



ORGANIZATION:
Hy-Line International

INDUSTRY:
Agriculture



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Assets Module Customization

Background: Hy-Line International is a world leader in poultry layer genetics with a rich history of innovation. Founded in 1936, Hy-Line was the first poultry breeding company to apply the principles of hybridization to commercial layer breeding. Hy-Line is headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa and produces and sells both brown and white egg stock to more than 120 countries worldwide. Hy-Line is the largest selling layer in the American egg industry and around the world. Hy-Line is accredited by FDA, USDA, MAPA and BEIC Lion Code to breed and transport eggs and live poultry both domestically and internationally.

The Challenge: Due to the extensive amount of data Hy-Line must track on a high volume of product, a robust quality management system is paramount to their operation, not only to meet the requirements of their various regulatory agencies, but for the health and safety of their consumers.

Prior to implementing Q-Pulse as its company-wide QMS in 2014, records were kept using manual methods, such as 3-ring binders and internally created spreadsheets. These methods were laborious to maintain and lacked uniformity to record keeping. Because Hy-Line must retain 10 years of documentation to be available for external audits, this process was not only time consuming and inefficient but required significant physical storage space. Since implementation, Q-Pulse has been a fundamental asset to the company, helping to streamline audits and inspections, and automate workflow within the organization.

In 2014, the poultry industry was severely impacted by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (“HPAI”), commonly known as the “Bird Flu”. Millions of birds were lost, devastating dozens of poultry farms in the State of Iowa and around the United States. “Q-Pulse was a valuable tool to Hy-Line during the “(HPAI’) outbreak. It allowed us to quickly implement high risk procedures and training to each department efficiently and effectively.” said Bobbi Wojewoda, Hy-Line’s Quality and Compliance Supervisor. Although farms directly adjacent to Hy-Line’s headquarters were severely affected, Hy-Line lost no birds to the HPAI outbreak.

While Q-Pulse had revolutionized Hy-Line’s quality systems, they found they occasionally ran into situations where documents and forms were being created and used within the company that were not controlled through Q-Pulse. For example, more specific customizations were made to the Assets Module for tracking flocks and other assets. In order to comply with local, federal and international regulations, Hy-Line must document an extensive amount of information on all flocks of live poultry that come through the company, from the set of the egg through the hatch and distribution of any eggs and birds throughout the world. This includes



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Bobbi Wojewoda
Quality & Compliance
Supervisor

www.ECL2.com
inquiries@ECL2.com
Phone: (469) 828-5006



vaccinations, handling, identifying birds, and eggs, and transfers to farms worldwide. Genetic data must also be tracked including fertility, hatchability, and data for certain selections of poultry that are suitable for various regions worldwide, such as birds bred to require less water or food in areas where these resources are lacking. In addition to managing data on their flocks, documentation and information must be maintained on additional assets such as facilities and machinery.

The Solution: In working hand in hand with ECL2, Hy-Line was able to customize the Assets Module to more specifically categorize asset types. This provided the ability to track different and more specific information as necessary for each asset type. Maintenance programs were more easily managed for tracking certifications, repairs and scheduled maintenance of equipment with the use of automatic action notifications and the ability to upload maintenance records. Further, assigning tasks to specific individuals instead of general departments allowed for more thorough review and management of individual workloads, and the ability to determine where additional training may be necessary. “The ability to assign tasks to individuals makes it more of a team effort because everyone is working through the program and knows exactly what is expected of them” Bobbi said. Because Q-Pulse is accessed by all departments company wide, Bobbi and her quality team were able to hand over training responsibilities with confidence to each department. “We are working toward each area taking care of their own training and have more ownership in Q-Pulse.”

Since working with ECL2 to further customize the various modules in Q-Pulse, regulatory audits have been much smoother and more efficient. “Numerous external auditors have been amazed with our organization and the ability to find information quickly. The ability to have everything all in one location and easily show them exactly what they’ve asked for has allowed us to fly through audits that used to take many hours.”

Bobbi was extremely pleased with her experience working closely with ECL2. She most appreciated how effortless it was to communicate, and that their needs were genuinely heard. “Our ECL2 consultant was so good at coming up with different ideas and ways to adapt Q-Pulse to what we needed. They were always available for any questions I had.” The ongoing training and support provided by ECL2 has also been a valuable tool. “ECL2 provides great training, they are patient and always take that extra step to make sure you understand.”

For more information on Q-Pulse please visit our website at www.ECL2.com or contact us directly at 469.828.5006 or by email at inquiries@ECL2.com.