training and implementation actually went hand-in-hand, resulting in immediate improvements that plant employees could readily see. Lean Manufacturing tools employed in the training included the 5S System (Sort, Set-in-Order, Shine, Standardize and Sustain), TPM (Total Productive Maintenance), Layout Design and Spaghetti Diagram.

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The Results

TMAC met with company officials the second week of June to finalize the Lean Manufacturing project training. As a result of the training and coaching by TMAC, three of five projects were immediately implemented with two more in progress. TMAC Specialist Ortiz indicated that just from one project alone, Paramount was able to realize annual savings of \$30,000. Other benefits included reduction in lead time, improved processing, labor hour efficiency, better space utilization and improved flow of materials. Canales said the training has been very helpful for the management level; he also indicated that he would like floor supervisors to undergo TMAC training in the future.

“It (training) helped a lot. It opened our eyes to the areas that needed to be improved on.”

- Eddie Canales

Paramount Citrus Safety Supervisor

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