Success Story:
Robinson Stave - Practical Problem Solving

COMPANY PROFILE

Robinson Stave are makers of quality oak bourbon barrels that began as a family-owned business by C.B. and Imogene Robinson in a small southeastern Kentucky stave mill in 1958. They secure renewable white oak logs from all over the southeast and turn them into staves to produce 53-gallon barrels known throughout the industry for their quality. We char the insides of each barrel to provide the distinctive color and taste for some of the best-known bourbons in the world.

SITUATION

Expansion and rapid growth in the past couple of years was preventing organizational leaders from handling a growing list of problems efficiently while demand for their product was increasing exponentially. Productivity was well below target while downtime in the facility was high, resulting in productivity loss. There was not an agreed upon or well understood communication methodology to address these issues and promote teamwork.

KY-MEP's SOLUTION

COVID restrictions forced the KY-MEP team to modify the highly interactive problem solving classroom experience into a virtual one. Leaders were taught the thinking and communication methodology of problem solving in a simple format which was easily incorporated into their system of meetings, staff updates and regular checks to support and address operational issues.

"I used to throw things at a problem and hope something sticks. This class forces you to develop a strategy to find a longer lasting solution that increases production rather than just winging it."

-James Carmen, Manager, Robinson Stave & Cumberland Cooperage

RESULTS

75%
Reduction in downtime

14%
Improved Productivity

19
Employees trained

Kentucky MEP provides high-value solutions, helping businesses maximize their success by increasing profits, reducing costs, and helping leaders lead people to manage processes.

Industry Leaders, Leading Industry

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KY-MEP can have success with your team, too. Call us today!