

# CASE Study

Asset Tracking

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
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## Asset Verification Project

### The Challenge

In February 1998, SageData Solutions began discussions with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) on their departmental Asset Verification Project. The initial pilot project started with the newly formed Canadian Food Inspection Agency. All of the Agency's assets needed to be physically verified before going live with their SAP implementation on April 1, 1999 and before the Ministers had to sign off on the transfer of assets from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans.

### The Solution

SageData's Bar Code Asset Tracking System - BassetPro was chosen as the "middleware" program to enable the Agency and the Departments to easily and accurately perform physical asset inventories and verifications. By using bar code labels and scanners instead of entering the data manually, the inventory was recorded by the asset verifiers in a fraction of the time. The system provided the branches flexibility in meeting their diverse requirements. For example, the Quebec region needed to track all IT assets, while CFIA's standard was only those assets worth over \$1,000.

The project was a challenge, coordinating efforts between CFIA headquarters in Nepean, their newly established Assets Management Center in Calgary, as well as 15 other locations was accomplished through weekly progress reports, conference calls and numerous meetings.



## Benefits

- ✓ Instant reconciliation
- ✓ Eliminates duplicate data entry
- ✓ Track historical transactions of an asset
- ✓ Create and store electronic notes on each asset



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The actual verification started the first week of November 1998 and continued for the following ten weeks. The implementation of the BassetPro system enabled CFIA personnel to run a missing asset report to identify specific assets to be found or written off prior to the SAP transfer deadline of March 31, 1999. BassetPro also provided the capability to ensure that the SAP mandatory information was part of each asset record. Users could monitor their own progress by running an SAP validation test.

The result was 15,000 assets worth over \$300,000,000 were successfully imported into SAP by March 31, 1999. The SAP asset management module was populated with accurate and verified data. BassetPro successfully closed the gap between financial asset management and physical asset verification.

Since the initial CFIA proof of concept, AAFC has extended the application of BassetPro to include all branches across the country. They include Corporate Services, Policy Branch, Marketing and Information Services, and Research Branch. AAFC now has almost 40 BassetPro systems operating across Canada at all branch and regional offices.

Currently, SageData is developing a more rugged and automated transfer process that will reflect the concerns of all branches of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, a department that has taken the initiative to standardize their asset management program.

### **Benefits**

Instant reconciliation of where an asset is located has eliminated massive manual reconciliation. A common issue found prior to the installation was one region would report a "new asset"; another region would report a "missing" asset, but in fact both regions would be concerned over the same asset. This common issue of reconciliation has been totally eliminated with BassetPro.

All assets were labeled again with CFIA asset bar code tags, but through the smart "association" feature, all historical data was retained. This expedited the inventory verification process, as most data needed only to be visually checked and not entered from scratch.

The ability to add in new assets on the handheld computer, eliminated all duplicate data entry and possible errors. Users have a flexible system that allows them to track what they want, regardless of SAP constraints.

BassetPro provides historical transaction data automatically, so a user can see when and where an asset was moved.

Electronic notes allow the user to make notes of any kind on the mobile handheld computer. These notes are permanently attached to the asset record and can provide maintenance detail at the touch of a button.

Founded in 1991, SageData Solutions Inc. is one of the world's leaders in software development for bar codes, inventory control, asset tracking and warehouse management systems. The company has implemented several hundred applications for custom and standard systems for government and private sector organizations. The company currently focuses on the development of cost effective "off-the-shelf" solutions for local and worldwide export markets, closing the gap between desktop systems and mobile workers.

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