

Greens of Soham use Dexterity WMS to achieve 100% stock traceability

As a business handling fresh produce, Greens of Soham were looking for a system to provide them with 100% stock visibility and traceability throughout their operation. Greens already used Sage 200 financial software to manage their invoicing, so it was essential that any solution should integrate with this. Dexterity WMS provides a complete stock management, traceability and order management solution, giving real-time visibility over the whole operation.

About Greens of Soham

Greens of Soham are a part of Spearhead International Ltd, a privately owned company that farms across Europe. Their specialist beetroot storage facility, based near Ely, Cambridgeshire, can hold up to 15,000 tons of product, as a mix of refrigerated and ambient capability.

The Challenge

Before installing Dexterity WMS, managing stock was a completely manual exercise, using spreadsheets, paperwork and handwritten docketts. This made day to day operations very difficult and time consuming when trying to locate stock, track batches and grower's details.

Mike Higson, Commercial Manager at Greens of Soham, started to investigate systems that would streamline the entire process from field to despatch, automating stock management and traceability through barcode scanning. After looking at an industry specific solution and discounting it, Greens were recommended Dexterity WMS from Barcode-IT.

"We chose Dexterity WMS after a thorough scoping exercise to



"Dexterity WMS is a really cost effective solution - especially considering the benefits it has given us. It is exactly what we needed."
- Mike Higson, Commercial Manager at Greens of Soham

ensure the proposed solution met our very specific operational business needs. It ticked all our project requirement boxes and came within budget, so it was a win win." explains Mike Higson.

The Dexterity Solution

Dexterity WMS captures information on inbound produce, including details of the grower, field, product variety and dates. This means that Green's staff know exactly what bulk produce they have and where it is. The bulk produce is then issued to the Grading Plant, which grades the produce by size. Fixed position touch screen computers together with thermal printers

are used in the Grading Hall to print barcoded labels for boxes, nets and trays. The labels contain all the relevant details for complete traceability, including grower, field, variety, weight and use by dates. Each box and net are given a unique batch number within Dexterity to maintain the traceability link between field and despatched produce.

At the grading line, labels are produced, validated and applied to boxes, then scanned using wireless handheld scanning terminals, to record the data in Dexterity. The produce is then either putaway into chilled or ambient storage,

moved to "washing, topping and bagging" for further processing, or allocated to bulk orders for immediate picking and despatch. The barcodes are scanned every time stock moves, which provides real-time information to management and staff on product history, location, batch numbers and weights.

With 100% visibility of stock, allocating specific batches to customer orders is simple and quick.

The Benefits

Stock availability can now be seen at a glance and is amended in real time, as orders are fulfilled and stock allocated. As much of the information to populate the product and despatch labels comes directly from Dexterity, errors from incorrectly input data have been eliminated.

"Dexterity WMS has removed the stress from day to day operations within the business. Operations are now completely under control and staff know exactly how much product we have and where it is, without having to guess." continues Mike Higson.