



CASE STUDY

Mullins Cheese Improves Payroll Processing with Ever.Ag Solutions and Managed Services

Partnership optimizes workflow, provides redundancy, and alleviated security concerns.



COMPANY OVERVIEW

Mullins Cheese is a multi-generational, family-owned and operated business with two cheese processing plants in Mosinee and Marshfield, Wisconsin. The plants produce a variety of cheeses and whey products from milk sourced from over 600 local dairy farms. Mullins receives over 7 million pounds of milk between the two sites daily.

CHALLENGES

- Losing a key staff member to retirement
- Outdated payroll software requiring time-consuming manual calculations

OBJECTIVES

- Address the loss of key administrative staff to retirement
- Streamline payroll process while maintaining legacy patron and hauler pay structures
- Migrate payroll software to a more modern and secure hosted solution

RESULTS

- Completed a smooth software transition in four months from contract signing to go-live
- Transitioned key payroll processing steps with agreed-upon workflows to Ever.Ag
- Alleviated issues with in-house data storage and security
- Producers now have access to pay statements, weights, and tests in a configurable portal





BACKGROUND/ABOUT THE COMPANY

Mullins Cheese and Mullins Whey include two cheese processing plants in Mosinee and Marshfield, Wisconsin. They produce a wide variety of cheeses with milk sourced from over 600 local dairy farms. Mullins receives over 7 million pounds of milk per day. The Mullins family has been making all varieties of natural American cheeses at the Mosinee plant for over 50 years and began producing hard Italian cheeses 15 years ago. Mullins is known for tailoring desired flavor profiles to the customers' needs. They strive to make value-added products that fit their operations and customer base.

CHALLENGES

Mullins works with over 600 farms and 30 haulers. Like all processors, their payroll system is critical to executing customized pay structures for their milk supply partners and haulers. In 2021, Mullins was informed that key staff responsible for the payroll process would retire, forcing quick action.

Furthermore, their current payroll process required additional, time-consuming manual calculations performed outside the software. As an on-premises solution, it required staff time and attention, not to mention ever-increasing, direct costs related to hardware and maintenance. Also, the system was not conducive to a remote staffing model.

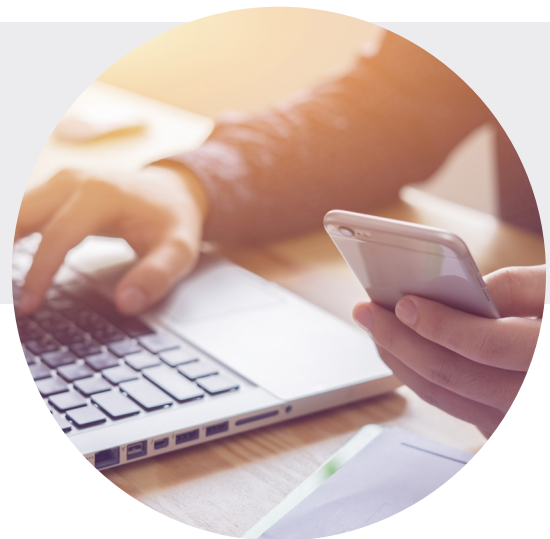
OBJECTIVES

Mullins urgently needed to transition from their legacy software system to a new program while addressing the staff exits, they faced in just a few short months. Their initial goal was to complete a quick and accurate conversion while remaining operational.

Making this system switch also allowed Mullins to address the inefficiencies from multiple manual calculations that affected the organization. A secondary goal, therefore, was to streamline the payroll process to improve efficiency, accuracy, and overall productivity.

"We had a lot of pay structures we manually calibrated because the system couldn't handle it, we just continued to do it the way that it worked."

ADAM MULLINS
Project Manager, Mullins Cheese



Mullins maintains complex pay structures to accommodate their haulers and even some special assignments for their patrons. Gaining the capability to easily modify and audit these pay structures – and all within the system – was essential to Mullins.



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SOLUTION

Mullins chose to work with Ever.Ag. From years in the industry, Mullins had come to trust Ever.Ag and, more importantly, their tenured and respected team. Moreover, Ever.Ag was the natural decision given their software and service offering – unique in today’s industry.

Even before the contract signing, Ever.Ag collaborated with Mullins to:

- Understand the project goals and objectives
- Outline their concerns about the transition
- Discuss the challenges with their existing system
- Work together to find ways to make the entire payroll and producer communication more manageable and more efficient

Mullins highlighted capabilities they expected to gain in transitioning to Ever.Ag’s Producer Payroll application and utilizing Ever.Ag’s managed services. The Ever.Ag team prioritized the implementation timeline by assigning tasks for both teams and maintained complete transparency as the project progressed.

Going through this process, Mullins also came to appreciate some additional benefits. Ever.Ag’s cloud-based solution offered improved data storage and security from their current state that would ultimately result in less cost and risk for the organization. Moreover, Mullins had the opportunity to interact with the Ever.Ag managed services – a veteran staff that brings decades of experience to the process. The team was able to suggest best-practices to Mullins and act as a sounding board as they contemplated process and pay changes.

RESULTS

After just four short months, the software was enabled, customized, configured, and handed over to the Ever.Ag managed services team. Staff training also took place at that time.

Now, more than six months have passed since the initial go-live. Mullins remains pleased with the efficiency and accuracy of the new software implementation.

“Their knowledge of our existing system and the transition into the platform was impressive. Without all those pieces together, I don’t think it would have gone off as smooth as it did.”

SHERRI ZOGATA
Milk Administrator
Mullins Cheese





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Furthermore, Mullins experienced a significant improvement in the speed and navigation of the software. The improved interface helped employees quickly learn and adapt to the new system. Also, the interface was beneficial for new employees who were just learning the payroll process. Ever.Ag proved to be an easier start-up for the general user.

By combining the Producer Payroll software and managed services, Mullins established a new, consistent workflow to complete the payroll process. What once was a routine, carried out by one key employee, has transitioned to a documented, repeatable process flow known by all. The workflow accommodates the complex pay structures Mullins desired to retain to preserve their standing with their producers and haulers. The audit capabilities and depth of valuable reports help the current team monitor activities and gather critical data when necessary.

An additional benefit is outsourcing Mullins' information technology system and data storage. Using a cloud system alleviated numerous issues in maintaining internal storage and security.

“Security was always an important factor for us, so we managed our servers and stored all the data. Taking that online with a cloud-based system was a big change. It helped with speed and security and gave us one less thing to worry about. It’s a huge benefit to us.”

ADAM MULLINS
Project Manager
Mullins Cheese



Finally, the easily configurable producer portal allows producers to have mobile friendly portal where they can access their information easily and quickly.

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