

YEO VALLEY, UK

Ice Pigging Case Study

Yeo Valley is the largest organic business in the UK producing over 2,000 tonnes of yoghurt each week. The Yeo Valley Organic brand continues to grow and the range now includes milk, children's products, butter, cream, Frozen Yoghurt, ice cream, compote and rice pudding.

The Challenge

The current method of flushing dairy products from pipelines is usually done by heating water to around 80°C, then flushing it through the pipes before sending it down the drain, taking the remaining product, wasted heat and energy with it.

Key Requirements

- ▶ Increase product recovery
- ▶ Reduce cleaning cycle times
- ▶ Reduce effluent production

The Project - Dairy production line

Ice Pigging was used to remove a custard product from production machinery. Compared to the usual flushing process, Ice Pigging was able to recover an additional 50 litres of product per run. The ice pig had a clearly defined interface between the pig and the product, as much as 75% of product in the line is able to be recovered. The amount of mixed product and ice slurry was significantly less than the amount of mixed product and water produced using the existing process. This meant that less effluent was produced for disposal.



Collection buckets showing product and dirty water (progression from left to right and bottom to top).

“As an engineer myself I was very interested and involved in the project and could see the benefits of Ice Pigging straight away compared to traditional pigging systems. Ice Pigging technology has great potential for the dairy and food industry.”

Andrew Rimell, General Manager of the Newton Abbot site Yeo Valley

THE RESULTS:

An increase in product recovery	✓
A reduction in water usage meaning less effluent production	✓
Reduced downtime due to shorter duration of cleaning process	✓
Reduced use of CIP chemicals benefiting the environment	✓
A reduction in water treatment requirements due to reduction of Chemical Oxygen Demand in the effluent	✓

FOOD & BEVERAGES



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