

October 2009

Wayne County Journal-Banner, Piedmont, Mo.

Missouri Enterprise Program to Benefit Wood Product Companies

Harvesting timber and turning it into products that can be sold profitably is always challenging, but in this very difficult economy, it's even more so.

To have the best chance to survive and prosper, companies in the timber industry need to make sure that all of their activities add value to their products and are things for which their customers will be willing to pay.

One proven strategy is Lean Enterprise, which includes a set of tools and techniques that enable manufacturers and processors of all sizes and from a variety of industries to reduce waste and expenses and increase operating profit.

To bring these tools and techniques to Missouri wood industry companies, Missouri Enterprise, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation, has created the Profit Strategies for the Missouri Wood Industry program.

This program includes:

- An initial organizational session to help plan and prepare for success;
- A one-half day executive overview of the principles that guide a Lean Enterprise for the management staff;
- A one-day Introduction to Lean Enterprise that combines class work with an actual simulation developed specifically for the wood products industry (for the management and production staff);
- Training in Value Stream Mapping and creation of current and future state Value Stream Maps to identify ways to reduce waste and improve bottom-line profits;
- An assessment of the company's energy consuming devices and waste streams to find opportunities for savings;
- Two highly focused continuous improvement events (for example, 6S Workplace Organization and Safety); • Regular follow-up and a formal report three months after the improvement events are completed to document progress.

To find out more about how the Profit Strategies for the Missouri Wood Industry program can help your company, call your Missouri Enterprise Area Business Manager at 800-956-2682.