

Knox Mueller

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SUMMARY

Project Engineer with more than three years delivering capital and process improvement work across food and consumer products manufacturing environments. Leads feasibility studies, preliminary cost estimates, **equipment selection**, installation planning, **start up** support, troubleshooting, testing, and validation within operating plants. Uses production data, downtime records, field observations, and **technical constraints** to compare alternatives and resolve equipment issues. Coordinates engineering, operations, maintenance, vendors, contractors, and business stakeholders through documented requirements, schedules, risk logs, **corrective actions**, and acceptance activities. Maintains traceable engineering records that support safety, quality, governance, and continuous improvement. Ready to contribute practical plant experience, disciplined project coordination, and clear technical communication across regional production locations.

EXPERIENCE

Project Engineer, Capital Manufacturing Projects

June 2024 - Present

Summit Grove Nutrition

Kansas City, MO

Leads scoped capital improvements for packaging and processing lines in active food manufacturing areas. Owns requirements, equipment comparisons, installation planning, commissioning support, troubleshooting, validation, documentation, and **training coordination**. Partners with operations, maintenance, vendors, contractors, and plant leaders to protect safety, quality, schedule, and production continuity.

- Translated production constraints into equipment requirements, **installation** plans, and start up activities for packaging lines
- Compared conveyor, inspection, and packaging **alternatives** using feasibility data and preliminary cost estimates for funding decisions
- Coordinated vendors and contractors around shutdown windows, site readiness, acceptance criteria, and commissioning activities
- Analyzed downtime records and **operating data** to isolate recurring line issues and guide verified **troubleshooting**
- Maintained risk logs, engineering records, test results, equipment documents, and action trackers through **validation**
- Prepared operator and maintenance handoff materials, coordinating training and post start up issue resolution

Associate Project Engineer, Manufacturing Engineering

July 2023 - May 2024

Riverbend Consumer Products

Topeka, KS

Supported manufacturing **engineering projects** involving packaging equipment, utility connections, guarding, and line layout changes. Prepared technical inputs, coordinated vendor access, executed testing, documented validation evidence, and tracked corrective actions under established procedures. Improved retrieval and consistency of project files supporting safety, quality, **governance**, and future plant work.

- Supported **packaging** equipment changes, utility connections, guarding updates, and line layout modifications under documented procedures
- Prepared equipment comparisons, field measurements, scope notes, and estimate inputs for practical plant solutions
- Coordinated vendor visits and contractor access with production and maintenance teams before **installation** work began
- Executed test protocols and captured validation evidence for modified equipment against defined acceptance requirements
- Analyzed maintenance history and production observations to recommend fact based reliability improvements
- Standardized drawings, closeout records, project files, and reusable templates for safer future project retrieval

PROJECTS

Regional Packaging Line Upgrade 📅 2025

Compared inspection and conveyor equipment, documented plant constraints, coordinated installation readiness, and supported commissioning within an active production area.

Equipment Validation Records Program 📅 2024

Created reusable project records and test evidence practices that improved traceability across equipment modifications, acceptance activities, and corrective actions.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Recognized by plant leadership for dependable coordination during packaging equipment start up activities.
- Selected as a trusted engineering resource for practical troubleshooting and clear project documentation.
- Commended by cross functional partners for maintaining follow up through corrective action resolution.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering

2023

Kansas State University GPA: 0

Manhattan, KS

Coursework: Engineering design, manufacturing systems, project management, data analysis

CERTIFICATIONS

- OSHA 30 Hour General Industry 📅 2024
- Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt 📅 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Project Management:** Microsoft Project, project schedules, action trackers
- **Engineering Analysis:** feasibility studies, technical constraints, alternative analysis
- **Cost Estimating:** preliminary estimates, scope inputs, funding comparisons
- **Packaging Equipment:** conveyors, inspection systems, packaging lines
- **Manufacturing Systems:** processing lines, utility connections, line layouts
- **Commissioning:** installation planning, start up, acceptance criteria
- **Testing and Validation:** test protocols, validation evidence, acceptance testing
- **Reliability Analysis:** downtime records, maintenance history, operating data
- **Risk Management:** risk logs, issue tracking, corrective actions
- **Engineering Documentation:** drawings, equipment records, project templates
- **Safety and Quality:** OSHA 30 Hour General Industry, safety records, quality records
- **Collaboration Tools:** Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, shared project files

SKILLS

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Capital Projects | • Feasibility Studies | • Start Up | • Data Analysis |
| • Manufacturing Engineering | • Cost Estimating | • Troubleshooting | • Risk Tracking |
| • Project Management | • Equipment Selection | • Testing | • Corrective Actions |
| • Program Coordination | • Installation Planning | • Validation | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Manufacturing engineering peer network, sharing practical approaches for equipment projects and plant reliability.
- Operations and maintenance partnership forum, supporting productive coordination across active production areas.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST