

Reducing Food Waste in Ontario's Produce Industry Gwillimdale Farms – A Case Study

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As part of the Ontario Produce Marketing Association's (OPMA) food waste reduction initiative, Value Chain Management International (VCMI) has been working with four businesses across the value chain (one retailer, one distributor and two producer/packers) to identify ways to not only reduce waste, but also improve overall efficiencies and increase sales – resulting in increased margins and profitability. The third of four case studies (one for each business) has now been completed (click [here](#) to access study).

The third case study describes how VCMI worked with Gwillimdale Farms (gwillimdalefarms.com) – a producer/packer – to implement effective daily management systems for their carrot, beet, parsnip, onion and potato packing lines. GF has two locations; its primary location includes 1,000 acres of vegetable production in the outskirts of Holland Marsh.

The process began with VCMI (on behalf of OPMA) conducting a food waste reduction workshop at Gwillimdale Farm's facility to identify the root causes of the challenges impacting their business operations. This led to VCMI spending time at the facility to determine how effectively their equipment was operating, observe how packing lines and packing materials were being managed, and identify opportunities to improve packing line performance.

"This process has been extremely helpful to us in understanding where improvement opportunities lie for Gwillimdale Farms. One of the key findings was that by addressing weighing and bagging equipment issues, the outcome could provide us with improvements that conservatively equate to an additional four per cent in annual sales," stated Quinton Woods, Operations and Sales Manager.

The fourth and final case study will be released later this year. Updates are available at theopma.ca.

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