

Formulas to Fulfillment: Modernizing Your Pet Food Operations



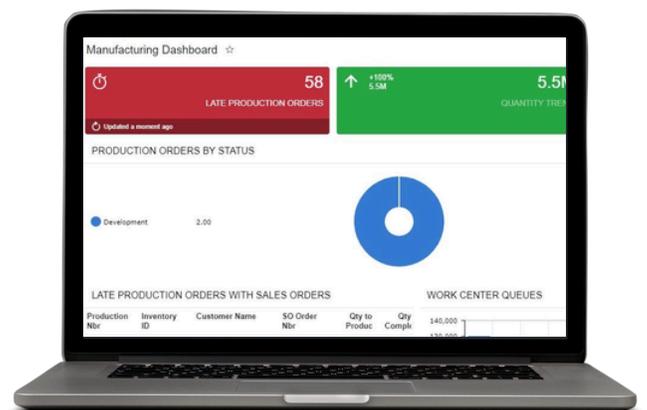
The pet food market has never been as dynamic as it is today. Pet owners now expect exceptional nutrition, safety, and product transparency. For emerging and expanding manufacturers, the pressure to deliver on these demands while scaling up operations can feel overwhelming.

Many pet food processors wrestle with intricate recipes, strict regulatory standards, evolving commerce platforms, and the constant need to innovate. As you grow, manual workarounds, spreadsheets, and basic accounting applications that once "did the trick" begin to stall progress. Suddenly, information is scattered, visibility is limited, and the space to create—or keep pace—dwindles.

This solution brief is designed to give you an actionable view of how a unified business platform can help you overcome these hurdles. You'll get a roadmap for tackling operational complexity, meet compliance requirements, and develop a foundation for sustained success.

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Building for Tomorrow, Today



[Acumatica Cloud ERP Screenshot](#)

The Reality Facing Modern Pet Food Processors

Growth brings complexity, but basic tools—such as spreadsheets and entry-level accounting apps—quickly reach their limits. Further, established business systems struggle to adapt to ever-changing consumer demands and deep connectivity with modern, cloud-based business applications.

Why Entry-Level Platforms Fall Short

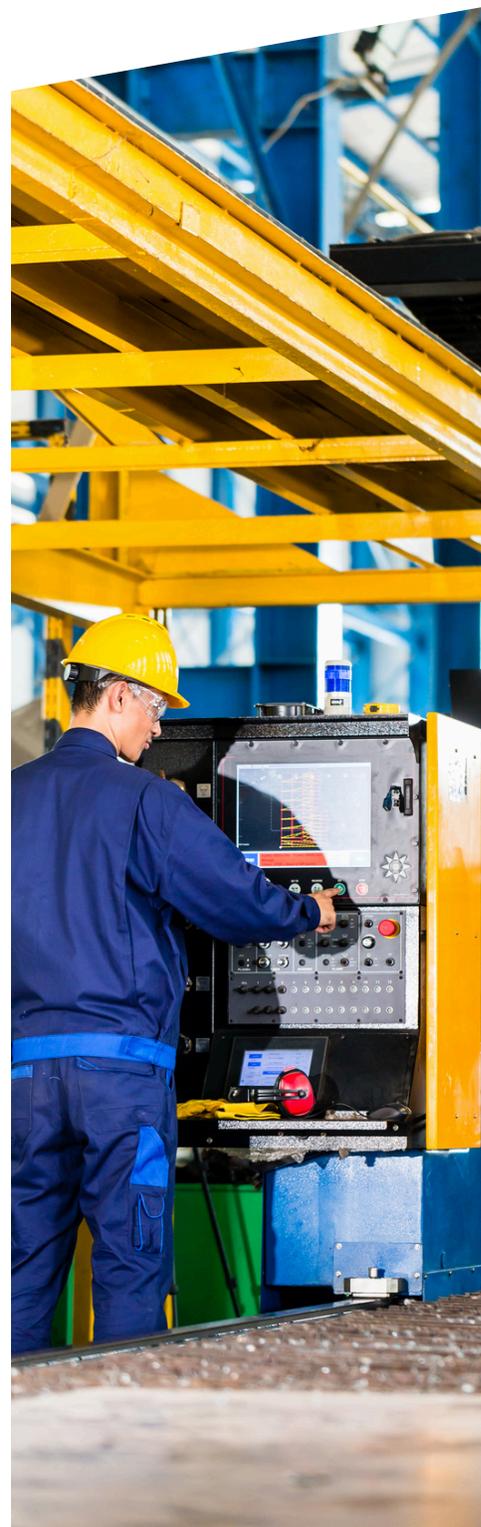
Tools like QuickBooks are helpful for basic finances, but they can't keep pace as manufacturing needs grow:

- **No Recipe Flexibility:** They can't manage batch formulas, substitutions, or align nutrition goals. Juggling details across spreadsheets leads to errors and wasted time.
- **Limited Lot Traceability:** Regulatory demands make oversight critical, but these systems lack full ingredient-to-finished-product tracking, risking compliance and brand trust.
- **Inventory Blind Spots:** Shelf life, by-products, and mixed units of measure are challenges simple systems can't solve—resulting in lost stock or last-minute scrambles.
- **Sales Disconnect:** Entry-level and legacy systems make syncing inventory and sales across channels tough, often relying on extra apps or custom fixes.

Why Old ERP Systems Hold You Back

Some upgrade to legacy ERP for more features, but these systems bring their own issues:

- **Hard and Costly to Update:** Adding products or adapting to new compliance needs takes specialists and significant time.
- **Siloed Operations:** Disparate data makes collaboration and quick decision-making difficult.
- **Limited Access:** With info stuck onsite, teams can't access timely or complete data to make timely decisions. Worse, this information is trapped inside the organization, requiring manual efforts to share it with external suppliers and customers.



The Value of a Cohesive Platform

Transforming your operations doesn't mean layering new software into old processes. It's about connecting your entire business so everyone, from quality assurance to accounting, uses the same reliable data.

A unified, cloud-ready business management suite brings together your financials, supply chain, production details, compliance controls, and more—all in real time.

Here's how a cohesive platform moves the needle for pet food manufacturers:

- **Easier Production Management:** Handle multi-stage, batch manufacturing with confidence. With modern systems like Acumatica, teams have tools to create, track, and adjust detailed recipes and batch schedules without hassle.
- **Built-In Compliance & Quality Oversight:** Quality checks and lot tracking should be seamless, not stressful. A modern system enables flexible quality testing with fast generation of compliance reports and traceability in case of a product recall.
- **Faster Innovation:** Launching new products or adjusting formulas doesn't have to disrupt production. With robust R&D modules and sandbox environments, teams can develop and test new ideas while keeping daily work on track.
- **Real-Time Insights:** Custom dashboards and reporting tools reveal trends, bottlenecks, and opportunities in seconds—not days. Whether you're walking the floor or reviewing financial numbers remotely, you have answers at your fingertips.
- **Readiness for Growth:** Cloud-enabled platforms expand as you do. Add facilities or users, scale up resources to improve system performance, or try new business models without scrapping your tech investment.



[Acumatica Cloud ERP Screenshot](#)

Your Step-by-Step Guide to Digital Transformation

A technology upgrade is more than buying software—it's about choosing the right strategic partners and building a resilient business platform designed for usability, flexibility, and adaptability. Here's a practical approach for pet food manufacturers ready to modernize:

Map Out Your Needs

Bring together voices across your organization—production, quality, logistics, sales. Identify inefficiencies, must-haves, and stretch goals. List every process and pain point, from recipe management challenges to compliance gaps.

Evaluate Your Options

Research business management systems purpose-built for process manufacturing. Focus on solutions that offer robust manufacturing, inventory, and quality features right out of the box. User-friendliness is crucial; if the system isn't easy, your team won't embrace it.

Plan for a Smooth Transition

Collaborate with a partner who knows pet food manufacturing and understands your goals. A great partner will configure your system, tailor dashboards, and lay out timelines with clear milestones.

Invest in Learning

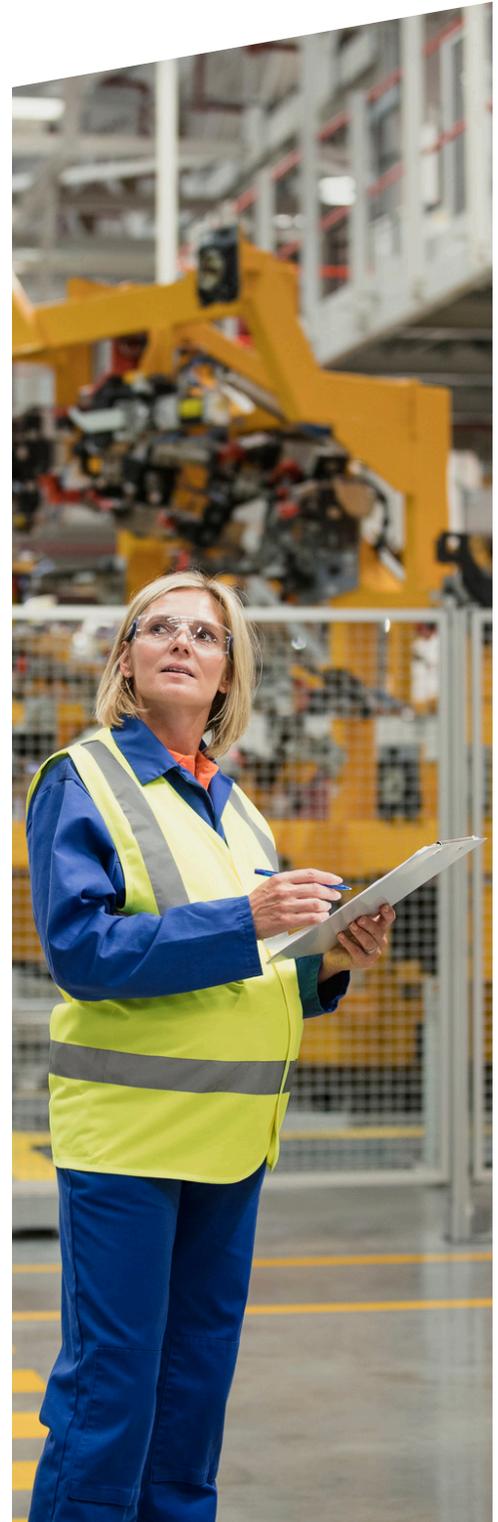
Systems are only as robust as the people using them. Provide training for every role—operators, supervisors, and administrative support staff. Choose a system that feels familiar and empowers users to learn at their own pace and adapt.

Go Live—And Move Forward

Launching the new system marks the start, not the finish. Plan to run legacy and new systems in parallel, validate processes, and offer extra support during the transition.

Commit to Improvement

Use your system's reporting and analysis features to spot trends and tweak operations. Don't be afraid to harness native artificial intelligence and iterate; today's platform will evolve as your business needs change.



Core Capabilities for Competitive Advantage

When updating your business systems, focus on practical, outcome-driven capabilities:

Recipe & Formula Management

Let your teams capture and manage complex formulas using precise measurements and conversion tools. Easy updating and revision history ensure your recipes stay ahead of market trends.

Batch Production Tools

Plan, schedule, and track batches across SKUs and packaging types with minimal manual entry or risk of error. Adjust for reworks or varying bag sizes—without starting from scratch each time.

Integrated QA & Compliance

Set checkpoints throughout the process—ingredients in, batches mixed, and final goods ready. Automatically quarantine anything out of spec and generate Certificates of Analysis as needed.

Full Ingredient Traceability

Every lot, from the time it enters your building until it heads to market, is easy to trace. This minimizes risk and meets even the strictest customer or regulatory audit.

Laboratory & Innovation Support

Give your R&D teams space to create, test, and refine formulas, all without disrupting normal operations.

Complete Packaging Management

Track packaging components, fill levels, and bills of materials so every shipment meets your quality and branding standards—no more last-minute surprises.

With a suite of solutions from DSD Business Systems, you get all these core tools in a connected platform, built with real industry insight.

The screenshot displays the Acumatica Cloud ERP interface for batch production management. The top section contains a form with various fields for batch details:

- Super Batch Type: Super Batch
- Super Batch Nbr: SUB000005
- Batch Type: AS - AS
- Scheduling Method: Start On
- Source: Production
- Demand Type: Independent
- Fill From Inventory: No
- Description: orange juice pack(12 can)
- Status: In Process
- Batch Date: 5/6/2022
- Sch Start Date: 5/6/2022
- Sch End Date: 5/6/2022
- Req Date: [Empty]
- Production Warehouse: WHOLESALE - Wholesale Warehouse
- Product Workgroup: [Empty]
- Product Manager: [Empty]

Below the form is a 'Batch Hierarchy' tree showing the structure of the batch:

- FG 2 - SUB000005-1 - 1.000000
 - ORN JC - SUB000005-2 - 12.000000
 - INT2 - SUB000005-3 - 24.000000
 - INT 1 - SUB000005-4 - 0.120000

The main table displays the 'SUB BATCHES' for the selected batch. The table has columns for Sub-Batch Serial Nbr, Batch Type, Inventory ID, Description, BOMID, Formula ID, Intermediate BOM ID, UOM, Qty to Produce, and Fill UOM.

Sub-Batch Serial Nbr	Batch Type	Inventory ID	Description	BOMID	Formula ID	Intermediate BOM ID	UOM	Qty to Produce	Fill UOM
1	AS	FG_2	orange juice pack(12 can)	BOM000021-A			PACK	1.00	
2	FL	ORN_JC	orange juice 2 ltr can	BOM000020-A	FOR000000004-A	BOM000018-A	LITRE	12.00	LITRE
3	MX	INT2	ORANGE JUICE	BOM000018-A	FOR000000004-A		LITRE	24.00	LITRE
4	MX	INT_1	Orange pulp	BOM000017-A	FOR000000002-A		LITRE	0.12	LITRE

Acumatica Cloud ERP Screenshot

Final Thoughts & Where to Go from Here



Every growing pet food manufacturer faces hurdles as their business scales. Relying on disconnected or outdated systems builds in frustration—introducing errors, squandering time, and limiting your competitive edge.

By unifying your operations under a single, purpose-driven platform, you gain control, clarity, and the flexibility to deal with expectation shifts—whether your customers or regulators drive them. A modern solution streamlines production, supports compliance, and lets your team focus on delivering great products, not wrestling with paperwork.

The transformation process starts with clear goals and the right technology partner. By taking deliberate steps, you can build a solid foundation that lifts your business to new possibilities—today and long into the future.

About DSD Business Systems

DSD Business Systems provides robust, cloud-based solutions designed for the unique needs of process manufacturers. With a practical approach and hands-on industry experience, DSD helps clients improve quality, efficiency, and compliance—enabling pet food manufacturers to keep pace with a demanding market.

Want to see how you can chart a smarter path forward? Contact us today!

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