

## Item Traceability – Possibilities

The traceability conversation continues to orbit primarily around the topics of regulatory requirements and adoption/implementation costs. Item movement tracking to meet potential FDA requirements should be top of mind for all supply chain partners. However, there are business reasons to look at the topic from other directions.

The ability to quickly track, even visually map, human consumable item movement is a powerful tool for supply chain management. When this can be done quickly, efficiently, & accurately business systems & processes can be enhanced.

Some examples may be –

The ability to move from static inventory management; basically counting how many boxes of an item moved, to dynamic inventory management; the ability to add aging, lot assignment, & origination point to the data following the item through the supply chain. You could know not only how many of an item you had on hand, but the remaining shelf life, etc.

The ability to share up & downstream depletion with all supply chain partners. If the manufacturer, or even grower, could have visibility into specific product movement at the end-user point much of the expediting to meet unexpected demand could be eliminated. Efficient, electronic data capture systems could enable this.

Overall a standardized, modernized supply chain that enables data capture & sharing efficiently can deliver tangible business benefits. Item traceability is but one of the outputs from such a system.