

# The Challenge

When you hear the name Land O'Lakes, Inc., you probably think butter. The company, founded in 1921 by a group of Minnesota dairy farmers, set the standard for butter quality with its sweet cream recipe which forever changed America's cooking and eating habits.

But with more than 9,000 workers across 50 states and 50 countries around the world, Land O'Lakes does a lot more than make great butter. Today, it's a Fortune 250 agriculture, manufacturing and technology giant supporting brands including Purina, WinField United, and Truterra. It's a company committed to advancing technology to solve critical food challenges.

So when COVID-19 hit, and the demand for many of their core consumer products spiked, there was an urgency to support their hardworking manufacturing facilities — and in turn, help secure the nation's food supply.

"We needed to fill open roles immediately and ensure we had robust talent pipelines in place to support our supply chain during such a critical time," says Dobby Gibson, Senior Manager, Talent Marketing and Employer Brand at Land O' Lakes. Compounding the challenge was the fact that most roles were in remote locations, which can be notoriously hard to fill. "We needed a talent marketing strategy, and we needed one fast," he recalls.

"In this COVID-19
environment, sourcing
best talent is more
vital than ever: for our
co-op members, our
business, and our ability
to continue to protect
the nation's food supply.
Our Phenom CRM has
been one of the most
important tools as an HR
organization."

## **Loren Heeringa**

CHRO
Land O'Lakes

## The Solution

A Phenom customer that went live with the Talent Experience Management (TXM) platform not even two months prior, Land O'Lakes originally purchased the all-in-one Al solution to improve their employer branding and candidate experience. The talent acquisition team was committed to transforming their previous career site from a static page with minimal content and poor search functionality to a lead-generating talent magnet that reflected the company's amazing brands.

At the time, the company had yet to fully leverage their new **Phenom CRM**, but the pandemic presented the perfect situation to use Phenom's robust campaigns functionality. In addition, **Phenom AI**'s ability to identify job seekers' locations and then serve up the jobs closest to them proved crucial to candidate engagement.

"Our CEO Beth Ford's message during COVID was clear: We are vital to the nation's food supply. We wanted to align our career site and talent marketing behind that purpose-driven message," recounts Gibson. "Given our business, our brands, and our farmer-to-fork scope, we quite literally feed the nation. It's a big reason why people are excited to come work for us."

"Feed the Nation" became the theme of Land O'Lakes first end-to-end digital talent marketing campaign, utilizing **Phenom CMS**, **CRM**, and **Campaigns**. "Instead of having to wait weeks to update our career site, we were in a position to move quickly and adapt," says Gibson, who put the campaign's landing page together in less than an hour with drag-and-drop copy, video, and graphics. "None of that's possible without a tool that allows for it," he remarks. "Phenom was the guide that set us up to be the hero in this success story."

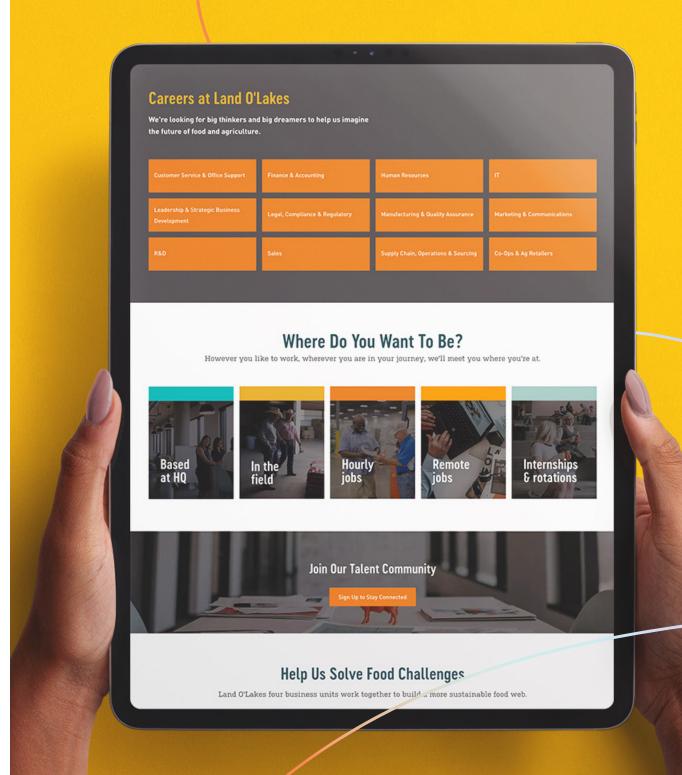
After the landing page launched, Gibson sent a campaign launch email to everyone in the talent database. The email drove job seekers to the landing page, which displayed available jobs closest to them, and featured an impactful video of CEO Beth Ford on CNN discussing Land O'Lakes' vital role in the nation's food supply.

Land O'Lakes used a number of supporting tactics to drive new job seeker traffic to the landing page. In addition to paid geo-targeted social ads in the ZIP codes surrounding key manufacturing facilities, they also promoted the page via their corporate social channels, and tracked performance using UTM codes via **Phenom Talent Analytics**. "This allowed us to see how many leads and applications we were driving with each ad unit. Then we were able to adjust creative and spend on-the-fly to optimize ad performance and budget," reports Gibson.

"Phenom makes it so easy to create and manage talent marketing campaigns that generate instantly measurable results. It's very effective."

## **Dobby Gibson**

Sr. Manager, Talent Marketing and Employer Brand Land O'Lakes





# The Results

In April 2020, Land O'Lakes' "Feed the Nation" landing page became the second most visited page on their career site, generating almost 16K page views in 11 days — and almost surpassing their home page in traffic. "It was incredible," says Gibson. "The traffic spikes from both new job seekers and returning job seekers were substantial."

The campaign email they sent to their Talent Community drove 48 applications, and their geo-targeted paid Facebook ads elicited 19,000 new job seekers from key locations, resulting in 162 leads and 25 applications.

"These results alone made it a successful campaign," notes Gibson. "But then our CEO shared the landing page on her LinkedIn feed, which amplified our reach even further." In fact, enough people took notice that Land O'Lakes earned a No. 1 spot for several days in a highly publicized LinkedIn article: Did You Just Lose Your Job? Here's 10 Brands That Are Hiring.

"I think we were number one because we were fastest — and we were fast because Phenom makes us fast," said Gibson.

"The fact that we were able to get that landing page up the moment we thought of it really paid off."

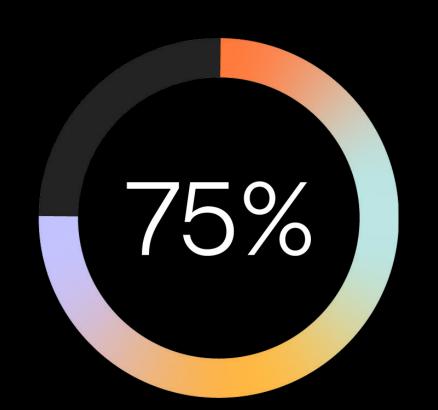
"Our 'Feed the Nation' campaign gave our recruiters an instant boost. They were able to fill business-critical recs quickly, and they were able to build out valuable talent pipelines to better position our business for a busy spring and summer."

## **Ann Taylor**

Sr. Director, Talent Management and Experience Land O'Lakes

# Success by the Numbers

Just four weeks after their "Feed the Nation" campaign launched, Land O'Lakes experienced phenomenal results:



## **Positions filled**

75% of open positions were filled from the campaign alone

3x

Increase in career site job searches

3x

Increase in returning job searches

16k

Page views



# The Future

"This campaign has provided us with a repeatable template, so regardless of what we're trying to do, this combination of Phenom, the right paid social, and our owned channels is an adjustable formula we can use going forward," says Gibson.

Future campaigns have already been pushed out, built around custom landing pages dedicated to specific locations and talent markets, as well as efforts focused on hard-to-fill positions like animal nutrition scientists.

The team has also begun harnessing the power of **Phenom SMS** to text candidates and nurture them along in their journey. "Our manufacturing and hourly workers want to text with us from their mobile phone, and we want to meet them where they're at and give them an outstanding candidate experience." says Gibson.

From an internal talent perspective, Land O'Lakes is currently piloting **Phenom Gigs** to explore how the platform can improve workforce mobilization and optimization. By giving employees easy access to project-based opportunities inside the company, the goal is to provide the upskilling, reskilling, and career pathing necessary to grow within the Land O'Lakes ecosystem.

As the impact of the pandemic evolves, Land O'Lakes is prepared to handle whatever hiring challenges may come their way. Being able to create culturally relevant campaigns with speed and agility puts the power in the hands of the TA department — exactly where it belongs.

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**Dobby Gibson** 

## LAND O'LAKES, INC.

Land O'Lakes, Inc., one of America's premier agribusiness and food companies, is a member-owned cooperative with industry-leading operations that span the spectrum from agricultural production to consumer foods. With 2019 annual sales of \$14 billion, Land O'Lakes is one of the nation's largest cooperatives, ranking 232 on the Fortune 500. Building on a legacy of more than 99 years of operation, Land O'Lakes today operates some of the most respected brands and businesses in agriculture and food production including Land O'Lakes Dairy Foods, Purina Animal Nutrition, WinField United and Truterra, LLC. The company does business in all 50 states and more than 50 countries. Land O'Lakes, Inc. corporate headquarters are located in Arden Hills, Minn.

Industry Food & Agriculture

Career site careers.landolakesinc.com

Headquarters Arden Hills, Minn.

Employees 9,000+ ATS Workday



# See the Phenom Intelligent Talent Experience platform in action

Book a demo

## **Candidate Experience**

Best-fit candidates find and choose you faster. Attract job seekers and broaden talent pools with personalized job recommendations and an intelligent career site.

## **Recruiter Experience**

Recruiters become wildly productive.

Discover and engage top talent with AI, put tedious tasks on autopilot, and maximize your team's ability to streamline workflows.

## **HR Experience**

HR leaders align employee development with company goals through an intelligent workforce planning solution that allows them to identify skill and competency gaps, manage career frameworks, and identify DE&I opportunities.

## **Employee Experience**

Employees develop their skills and evolve their careers. Upskill, evolve, and retain your workforce with intelligence and personalized opportunities.

## **Manager Experience**

Managers build stronger-performing teams with real-time analytics, insights, and collaboration tools.

## **HRIS Experience**

HRIS teams seamlessly integrate with your HR tech stack — including ATS, HCM, and LMS tools — to create a holistic infrastructure.

# Helping a billion people find the right job.

Phenom has a purpose of helping a billion people find the right job. Through Al-powered talent experiences, employers are using Phenom to hire employees faster, develop them to their full potential, and retain them longer. The Phenom Intelligent Talent Experience platform seamlessly connects candidates, employees, recruiters, hiring managers, HR, and HRIS — empowering over 500 diverse and global enterprises with innovative products including Phenom Career Site, Chatbot, CMS, CRM, Al Scheduling, Video Assessments, Campaigns, University Recruiting, Talent Marketplace, Career Pathing, Gigs, Mentoring, and Referrals.

