

Paragon's Software helps George's deliver fleet and fuel savings



At a glance

SECTOR: Food and drink, wholesale

COUNTRY: US

PARAGON PRODUCTS:

- Dynamic & Fixed Transportation Routing
- Fastnet for Network Modeling

Benefits

- \$31k saving in annual fuel costs
- 5% reduction in road miles
- 10% reduction in fleet size while maintaining the same high levels of customer service
- 6 hours of data entry and administration time saved every week

"Implementing Paragon software was, without doubt, the best solution for our business. The system allows me to quickly develop routes and completely eliminates the burden of manual planning and scheduling". Director of Transportation, George's, Inc.

About George's

George's Inc. is a premier farm-to-table supplier of fresh and frozen chicken products, distributing to quick service restaurants, retail and food service customers.

The company has grown from a small business serving local and regional markets into a multi-division corporation serving both national and international markets. It now processes over 5 million chickens each week. The company's mission remains the same: to set the standard by providing consistently superior poultry products worldwide every day.

Ease of implementation

George's has been working with Paragon since 2007. Initially it chose Paragon to improve operational efficiencies in its Virginia-based operation, specifically for its store door routes. At the time George's was delivering chicken products direct to store for 250 fast food restaurants three times a week requiring up to 35 stops per truck. George's needed a solution that would integrate with its own homegrown IT system. It had been looking for the right match for over 2 years when it started talking to Paragon.

"I looked at several other packages all offering the ability to rapidly develop routes. However, it was Paragon's approach of promising that the software would work with our existing systems and then delivering on those promises that makes this an outstanding solution. Paragon puts customers first and this is very important to our organization," explains Jeff Overstreet, Director of Transportation, George's, Inc.

The routing and scheduling innovation integrates seamlessly with George's order entry and shipping systems. This brings operational transparency, allowing greater flexibility and improved customer service. The uniquely accurate, time saving system improves dispatch operations as well as enabling continuous process improvement.

"Implementing Paragon software was, without doubt, the best solution for our business. The system allows me to quickly develop routes and completely eliminates the burden of manual planning and scheduling. I no longer worry about 25 new routes arriving on my desk to work out – the system automates the process and it is very accurate and ensures that mileage does not creep up as we get busier. This is evidenced by the fact that we are adding more deliveries without adding more miles," continues Overstreet.

George's runs all orders through the system, which factors in Hours of Service restrictions, truck weight, distance and dock time to create an optimal daily schedule. Dispatchers can then use their local knowledge to manipulate routes if need be, allowing George's to create the most efficient routes with multi-stops to minimize spoilage.

Using Paragon to reduce spoilage

George's must adhere to strict regulations for food safety, ensuring fresh or frozen chickens are kept at the proper safe temperature, whether it is in the processing facility or out on the road in a truck. At each stop when the trailer door opens, it lets in warm air, possibly affecting the quality of the product as it travels. The less time spent at the customer dock unloading chicken, the better.

Using Paragon to optimize the routes and schedules of its fleet has reduced the time and distance its trucks, and therefore its chickens, spend on the road each day. By lowering mileage, the planning office reduces the liability associated with temperature.

George's has also been able to customize the Paragon system to address the industry specific challenge of having to sell all of its fresh poultry products every day. They put loads of chicken up for auction on a spot sale, allowing them to sell all the chickens for that day and to maximize truck payloads.

Tangible return on investment

George's has seen savings across its business as a result of implementing Paragon software.

From day one of implementing the innovative logistics software, George's was able to reduce its fleet size by 10 per cent and still maintain its high quality of service.

Reducing data entry and dispatch administration by 6 hours a week was also an immediate benefit – time that is now spent on investigating backhauling and other business opportunities.

Finally George's is saving \$31,000 a year on fuel costs. These savings result from a 5 per cent reduction in road miles made possible by using the Paragon software.

"Paragon's transportation optimization software has delivered a major boost to our operation. Our efficiencies and savings demonstrate that our investment in the system has more than paid for itself. Furthermore, the money and time we save using the system far outweighs the cost of the license fee," concludes Overstreet.

George's now uses Paragon software across all of its business.



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About Paragon

Paragon Software Systems is dedicated to the continued development, implementation and support of routing and scheduling solutions that help businesses to cut transportation costs, improve productivity, reduce carbon emissions and raise customer service levels. The Paragon support consultants have implemented more than 3,400 systems at over 1,100 client sites in 61 countries. Headquartered in Dorking, UK and with offices in Dallas, TX and Manchester, NH, Paragon is a respected pioneer in routing and scheduling with over 30 years of know-how.

Paragon



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