

## FARMLAND SPEEDS TIMECARD PROCESSING WITH UNITIME

### INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

### COMPANY PROFILE

Farmland Industries is the largest farmer-owned cooperative in North America, with more than 600,000 family farmers and 1,700 local cooperatives. The Chemical Division produces 12 million gallons of liquid and 70 million pounds of granular crop protection products annually.

### CHALLENGE

Needed an automated time and attendance system to improve payroll accuracy, track labor, control door access, and provide reporting capabilities.

### SOLUTION

UNITIME Automated Timekeeping System™ - Desktop edition  
Manufacturing Labor Module™  
Accu-Time model 3000 timeclocks

### RESULTS

Replaced old manual system and achieved greater payroll accuracy, increased reporting capabilities and security, and improved profitability through labor costing.

Farmland Industries is a worldwide agribusiness conglomerate with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. The Chemical Division, located in St. Joseph, produces a line of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides to help farmers increase their crop yields. It's an extremely competitive business where controlling costs is the key to profitability.

The Chemical Division employs up to 150 people at peak season, working out of six buildings. They installed the UNITIME Automated Timekeeping System in March of 1996 to overcome a number of shortcomings with their manual system.



### THE UNITIME SOLUTION

Farmland replaced their manual timekeeping system with 13 timeclocks from Unitime Systems. Employees use the clocks to punch in and out as well as to record job cost information. According to Sue Flore, Payroll Manager, the UNITIME system reduced the amount of time spent accounting for employees' hours and improved the accuracy of their record keeping. Productivity reports are available on a daily basis, providing supervisors with up-to-date information to help control labor costs.

Employees record the start and stop of each job at one of the timeclocks located throughout the facilities. The Manufacturing Labor Module processes the job costing information to determine the hours spent on each job. In addition, the Manufacturing Labor Module determines whether employees' hours should be charged as direct, indirect, or maintenance.

UNITIME's job costing capabilities give Farmland an accurate measure of the labor spent of each job, thereby allowing them to give better quotes to future customers. If a particular job has not been profitable, the data is there to analyze the reasons so future quotes can be adjusted.

#### **ACCESS CONTROL**

One of the timeclocks is used to control access to the "shop stock" that contains various maintenance materials. Employees swipe their badges on this special clock to gain access. The clock performs a lookup on an employee list stored in memory, and if an employee is authorized the door is unlocked. In the past, control was achieved by issuing employees keys that were often lost and proved difficult to control. The new method gives each employee an "electronic key," and employees can be added and removed from the list as needed.

#### **UNLIMITED ACCESS TO DATA**

The open structure of the UNITIME databases allows Lisa Adair, MIS Manager, to use FoxPro or Access to extract data for custom report writing whenever necessary. No custom modifications are required to gain access to UNITIME data. This allows her to quickly respond to ad hoc report requests from management, and at less cost than many other "closed" time and attendance systems.

The UNITIME Automated Timekeeping System has given Farmland Industries the tools to control its labor costs, reduce waste, and compile a database of information to improve profitability.