



# Protein Optimize

FOR RED MEAT PROCESSORS









foodsconnected.com







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Foods Connected: The Meat Industry Professionals



## Protein Optimize at a Glance

### Our innovative buy sell tools aid sales-driven production planning

With Foods Connected's innovative suite of software tools, meat processors can match sales forecasts with expected sales returns to calculate break-even points for livestock procurement and gain better insight of forward profitability and maximum value.



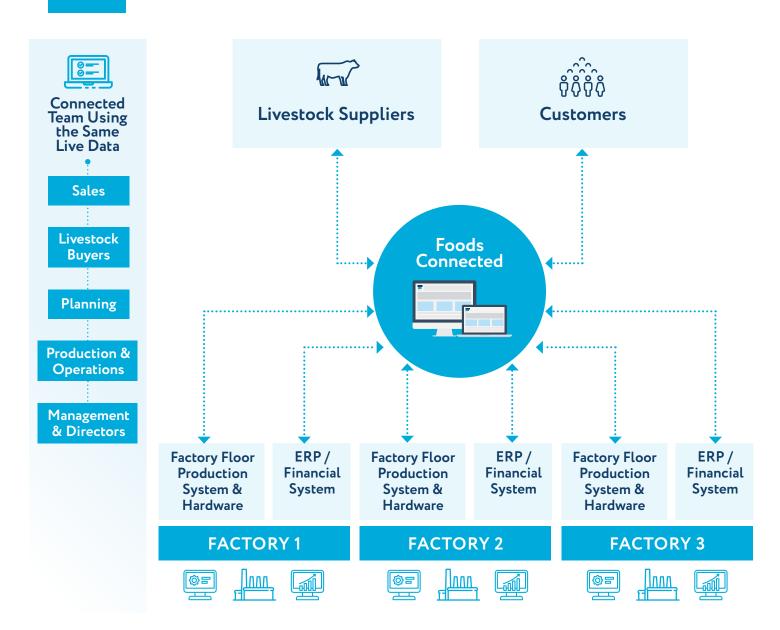
These valuable carcass, offal and by-product modeling tools empower meat processing management teams to optimize job selection, improve decision-making speeds and ultimately deliver enhanced carcass return and improved profitability.



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## Foods Connected and your Existing Systems



The Foods Connected solution complements the software & hardware that you already have in your factory.

It connects your sales decisions closer to the planning of your production, helping to maximize profitability through faster, more insightful decisions with alignment across all your teams.

It also provides large companies with multiple locations a 'birdseye view' of performance across all factories allowing for enhanced group performance management and knowledge sharing.

Being a cloud-based solution, it also provides the capability for information to be digitally shared with your livestock suppliers such as their orders and harvest data reports or your customers receiving their sales order details and shipment confirmations.





# PROCESSOR CHALLENGES



### Processor Challenges



Understand which primal specifications deliver the best results in terms of profitability and cost.



Communicate the production plans (fabrication area and harvest) to the shop floor in a user-friendly way.



Easily review and reconcile a day's fabrication area and offal production against the plan, taking into consideration different product specifications, cattle types and carcass grades.



Use sales forecasts to understand forward sales return to allow cattle buyers to procure livestock profitably.



Use sales forecasts to understand the impact on future stock levels and cash flow.



Communicate purchase orders and contracts to farmers and link those contracts to factory intake procedures.



Collate previous supply and demand data to proactively manage supply and demand volatility.









# LIVESTOCK PROCUREMENT



### **Livestock Pricing Grids**

Using our tools, you can create livestock pricing grids for both internal and external use. This makes the whole livestock procurement and payment process a lot easier.

Clear, easy-to-use configurable grid templates mean you can create multiple grids for different livestock types. These can be shared with suppliers such as feedlots and farmers for confirmation of contracts and livestock prices.

You can also set up penalties for deviations from the animal specifications. And if the livestock doesn't meet the expected quality criteria, you can use our new master child grid functionality to move an animal from one grid to another on a cascading scale basis.

This all ensures you are not overpaying for livestock that are out of specification.





#### **Livestock Contracts**

For contracts and longer term deals, you can use our contract management tool to create contracts for larger numbers of livestock. This is ideal for large farmers, farming groups and feedlots.

As livestock is ordered and delivered to the factory, animals are subtracted from the contract, with the live status available at all times.

This gives the livestock procurement team greater forward planning visibility and reduces administrative tasks.



### FOODS CONNECTED

Purchasing Inquiry - Closed - Deals Agreed

#### Cutout Value (\$/CWT)

	Yield Grade 1	Yield Grade 2	Yield Grade 3	Yield Grade 4	Yield Grade 5	
Prime	\$182.50	\$183.00	\$181.00	\$177.00	\$173.00	
Branded	\$167.29	\$167.29	\$165.79	\$161.79	\$157.79	
Choice	\$163.64	\$164.14	\$162.14	\$158.14	\$154.14	
Select	\$161.26	\$161.76	\$159.76	\$155.76	\$151.76	
Ungraded	\$156.17	\$156.67	\$154.67	\$150.67	\$146.67	

#### Cutout Premium and Discounts (\$/CWT)

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	Yield Grade 1	Yield Grade 2	Yield Grade 3	Yield Grade 4	Yield Grade 5				
Prime	\$20.36	\$20.36	\$18.86	\$14.86	\$10.86				
Branded	\$5.15	\$5.65	\$3.65	-\$0.35					
Choice	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$0.00	-\$4.00	-\$8.00				
Select	-\$0.88	-\$0.38	-\$2.38	-\$6.38	-\$10.38				
Ungraded	-\$5.97	-\$5.47	-\$7.47	-\$11.47	-\$15.47				

#### \$/Head Cattle Cost

	Yield Grade 1	ld Grade 1 Yield Grade 2		Yield Grade 4	Yield Grade 5	
Prime	\$3,553.42	\$3,558.17	\$3,539.17	\$3,501.17	\$3,463.17	
Branded	\$3,408.93	\$3,413.68	\$3,394.68	\$3,356.68	\$3,318.68	
Choice	\$3,374.25	\$3,379.00	\$3,360.00	\$3,322.00	\$3,284.00	
Select	\$3,351.64	\$3,356.39	\$3,337.39	\$3,299.39	\$3,261.39	
Ungraded	\$3,303.29	\$3,308.04	\$3,289.04	\$3,251.04	\$3,213.04	

#### Grading Premium and Discounts (\$/Hd)

	Yield Grade 1	Yield Grade 2	Yield Grade 3	Yield Grade 4	Yield Grade 5	
Prime	\$193.42	\$198.17	\$179.17	\$141.17	\$103.17	
Branded	\$48.93	\$53.68	\$34.68	-\$3.32	-\$41.32	
Choice	\$14.25	\$19.00	\$0.00	-\$38.00	-\$76.00	
Select	-\$8.36	-\$3.61	-\$22.61	-\$60.61	-\$98.61	
Ungraded	-\$56.72	-\$51.97	-\$70.97	-\$108.97	-\$146.97	



### **Livestock Ordering**

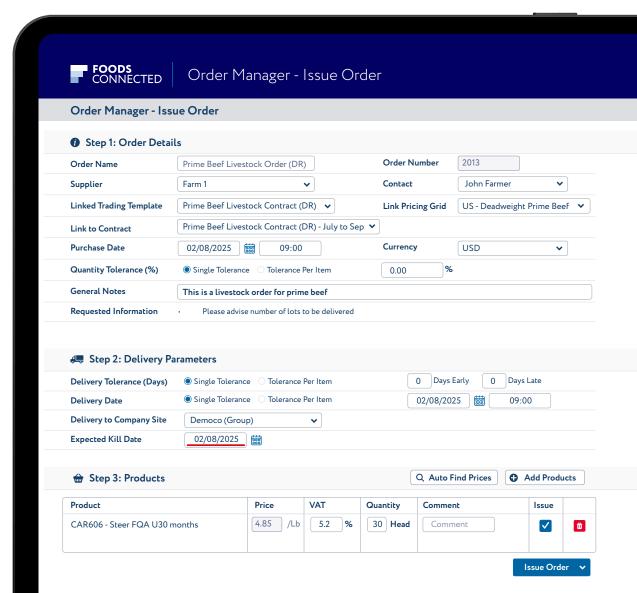
To process the order for your suppliers, you can create order templates for livestock and attach agreed pricing grids to orders.

Suppliers can access the order through our platform as well as receiving an email notification. They can then confirm the order back to you to ensure that the correct availability of livestock is guaranteed for the day of production.

This ensures the correct service levels are met and does away with extra correspondence and time-consuming paperwork.

For larger scale operations, our multiple order functionality allows for multiple orders and their associate grids to be sent in one batch, saving time and eliminating unnecessary admin.

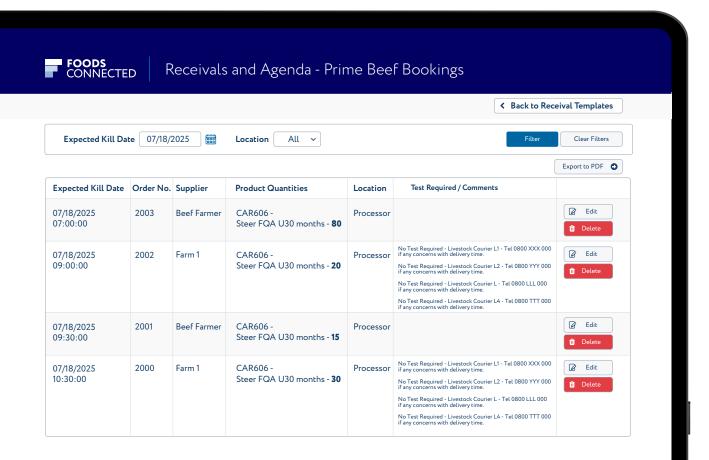




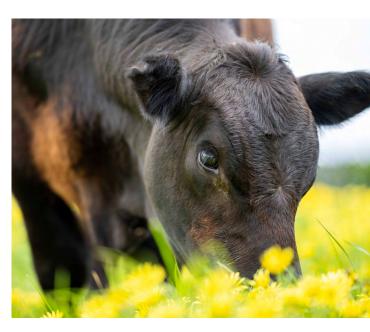


### **Holding pens Management**

Use our tools to set up a receivals itinerary at factory level, organizing the orders and delivery of livestock into the processor. Based on forward agreements and expected delivery days from contracts and orders, this creates a clear harvest schedule, providing clarity around what is expected and what has been received.











# MEAT PROCESSING MODELING TOOLS



#### **Yield Trees**

With our software solutions you can build yield trees for all your livestock types - from the carcass and its sub primals, through to offal, hides and by-products.

Here are some of the benefits:



Track multiple specifications of the same primal as well as multiple yield levels within a yield tree.



Capture all the yields and sub-yields including the key primal cut, offcuts, such as trimmings, bones and fat, and any by-products.

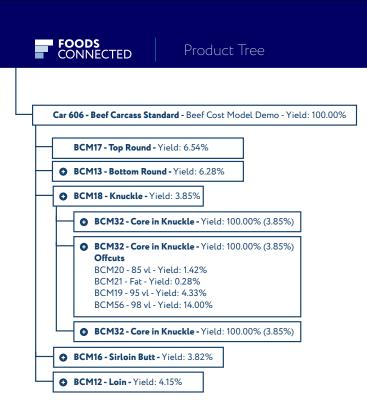


Build in sales values and assign them to line items using our product price file functionality. Discover the expected returns on the individual primal, offal item and the overall value or value per pound of the animal.



Deliver a target and benchmark that the factories can measure their performance against.





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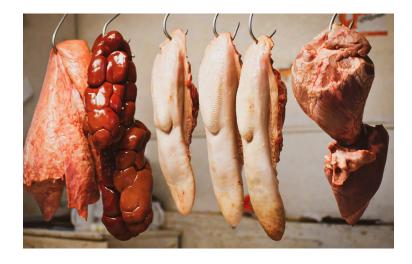


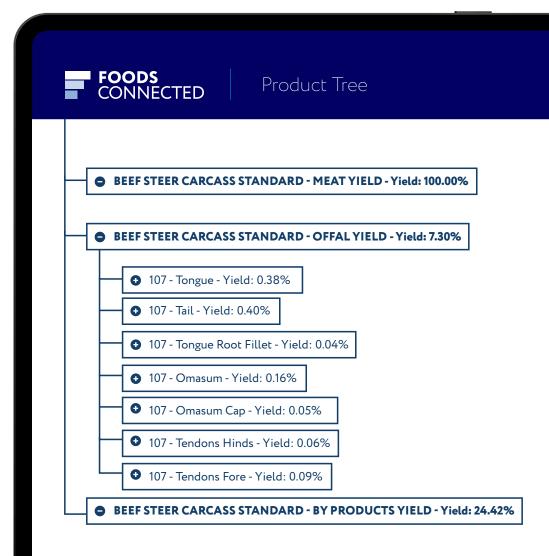
#### **Yield Tree Combinations**

You can combine yields trees into the same model to account for:

- Carcass yields
- Primal and sub primal yields
- · Offal yields
- By-product yields
- Yield loss

This gives you the power to pull all the buy sell elements together into one model. You can assess the profitability of each type of animal, as well as facilitating the creation of break-even points for livestock procurement.







#### **Yielded Pricing and its Benefits**

Our yield trees will highlight for you the most cost-effective product mixes based on the chosen market, sales price and specification.



The yielded price functionality in the yield tree tool enables your sales team to evaluate which production runs are most profitable for the factory, while optimizing carcass return.



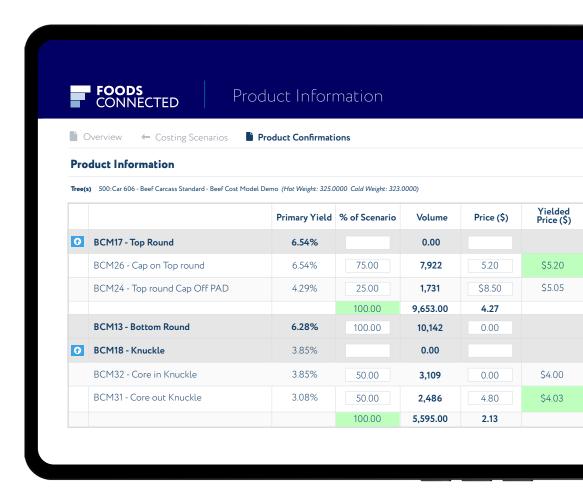
You can rank the jobs by primals cut from best to worst by creating product and sub product yields, including all of the offcut valuations and yields.



These features enable you to make better, more profitable choices, speed up decision making and encourage a more collaborative way of working between sales and operations teams.



It reduces the time lost with spreadsheets and removes the risk of manual errors.

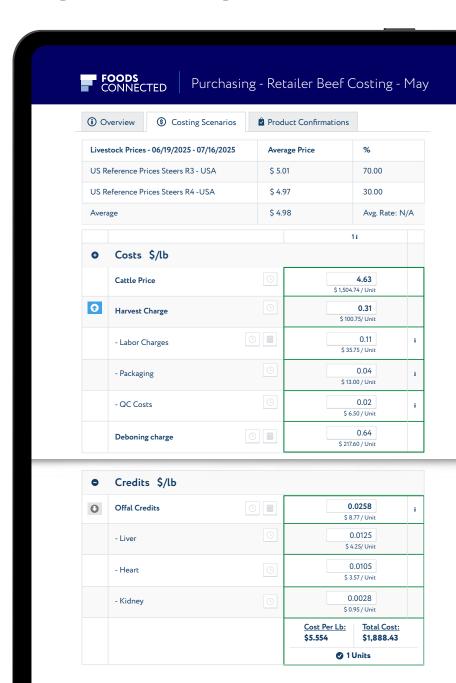




### **Carcass Modeling**

You can model the animal value by pulling in livestock costs either manually or as an API to a thirdparty livestock price website.

All the processing costs broken down by department - eg harvest, deboning - and cost type - eg labor, energy, utilities - can be included here. You can then calculate the expected buy sell of the livestock you are processing.

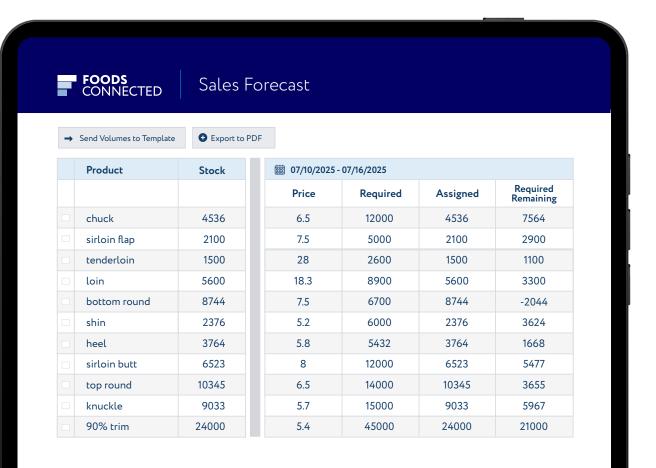






#### **Production Plans & Forecasts**

Using our tools, you can use the associated models from the yield tree to create daily, weekly and forward-looking production plans. Forecasting and planning can be linked (through API) to factory and stock control systems. This can then determine how much of a particular product needs to be produced over a predetermined time period, taking existing stock, expected production and future orders/demand into consideration.







#### **Production & Financial Reconciliation**

Having created the plan you can pull actual daily data from a factory's weights and measure system, covering actual production, and compare this to the production plan. By doing this you can identify differences and areas of deviation.

Factors that impact performance are:

- The over or under production of a particular item by the production hall to the detriment of another more profitable item.
- A job taken on by the sales team, which is not profitable, forcing the production hall to produce more of it.
- Excessive trimming by the deboners and trimmers leaving a below par yield performance.

This gives your site management team an overview of the full production and financial reconciliation, including piece counts in the fabrication area. It reveals where the deviations have taken place right down to the individual product level and measures the impact against the original plan.

This gives operations teams the power to identify which areas need corrective action and improvement.





#### Production: Reconciliation

Production Example 07/14/2025 (DR) Reconciliation: 103 Units - Average Weight 320Lb

		Expected			Actual					
	Scenario %	Yield	Volume	Pieces	Piece Weight	Yield	Volume	Pieces	Piece Weight	Yielded Price ①
Top round	-	-	-	-	-					-
Cap on Top round	10.00%	6.54%	178.37 Lb	21	8.66 Lb	6.95%	92.00 -86 Lb	10.00	9.20 Lb +0.54 Lb	\$6.75
Top round Cap Off	80.00%	5.17%	1,127 Lb	165	6.84 Lb	5.28%	1230.00 +103 Lb	176	6.99 Lb +0.15 Lb	\$7.88
Top round Cap Off PAD	10.00%	4.29%	116.90 Lb	41	2.84 Lb	4.13% -0.16%	112.00 -5 Lb	+0	2.73 Lb -0.11 Lb	\$7.62
Totals			1,422 Lb	227	6.27 Lb		1,434 Lb	227	6.32 Lb	
Bottom round	-	-		-	-					
Full Bottom round	85.00%	6.28%	1,456 Lb	175	8.31 Lb	6.29%	1440.00 -16 Lb	173	8.32 Lb +0.01 Lb	\$6.51
Bottom round Flat Fat On	5.00%	3.99%	54.40 Lb	10	5.28 Lb	4.11% +0.12%	54.40 +0 Lb	10 +0	5.44 Lb +0.16 Lb	\$5.48
Bottom round Flat PAD	10.00%	3.47%	94.68 Lb	41	2.30 Lb	3.49%	94.68 0 Lb	41 +0	2.31 Lb +0.01 Lb	\$5.63
Totals			1,605 Lb	226	7.10 Lb		1,589 Lb	224	7.09 Lb	
Knuckle	-	-	-	-	-					
Core in Knuckle	65.00%	3.85%	682.52 Lb	134	5.10 Lb	3.85%	682.52 0 Lb	134	5.09 Lb 0.00 Lb	\$5.46



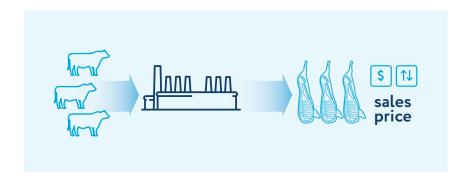
### **Profitability Forecasting Tools**

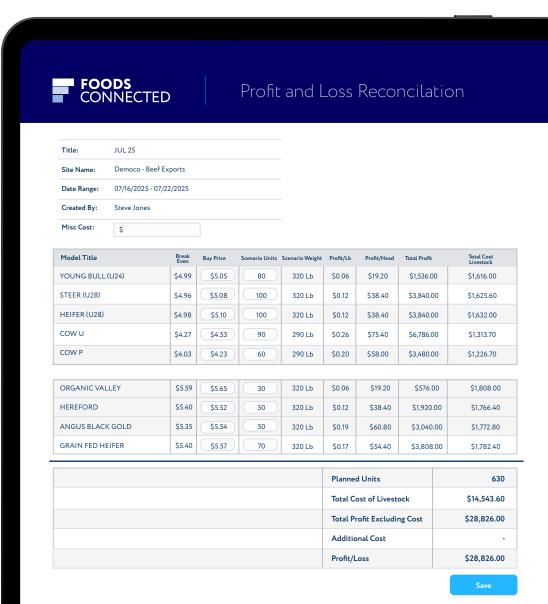
This suite of carcass models, offal yields, by-products, sales and production forecasts, helps you determine how much you can pay for livestock in the short term and further into the future.

Plus, it allows the processor to quantify how much extra margin they can generate by buying livestock below a certain price point.

Unfortunately the same holds true if the livestock market is expected to rise.

No matter what the market does, our tools give you the foresight to **make better decisions** - from how much you should process to how much you should procure from external sources.





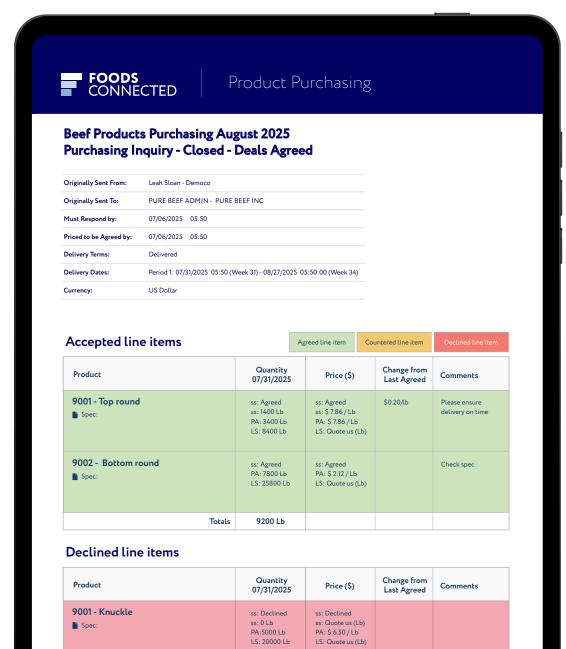
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### **Negotiations**

Need top-up volumes over and above your stock and production for your retail packing facility? Not a problem. You can use our negotiation functionality to automatically generate negotiation events, sending tenders to other suppliers for top up volumes.







# Foods Connected: The Meat Industry Professionals

Our team of industry experts brings with them a wealth of experience built up over many years in meat production and processing. We have literally done the job from the shop floor up and have translated this knowledge into the suite of software tools that we offer today. This means that our solutions are built by **meat industry professionals** for **meat industry professionals**.

#### THE SERVICES WE OFFER INCLUDE:



Moving Cost Models from Excel spreadsheets to an automated platform



Best practice advice on approaching retailers and other customers to achieve strategic targets



Helping sales and production teams work collaboratively together to achieve the best financial and commercial results



Helping create correct specifications for shop floor communication



Industry information gathering to help your team benchmark their own performance



Working with teams to improve the accuracy of forecasting to ensure best outcomes on P&L



### Get in touch







### # For UK, EU and US enquiries contact:



Mike McCarthy **HEAD OF SUPPLY CHAIN** & PROCUREMENT



Mike McCarthy has over 19 years experience in the red meat industry. Prior to joining Foods Connected he worked extensively within the McDonald's Global Supply Chain network as the Global Beef & Pork lead for OSI Group. Prior to this he spent 14 years in the Irish primary processing industry developing business and building strategic partnerships with leading Retail and Foodservice customers across EU and N.A.



**Sharon Scott** PROJECT LEAD & CLIENT **DEVELOPMENT MANAGER** 



Sharon has been with Foods Connected for over 6 years and brings a wealth of experience to our Protein Optimize & Procurement team having previously worked in both the red meat and poultry processing industry. Sharon works closely with our customers to ensure that the implementation of our tools into their businesses runs seamlessly to deliver improved processes and measured benefits.



### **Jacob Einberger**

HEAD OF CUSTOMER SUCCESS - PROCUREMENT AND PROTEIN OPTIMIZE



Jacob Einberger has over 25 years of experience in the protein industry with Smithfield Foods and JBS USA. He has real-world experience leading Operations, Business Analysis, Supply Chain Management, Process Alignment, and Continuous Improvement teams.

He obtained a degree in Meat and Animal Science from the University of Wisconsin and has dedicated his career to finding yield and efficiency opportunities across operations floors. He has a true passion for finding solutions to complex issues that impact the safety and availability of the world's food supply.



# Thank you for reading

