Strategic Sourcing Manager - Ingredients

Darigold is the fifth largest dairy cooperative in the United States based on milk volume, and one of the largest privately-held organizations headquartered in the state of Washington (the place with the Space Needle). Since 1918, our producers have taken pride in producing dairy products with unsurpassed quality. Today we are one of the nation's largest agricultural cooperatives, producing over 8.5 billion pounds of milk every year. That is a lot of milk and cookies. Through innovative technology and our efficient, flexible production capabilities, we deliver value-added products and customer-driven solutions. Darigold is now known throughout the world for bringing fresh, wholesome dairy products and ingredients from the Northwest to people all around the globe. You got it, Milk, it does the body good.

This position is part of Darigold's dynamic Supply Chain team in Seattle and a key contributor to the Purchasing's strategic goals. In this role you will work directly with the Operations, R&D, Quality, Planning, and Sales teams to support and facilitate the strategic sourcing process for assigned spend category to include market and industry analysis, supplier research and review, sourcing events, negotiations, contracting and implementation. The scope of work will also include risk management and contingency planning activities and is actively involved in ongoing market forecasting, financial planning, and budget setting as related to respective spend areas. Sounds exciting does it not? But wait there’s more, this position interacts with materials management at the plant level to coordinate and communicate timing and availability for key raw materials and packaging components. This role may manage various transactional activities as related to systems and process which is very important in maintaining the integrity of our data and daily operations.

If you are looking to apply for this position, then the basic requirements of being a Buyer should be a given and no need to call them out. Instead, ask yourself….am I innovative? A critical thinker? Collaborative? Could my expertise in Ingredients help transform Darigold’s line efficiencies, reduce inventory, mitigate supply risk, while delivering cost-effective, quality solutions? If you can answer yes, without hesitation then you have the right stuff!

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities (other duties as assigned):**

- Manage an ingredient portfolio of $25-$30MM annual spend consisting of, but not limited to, stabilizers, vitamins, sugar, and flavors
- Develop and implement inventory management strategies across sites to mitigate obsolescence and ensure consistent supply
- Collaborate and support key Stakeholders on sourcing ingredients for new, revised, and innovative products
• Liaison between suppliers and involved departments to resolve procurement-related problems and issues
• Select vendors, assess vendor capabilities, develop alternate sources, evaluate vendor performance, and negotiate prices
• Develop and maintain a database of each preferred supplier, capabilities, and industry dynamics
• Manage and maintain spend data to include all key cost components, market trends, market tracking, make vs. buy analysis, as well as financial analysis, and price variances
• Collaborate with vendors to identify innovative solutions or Supply Chain/Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) efficiencies
• Issue requests for quotes/proposals (RFQ/RFP) and selects the best source consistent with cost, quality, and delivery requirements
• Negotiates and manages pricing agreements and ensures all related terms and conditions of purchase are appropriate
• Sourcing strategies that drive cost reduction and process improvement with the department, and throughout the company
• Understand supply chain risks associated with portfolio items and routinely perform a risk assessment, applying and developing solutions to mitigate risk and secure alternate materials

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

• Work independently while contributing to a team environment
• Understand Enterprise business relationships and how the role impacts others
• Possess personal communication and presentation skills necessary to crisply present relevant information to Leadership
• Prioritize multiple assignments at the same time and meet established deadlines.
• Proactively identify and act on problems before issues occur
• Provide creative solutions to business problems
• Strategic Thinking
• Strong written and verbal communication skills
• Demonstrated organization skills
• Proficient with MS Office and other work-related software
• Familiarity with Oracle is a plus

Education, Experience, and Certifications:

• Bachelor’s degree or higher required, preferably in Business, Finance, Operations, Engineering, or Supply Chain
• 5-8 years of experience in Procurement, Supply Management, or Supply Chain required
• 5 years of Category Specific Experience with Ingredients, Strategic Sourcing, Negotiating, and Contracting; food or beverage industry is required
• Lean/Six Sigma Green Belt, CPSM or APICS is a plus

At Darigold we embrace diversity & welcome all qualified applicants regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, marital status, creed, religion, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law- We’re proud to say we are an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer.
As a condition of employment applicants offered a role will be required to successfully pass our pre-employment background screen, receive a negative drug screen result & confirm eligibility to work in the U.S. We participate in E-Verify - please follow the links for details, English / Spanish & view our Right to Work Statement, English / Spanish.