JBT Marel Software

Digital tools guide for SME food processors, where to start and what to measure

Why is food processing turning digital?

Put simply, because digital systems reduce waste, increase product quality and consistency, reduce labor dependency, increase food safety, and boost profits.

Are you a small or mid-sized food processor looking to boost efficiency, traceability, or product quality?

This simple 5-step checklist will guide you through the process of adopting food manufacturing software — so you can make smarter decisions, reduce waste, and grow your business.



5-step checklist

to start your digital transformation in food processing

1 Pinpoint your biggest challenge

Start with the area that will make the biggest impact.

Instead of trying to digitize everything at once, focus on solving your most pressing issue.

Ask yourself:

- Are you struggling with product consistency?
- Do you need better food safety and traceability?
- Is manual labor slowing you down?
- Could you improve processing efficiency or product yield?

Once you've identified your priority, you'll be better equipped to choose the right software solution. By starting small, you create quick wins and build a foundation for long-term growth.

JBT Marel offers software solutions designed for specific areas with food processing to address needs whether you're optimizing yields, improving traceability, or automating manual processes.

2 Identify your key users

Who will use the software day-to-day?

Different teams have different needs. Start by identifying who your primary users are.

For example:

- Production teams need real-time data on throughput for better workflow visibility
- Quality control teams might focus on compliance and traceability
- Executives may want dashboards for performance metrics to drive business decisions

JBT Marel's software solutions are packaged to make it easy to scale. You can start with one solution, such as Receiving, and expand to other departments or areas as you grow. Tailoring training to key users ensures faster adoption and better results.

3 Define the insights you need

What data will help you solve your biggest challenge?

Software is only as good as the insight it delivers. Think about the kind of information that will drive better decisions:

- Do you need to track throughput, yield, waste, and downtime?
- Would insight into labor hours or order fulfillment rates help?
- Are you looking for real-time alerts on production issues?

With JBT Marel Software, you can access actionable insights that help you reduce waste, improve throughput, and meet compliance standards. Enabling you to make smarter decisions, fast to transform your factory floor.

4 Involve the right stakeholders early

Who needs to be part of the decision-making process?

Digital transformation isn't a one-person job. Engage everyone who will influence, implement, or use the software from the start.

Consider:

- IT teams for security and integration
- Procurement for contracts and vendor selection
- Finance for budget approval
- Operations for day-to-day use

Early collaboration avoids roadblocks later, and makes adoption of new technologies a positive experience.

Working with a provider means you get support during every step of implementation, from planning to training, and ongoing support. JBT Marel solutions are designed with robust security and flexible integration options, making it easier for your IT and procurement teams to say 'yes".

5 Set clear success metrics from day one

How will you measure ROI and progress?

You can't improve what you don't measure. Before you implement anything, define what success looks like. Align your KPIs with your business goals:

- Reduced manual labor hours
- Increase product yield
- Improve order accuracy
- Boost revenue or margins
- Lower compliance risks

Tracking these metrics will help you prove the value of your investment and demonstrate the advantages of a digital asset to teams and stakeholders.

JBT Marel software includes customizable dashboards and KPI tracking tools that help you monitor performance in real time.

Ready to start your digital journey?

Start small, stay focused, and scale gradually.

Digitizing your food processing operations is a smart move, and with the right tools, it's easier than ever.

Explore how JBT Marel software solutions can help your business thrive. From automation to real-time analytics, our platforms are built to keep SME processors competitive. Our team of software experts work with you to answer all of these questions and ensure you invest in solutions that will have the biggest, positive effect on your business.

We also offer ongoing service solutions to bridge IT gaps and keep your business growing every step of the way.

Want to see how JBT Marel can help your business? Request a free consultation today.

Talk to a software expert

Are you ready to take the first step and implement software?

Navigating the process can be complicated but our specialists are here to guide you on your journey and provide all the support you need.



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