



## ENJOYING NEW LEVELS OF BUSINESS PROCESS EFFICIENCY WITH ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AUTOMATION

Esfer enables the automated processing of purchase order, non-purchase order and freight invoices into the Farmland Food's existing SAP environment.

### Project Background

As a renowned international pork processing company with expanding operations, Farmland Foods processes approximately 30,000 invoices per month. Farmland recognized the importance of minimizing costs, staff requirements and labor-intensive duties to accommodate its growing volumes without adding headcount.

Another top priority for the company was to increase the speed, accuracy and visibility of their accounts payable (AP) operations by eliminating outdated manual methods. For example, Farmland had been using a file room to store invoices which made it very challenging to track down documents in a timely fashion. In addition, emailed invoices were not linked to Farmland's SAP® system, creating extra work for staff such as printing the invoice and re-keying it into SAP.

"One of the biggest drivers of change was finding a solution to eliminate all of the paper-filing," said the Accounts Payable Manager at Farmland. "This was a big issue when trying to collect invoices for audits that were several years old. The whole process was overwhelming."



Across the board, Esfer delivered basically everything we were looking for in terms of automated AP functionality and seamless integration with SAP.

Accounts Payable Manager

### Why Esfer?

After weighing its options and exploring a number of vendors, Farmland selected Esfer's Accounts Payable automation solution because of the robust processing, workflow and archiving capabilities, as well as the high level of certified integration Esfer offered with SAP. Another deciding factor in the decision was that Smithfield Packing Company, Farmland's sister company, was already utilizing Esfer with successful results.

### Benefits:

- **Improved visibility.** Managers now have access to key metrics, such as number of invoices to process, how far out they are, payment terms for discounts, etc.
- **Easier access to invoices.** Instead of tracking down invoices in a file room, Esfer allows users to access them via document numbers to easily email/print a copy online.
- **Faster freight processing.** Esfer helped Farmland reduce its "out period" for freight invoices from a deadline-pushing 14 days to just two days.
- **Cost savings.** Fewer manual processing tasks allowed Farmland to save on costs equal to three FTEs, and reallocate current staff to projects offering greater value.
- **Faster invoice entry time.** Where the invoice entry goal for Farmland's AP staff used to be 150-200 invoices per day, with Esfer, they are achieving over 400 invoices per day.
- **Fewer outstanding accruals.** Faster invoice entry times have enabled Farmland to reduce the number of outstanding AP accruals by \$8 million.
- **Increased discounts.** When comparing the last six months to the six months prior to Esfer, Farmland estimates it has gained an additional \$29,815 in discounts.

## About Farmland

Since 1959, Farmland has maintained a proud heritage of working side-by-side with American farm families, using time-honored traditions to make great-tasting bacon, fresh pork, ham, sausage, hot dogs and lunch meat. Acquired from Smithfield Foods in 2003, Farmland has a large and growing international business, exporting products to more than 60 countries across six continents.

[www.farmlandfoods.com](http://www.farmlandfoods.com)

©2014 Esker S.A. All rights reserved. Esker and the Esker logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Esker S.A. in the U.S. and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.