

CASE STUDY

Gough Econ's Successful History Partnering with Food Manufacturers

Gough Econ provides bulk material handling solutions for manufacturers of all types. This includes food manufacturers who deal with some unique industry challenges. Hygiene and sanitization are critical. Volume and efficiency are also important, but they can never compromise quality. Bulk material handling must be done in such a way that it doesn't crush, crumble, or otherwise damage the integrity of the food product.

Our sales and engineering teams have been able to solve each of these problems on behalf of our snack food clients. In doing so, we've offered three primary benefits. We have helped our clients increase their production capacity, allowing for expansion and growth. Our designs have focused on cleanability

and hygiene, enhancing compliance with food manufacturing standards. And we have provided complete system integration, ensuring seamless and efficient solutions.

Increased Production Capacity, Expansion, and Growth

Case in point: An internationally-recognized pasta manufacturer was looking to increase production capacity, specifically by adding a new gluten-free line. The addition of this manufacturing capability was a multi-million-dollar investment, and it came with some unique challenges. For example, the equipment had to be designed in a way that it could handle both long goods (spaghetti) as well as short (elbow macaroni).

The Gough Econ team supplied a multi-axis bucket conveyor system, which would handle the different types of pasta without mixing them together. The system gathered both long goods pasta and short goods pasta from separate loading areas and conveyed the products to a packaging area roughly 300 feet away.

This system helped the pasta company successfully expand into gluten-free options, enriching its own product line with maximum efficiency. To date, the system is running with a design capacity that exceeds 100 percent of target—all made possible by the streamlined, integrative approach taken by Gough Econ's engineers.

Also, a peanut farm on the East Coast planned an expansion and brought in Gough Econ to help design and implement the necessary equipment. The system provided capabilities for raw material handling to and from the roaster, screening through inspection to storage, and packaging in individual packets and/or bulk boxes.

Several pieces of Gough Econ's equipment were used for this expansion, all brought together into an integrated system. The equipment included two rotary screeners, bucket elevators, belt conveyors, inspection systems, and more. All were SQF-compliant designs.

This is a prime example of Gough Econ's ability to provide custom, seamless solutions for food processing companies who are looking to expand, all while maintaining rigorous standards of quality control.

Hygiene and Sanitation

An example of Gough Econ's ability to understand the implications of Safe Quality Food standards is best illustrated with a recent project at a major candy/confectionary company. In this case, equipment was being used to handle both nut and non-nut products.

To minimize issues related to nut allergens, a thorough cleaning was required at product change-overs. The existing equipment did not allow for this process resulting in a failed inspection. Gough Econ was challenged with designing a system, a series of belt conveyors, that allowed for complete disassembly to facilitate the required cleaning.

In utilizing accepted SQF procedures, cleanable designs, and washable components the customer has been able to continue to manufacture both nut and non-nut products on the newly installed Gough Econ conveyors. Essential in today's world of SQF is a thorough knowledge and understanding of these guidelines, and experience in how to apply them.

Delivering Complete System Integration

A final example: Gough Econ partnered with an iconic Midwestern plant known for producing popular lines of nut and popcorn snacks. The plant's new owners enlisted Gough Econ's engineers to deliver a major equipment upgrade.

Over the years, the plant's existing equipment received little upkeep or investment. Not only had it fallen below SQF standards, but it failed to fully address nut allergen issues.

The manufacturing process involved two lines of popcorn produced on a continuous basis. Assorted nuts were added to each line; both tree nuts and ground nuts were included.

Gough Econ designed a new system for this prestigious project—a fully integrated system that brought the plant up to modern-day standards, while offering maximum efficiency and quality control. The system included a variety of Gough Econ's core equipment, achieving a complete conveying system with nut ingredient distribution and storage. This allowed for control of the plant's recipe management system, routing any one of the three nuts to be stored and metered into either or both lines by way of a simple touchscreen controls interface.

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The system also included two transfer slider bed belt conveyors which received the freshly popped corn through two loss-in-weight feeders and a series of nine loss-in-weight feeders distributing nuts into the product stream proportional to the popcorn flow. Bucket elevators were also included to feed the nuts into their metering devices.

Finally, a full controls package was supplied to interface with existing plant controls allowing for full integration and information sharing with the company's SAP management system.

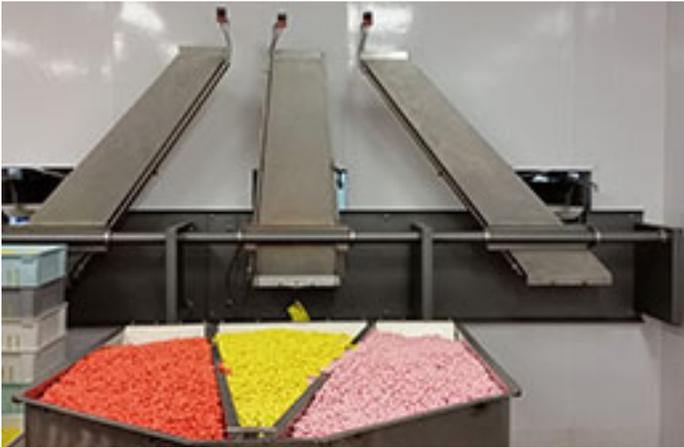
It's a strong example of the holistic approach taken by Gough Econ, whose sales and engineering teams are

always able to provide the right products for the job. More importantly, we can integrate those products into a streamlined and highly effective system designed to meet the client's goals.

Solutions in Food Manufacturing

Gough Econ is proud to deliver this systems-based approach to food manufacturers across the country. Our systems are designed to address your business goals, no matter what they may be.

Learn more by contacting a sales engineer at Gough Econ today.



Co-owners of Gough Econ, Inc.

David Risley (left) and Don Calvert (right)



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