



SOLID FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM RESOLUTIONS

Move into 2023 with a voice and the tools to meet regulatory compliance requirements

By Dana Slagle, vice president of U.S. partnerships, Provision Analytics

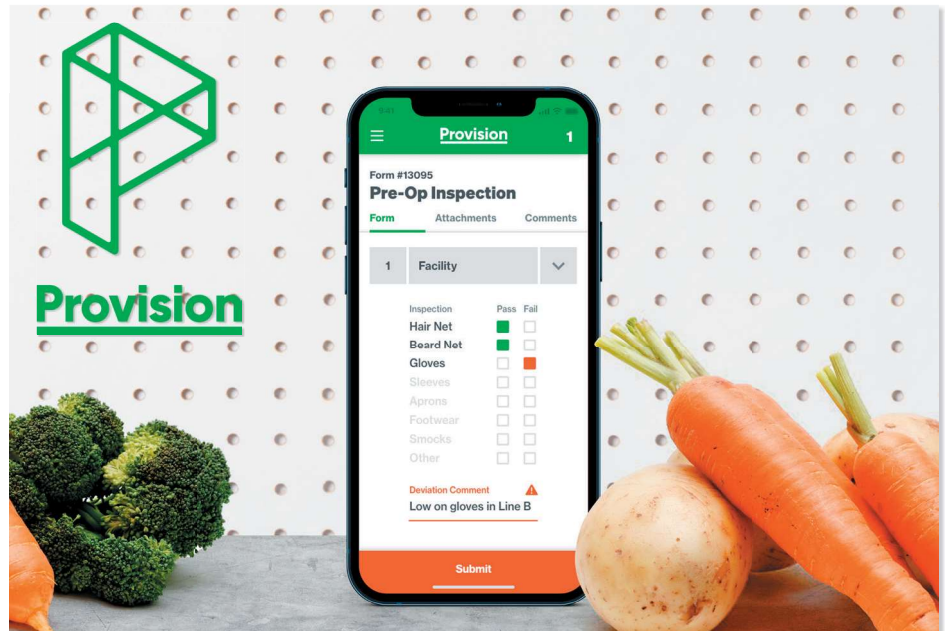
As leaders in a complex agriculture industry, you're at the forefront when it comes to technology, sustainability, food safety, and quality.

It's true, there have been advancements in everything from tractors and implements to computers and software, but some challenges remain, including, but not limited to:

- Water issues
- Labor shortages
- Supply chain management challenges
- Changes in food safety regulatory compliance requirements

The impact to your business may be an increase in the amount of time and resources needed to address the challenges. Frankly, it equates to added stress for you, your agribusiness, and team.

The question is, "How can we take learnings from 2022 and move into 2023 with some solid food safety program resolutions?"



Industry expert Alan Grant, chief executive officer (CEO) of Alan Grant Consulting, says, "It's important to do continuous 'horizon scans' by staying up to date and aware of global issues that may impact your business. Don't be caught off guard."

"For example, keep up to date on events like the potato wart crisis in

Canada through resources such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's comprehensive report," Grant adds. "Use industry information and warnings to take a proactive versus a reactive approach."

Collaboration is also important. Doug Bulgrin and Cassie Krebs of Gumz Farms LLC, Endeavor, Wisconsin, talk about the need for more collaboration between growers, retailers, and certification bodies.

Doug says, "I want to see more collaboration with associations like IFPA [International Fresh Produce Association] to help give growers a bigger voice."

Above: Provision Analytics provides cloud-based technology with digital solutions, such as the Pre-Op Inspection checklist shown here, that help small, medium, and large food companies operate more efficiently.

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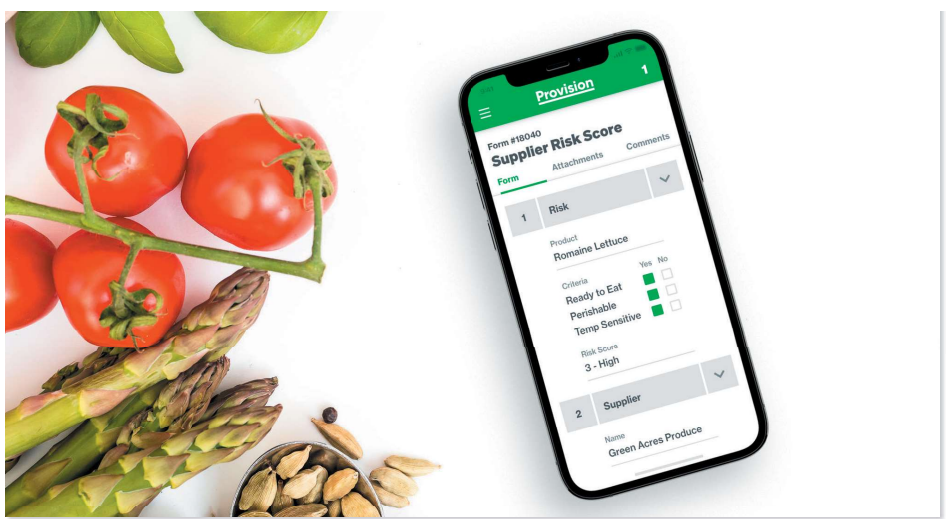
A goal for 2023 could be to engage more with industry associations who are advocating for you. Take advantage of resources provided by the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association and other groups who are there to support you.

As for labor challenges, there's no easy answer, but Cassie shared that, "Implementing software helped to keep our documentation more organized."

In a small organization where she wears multiple hats, it's important to be as efficient as possible and maximize the resources available.

All segments of the agricultural industry are facing similar challenges. Aubrey Bettencourt, CEO of the Almond Alliance of California, agrees that, going forward, regulation will continue to dictate the standards.

"Documentation is an important part of food safety, and customers are driving the need for transparency,"



Such tools as a Supplier Risk Score can help growers, packers, shippers, retailers, brokers, and other produce suppliers mitigate food safety compliance risks.

Bettencourt says.

For this reason, many industry leaders have 2023 goals related to broader data visibility through trending and reporting.

Though none of this is new, there is an increased focus on compliance. If your company's food safety resolutions for 2023 include streamlining and identifying opportunities for efficiency, you

may find value in exploring digital solutions and technologies that reduce time spent on compliance management.

Let's all continue to collaborate and share best practices that benefit the entire industry as we move into the new year. I'm sure we'll experience that collaboration during Potato Expo 2023 in Colorado!

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To our old friends with gratitude, and to our new friends with hope, may the coming year be full of prosperity and joy.

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Solid Food Safety Program Resolutions. . .

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Provision Analytics provides cloud-based technology with digital solutions that help small, medium, and large food companies operate more efficiently and mitigate compliance risks.

The company works with all Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) schemes, including GlobalG.A.P., PrimusGFS, Safe Quality Food (SQF), British Retail Consortium (BRC), CanadaGAP and others.

*For more information, visit www.provision.io. **BCT***



Right: Doug Bulgrin of Gumz Farms LLC, Endeavor, Wisconsin, talks about the need for more collaboration between growers, retailers, and certification bodies, as well as support from organizations like the International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA), to help give growers a bigger voice. Doug is shown here with Tonya McCormick of Tater Traders, Golden Colorado, in the Gumz Farms booth at IFPA's 2022 Global Produce & Floral Show, Orlando, Florida.

"I want to see more collaboration with associations like IFPA [International Fresh Produce Association] to help give growers a bigger voice."

– Doug Bulgrin, Gumz Farms, LLC



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