

# HISTORICAL DATA WAREHOUSE

**3 PILLARS OF**

**GUIDING  
PRINCIPLES**

**PROGRESS**

**Mickey Yost**

[Mickey.yost@usda.gov](mailto:Mickey.yost@usda.gov)

**National Agricultural Statistics Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1999**



- (1) Start with the right sponsorship chain.
- (2) Make the Historical Data Warehouse the first step of your data system reengineering effort.
- (3) Plan for the Historical Data Warehouse to eventually service the entire Agency.
- (4) Choose a Historical Data Warehouse manager/team that is user oriented and passionate about the success of the Data Warehouse.
- (5) Make the Historical Data Warehouse the users project not your project. Solicit input from users throughout the organization.
- (6) Clearly define the goals for the Historical Data Warehouse so there's a single, consistent, mission-critical vision of its value to the Agency.
- (7) State the priorities and be certain to address critical needs first. Focus on essential rather than desirable needs.
- (8) Set realistic expectations. The Data Warehouse is an integrated data system not an application.
- (9) Ensure the Historical Data Warehouse is integrated into the

Agency's overall data and information system.

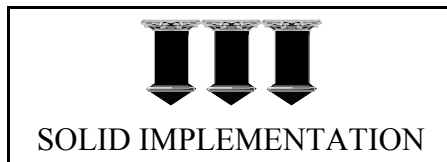
- (10) Recognize changes in senior management's priorities.
- (11) Maintain the sponsorship chain.



- (1) Document the Historical Data Warehouse requirements as well as requirements for supporting software.
- (2) Build a prototype early and show value with concrete applications.
- (3) Obtain broad user input when developing the logical data model so the Data Warehouse is designed optimally for critical Agency needs.
- (4) Conduct "hands-on" evaluation of software systems.
- (5) "Trust but verify" performance and capacity promises.
- (6) Make the proper platform and data base management system selections.
- (7) Provide easy access to the data through a friendly data access tool.
- (8) Involve users in the evaluation and selection of this data

access tool.

- (9) Provide flexible and easy-to-use tools to transform and enter data from various sources into the Data Warehouse.
- (10) Develop consistent data definitions and metadata that help users find data promptly.
- (11) Make the physical data base layout the same or as similar as possible to the logical data model.



- (1) Keep marketing the Historical Data Warehouse until it becomes part of the Agency's culture.
- (2) Scalability is important so design a system to accommodate growth in the number of users and the amount of data.
- (3) Seek advice from organizations who have implemented a Data Warehouse with the same data base management system and platform.
- (4) Develop an effective partnership with your major system vendors.
- (5) Develop sound security and backup strategies for the Data Warehouse.

- (6) Do not load the Data Warehouse with marginally useful information just because it's available.
- (7) Build the Data Warehouse incrementally (one small step at a time) so there are a series of deliverables.
- (8) Keep close ties with operational units to facilitate system improvements.
- (9) Provide adequate training and a help desk for users.
- (10) Monitor the data growth and query activity in the Data Warehouse.
- (11) Dedicate sufficient staff for the operation and support of the Data Warehouse. The Data Warehouse is a journey not a destination.