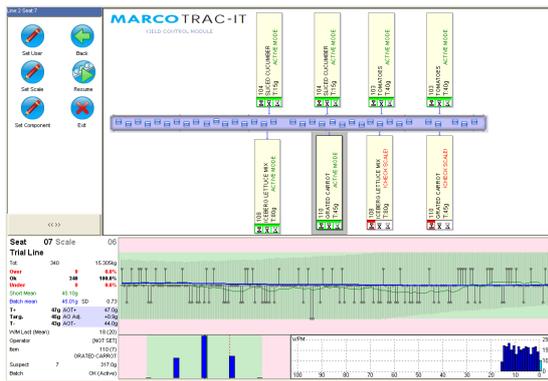




Yield



Factfile: Trac-IT Yield Control Module

Unnecessary product giveaway during the fruit packing process significantly affects profits. Pack house operators have to strike a fine operational balance between packing speed and accuracy; whilst in parallel meeting pack weight legislation and ensuring fruit is presented in tip top condition. Individual fruits, by their nature, vary in size and weight further compounding the problems of maintaining accurate and consistent pack weights.

But it isn't just product giveaway that can eat into your profits. Over weight packs cost more to transport, especially via air freight, further adversely affecting profits and endorsing the importance of yield control management.

Effective Yield Control leads directly to:

- Reduced giveaway
- Improved quality
- Improved productivity
- Reduced waste
- Improved transport costs
- Increased profits

The key to successful Yield Control is to implement a system that is easy to use by operatives, yet provides management with comprehensive real time pack weight data from the pack house.

The Marco Yield Control Module has been specifically developed to provide comprehensive data that allows you to measure and control your packing process. A key advantage is that it can be implemented as a standalone module within your existing pack house structure providing a rapid return on investment.

How does it work...?

The Marco system uses our operator friendly LineMaster workstations that deskill the manual packing process. The simple-to-use traffic light system guides operators as they pack, ensuring individual target weights are kept within very close tolerances. The clever part of the system is the automatic optimisation (AO) software operating quietly in the background. This continually monitors pack weights at individual stations and adjusts target weights to keep the average pack weight right on target. The operators are oblivious to these subtle changes and continue to pack consistently to the 'green/accept light'. If target weights do deviate outside standard pre-set limits, the supervisor is immediately alerted so that rapid remedial action can be taken.

The module automatically produces accurate yield data over user defined periods by batch run and total production. Key recorded pack house data includes:

- Operator accountability via approved ID logon
- Number of packs completed over time/per operator
- Total quantity of ingredients allocated to any particular line
- Actual amount packed at each workstation/line
- Pack weight trends by operator/line
- Rapid access to electronic traceability
- Yield data by batch run/total production



Yield

Case Study:

Company: The Co-operative Farms

Location: Longforgan, Scotland

Project Objectives: To optimise the packing of strawberry punnets



A prime example of the effectiveness of Marco's Yield Control Module is illustrated at The Co-operative Group's strawberry-packing plant at Longforgan, near Dundee, Scotland.

The Longforgan pack house, commissioned in 2010, represents a total investment of more than £2 million and has been specifically built to pack local 'Grown by Us' strawberries from the Group's own farm at Blairgowrie. The plant has a seasonal throughput capacity of around 800 tonnes, equating to over 3 million punnets.

Accurate and repeatable packing is essential, with each gram of giveaway per punnet at Longforgan representing a loss in profit equating to around 3000kg of fruit in a season.

Rob Hull, The Co-operative Farms' Head of Vegetable Operations, recognised that the efficiency of the punnet packing process would be vital to the operation, and so spent considerable time evaluating different options and suppliers, including site visits around the country, before choosing the Marco Solution.

Rob is delighted with the overall performance of the packing system and as he concludes: "The Longforgan plant is a welcome addition to our extensive operations in Scotland. This investment will help us to ensure we can get fresh strawberries, grown on our own farm, into our shops and on to our customers as efficiently as possible."

The **co-operative** farms

Contact us for details on our other Profitability Modules:

Recipe Formulation Module

Waste Management Module

Average Weight Module

Line Control Module



United Kingdom

Marco - Enterprise Way - Edenbridge - Kent - TN8 6HF
Telephone - +44 (0) 1732 782380

E-mail: info@marco.co.uk - Website: www.marco.co.uk



Netherlands

Marco - Sprendlingenpark 23 - 5061 JT Oisterwijk
Telephone: +31 (0) 13 522 0435

E-mail: info@marco.co.uk - Website: www.marco.co.uk/nl



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