CASE STUDY

BrucePac™ Implements TEMPO® to Improve Laboratory Productivity

Context

Headquartered in Silverton, Oregon, BrucePac is a leader in providing specialty-designed cooked poultry, pork, and beef products. BrucePac also provides their customers with custom meat formulations to suit particular needs or niches.

In late 2010, BrucePac management faced the challenge of reducing overtime of microbiology personnel while still meeting testing demands. For their routine microbiology testing, one technician prepared samples, while another technician plated the resulting solutions. Additionally, technicians often worked weekends to manage testing demands and reporting.

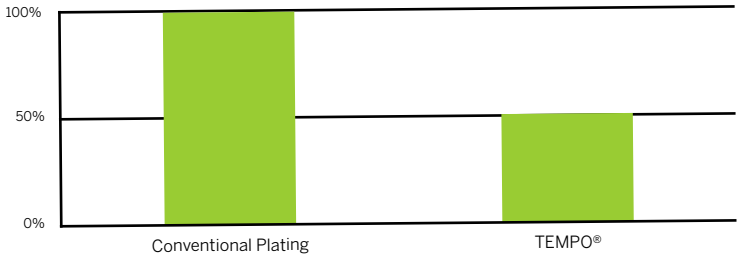
Objectives & Action

Explore automated techniques that would enable the lab to:

- Reduce the amount of weekend work.
- Orient technician endeavors toward more value-added activities rather than preparing plates and manually counting bacterial colonies.

After meeting with representatives from bioMérieux in the fall of 2010, BrucePac management decided to implement the TEMPO solution for the following routine parameters: total aerobic count, coliforms, *Escherichia coli*, and coagulase-positive *Staphylococcus aureus*.

TEMPO® Implementation at BrucePac:
Technicial Time on TEMPO® vs Base Plating Methods



PIONEERING DIAGNOSTICS

Key Results

After a three-month implementation period, BrucePac converted an average 3,100 tests per month to the TEMPO® solution on all food matrices tested.

As a result of implementing the automated TEMPO solution, BrucePac technicians were able to process existing sample volume in 50% less time, minimize the amount of weekend work, and streamline the testing process. Following TEMPO implementation, only one FTE was required to meet requirements for routine microbiology testing at BrucePac.

> “On the reading side of the TEMPO process, getting results takes one-third of the time it used to take. This has enabled the allocation of resources to other tasks and improved opportunities for advancement and greater responsibilities for our technicians.”
>
> *– Monica McLaughlin, Laboratory Manager, BrucePac*

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