

Lean Manufacturing at Roseburg Forest Products: A Case Example

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Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) is a 75+-year old family-owned forest products firm headquartered in southwest Oregon. The firm recently implemented Lean Manufacturing principles at several of its mills and has seen significant benefits. Of course, with any initiative related to change in a large organization, there have been challenges to overcome as well.

This presentation will discuss the implementation process for Lean at RFP's Dillard Stud Mill. We will discuss what inspired the company to pursue Lean Manufacturing, how the implementation process was structured, unique adaptations the company made to the principles based on the forest industry context, their approach to training and technical assistance, and challenges. The presentation will also cover aspects related to how they have sustained momentum for the initiative, benefits the company has achieved via Lean, key lessons learned, and next steps. A specific case example of process improvement in one key area of the sawmill will be presented as well.