

GEORGIA FEDERAL STATE

It's Working For Peanuts!

Shellers and Manufacturers Find A Better Labeling System to Help Manage Inventories

Solution Overview

Industry

Agriculture & food manufacturing

Application

Bulk commodity tracking

Teklynx Software ProductsLabel Design Software
LABEL MATRIX**Hardware**IBM AS400 mainframe
Zebra bar code printers**Partner**

Stratix Corporation, Atlanta, GA

Georgia Federal State Shipping Point Inspection Service, Inc. (Georgia Federal State) is a private, non-profit organization. Overseen by the Georgia Agriculture Department, Georgia Federal State has been charged with the responsibility for inspecting and certifying Georgia's peanut crop. A major responsibility for Georgia Federal State is to deploy inspectors who visit the 20 shelling plants in Georgia to monitor the quality and oversee the labeling of peanuts. Traditionally, Georgia Federal State used an offset printing press to produce labels in large batches for each shelling plant. Georgia Federal State developed special labels for the shellers that enable peanuts to be tracked from the shelling plant to the manufacturers. The new labeling system, using LABEL MATRIX® label design software from TEKLYNX®, addresses the unique demands of the industry.

Peanuts are big business, especially in Georgia, where, according to the American Peanut Council, about 40 percent of the nation's \$400 million annual peanut crop is grown. The process starts on the farm and ends on somebody's table. In between, there are several steps that require careful management of the commodity. Being able to track individual lots through the manufacturing process is important for both inventory control and quality purposes. The responsibility for managing peanut production and quality falls on the individual states and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In Georgia, the federal and state interests are represented by the Georgia Federal State Shipping Point Inspection Service, Inc., a private, non-profit organization. Overseen by the Georgia Agriculture Department, Georgia Federal State has been charged with the responsibility for inspecting and certifying Georgia's peanut crop. It has 85 to 90 full-time inspectors, and hires and trains several hundred more for the months of August to December, when peanuts are harvested.

For More Information

For more information about Teklynx products or services, please visit our Web site or call us at (414) 535-6200 in the US or Canada. Outside the 50 United States and Canada, please contact Teklynx at +33 562-601-080. To access information via the World Wide Web, go to:

www.teklynx.eu.com

<http://www.teklynx.com/>

American Peanut Council -

<http://www.peanutsusa.com>

American Peanut Shellers Assoc. -

<http://www.peanut-shellers.org>

IBM - <http://www.ibm.com>

Stratix Corp. -

<http://www.stratixcorp.com>

Zebra Technologies Corp. -

<http://www.zebra.com>

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"This is the first change that we've made to the process since we began using the offset printing more than 35 years ago," said Allen Houston, Georgia Federal State printing supervisor. "We knew printing but we needed to become educated concerning bar codes. Now we see the value because the bar coded tags provide much more information."

The installation had its challenges. One of the peculiarities of the way that peanuts are packaged is that the tote sacks and boxes, which each have their own unique identity, require duplicate labels. This presented a challenge because the labeling software was set up to print sequential labels. It had to be configured to print duplicates of the labels used with the tote sacks and boxes but not for the other labels for use on the burlap bags.

Stratix, a TEKLYNX partner, worked with Georgia Federal State to implement the application. The duplicate printing capability is now standard in all TEKLYNX products. Once configured, the new system was able to meet all of the requirements set by the committee. The food processors have integrated the tracking system into their receiving and inventory systems so that peanut shipments can be immediately and smoothly entered into their inventories.

As for Georgia Federal State, they are pleased with the new system. The bar coding project also opens the opportunity to transmit data from the shelling plants directly to Georgia Federal State and its counterparts in other states for record keeping purposes. There is also the potential to use the bar coding system as part of an electronic data interchange (EDI) system that will enable shellers and manufacturers to establish automatic ordering, invoicing and receiving systems.

Commented Houston, "We think that bar coding is great. We really prefer going with bar codes because it's a great service for us to provide to our customers and helps everybody from the shellers to the candy manufacturers."