

A Litehouse Foods Success Story: Transitioning from AI Curiosity to Strategic Maturity



Introduction

Litehouse Foods has grown from humble beginnings into a leading employee-owned **food company**, bringing together a diverse portfolio of trusted brands and innovative products enjoyed by consumers nationwide. Guided by a shared purpose and a commitment to Heart, Ownership, Excellence, and Integrity, Litehouse Foods continues to evolve to meet the needs of customers, consumers, and communities. As the organization looks to the future, AI is emerging as a critical enabler of that growth, helping Employee Owners work smarter, accelerate innovation, and strengthen the company's ability to deliver exceptional food experiences. Recognizing the transformative potential of AI, Litehouse Foods has embraced it not as a peripheral initiative, but as a strategic capability that supports its vision for the future.

By partnering with **Digitopia** and **Fisher Management Partners**, Litehouse Foods sought to **move beyond the experimental phase of AI and establish a sophisticated, evidence-based approach** to organizational maturity. *"At Litehouse Foods, we've always been interested in AI, but like many organizations, we were navigating a mix of curiosity, optimism, and uncertainty about how to move forward."* — Ben Bryan, Manager, Applications
Litehouse Foods

The Challenge: Navigating the AI Hype

Litehouse Foods recognized the immense potential of Artificial Intelligence. However, they faced the challenge of cutting through market hype to identify where AI could deliver genuine, sustainable business value. They needed a way to **align leadership, measure their current state, and build a roadmap** based on evidence rather than assumptions.

The Solution: The AI Maturity Index (AIMI)

Litehouse Foods engaged Digitopia and Fisher to undergo a comprehensive **AI Maturity Index (AIMI)** assessment. This partnership combined Fisher's pragmatic AI strategy development expertise with Digitopia's **Impact Platform** to shift the conversation from "what AI can do" to "what Litehouse Foods should do" to achieve its business goals. Through a series of focused, collaborative workshops, the teams deep-dived into the business to co-create a practical, enterprise-wide strategy.



The Outcomes:

Strategic Clarity and Measurable Impact

Evidence-Based Readiness Baseline: Replaced subjective opinions with a definitive, evidence-based score, providing a "North Star" for all future AI investments.

Prioritized ROI Roadmap: Identified high-impact use cases that move beyond isolated pilots into sustained, value-generating execution.

C-Suite Alignment: Bridged the gap between technical potential and business leadership, creating a shared language for AI across the executive team.

Operational Confidence: Equipped the organization with the clarity needed to scale AI safely, ensuring the infrastructure and culture are ready to absorb rapid innovation.

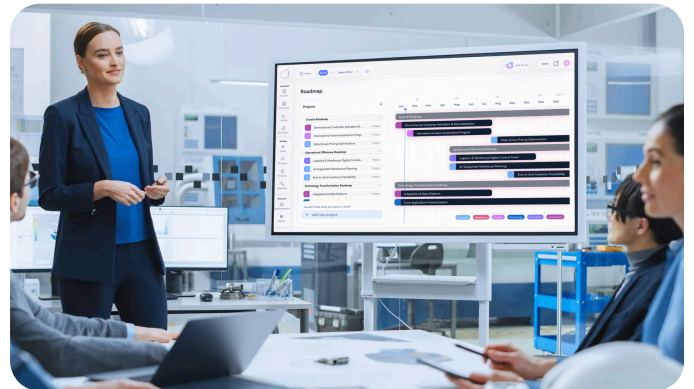
"The AIMI framework has been especially valuable in helping us think holistically—across data, technology, operations, governance, and culture—so that AI becomes part of how we run the business, not just a set of isolated initiatives. Most importantly, this effort has positioned us to move forward with confidence. We now have a shared understanding of where we are, where we need to go, and how to make measurable progress on our AI journey." — Ben Bryan, Manager, Applications Litehouse Foods

Looking Ahead

The Roadmap to Operational Reality

By completing the AIMI journey, Litehouse Foods hasn't just adopted a new set of tools; **they have evolved their operating model**. They now stand as a benchmark for AI excellence in the food manufacturing sector, equipped with the data-driven clarity to turn AI potential into operational reality.

*"One of the biggest takeaways was the need to connect our AI vision with execution. The assessment helped us **define priorities, establish governance, and better understand the capabilities** required to scale AI responsibly across the organization. We are already acting on this foundation—introducing governance processes, expanding awareness across teams, and beginning to apply AI in operational areas such as manufacturing and beyond." — Ben Bryan, Manager, Applications Litehouse Foods*



“

At Litehouse Foods, we partnered with Fisher Management Partners and Digitopia to assess and accelerate our AI journey. **The AI Maturity Index** gave us a **clear baseline, aligned our leadership team**, and helped translate our AI vision into a practical roadmap for execution. The AIMI deliverables have helped refine my AI message to our executive team and business leaders. **We're now moving forward with clarity, governance, and real momentum.**

— Ben Bryan, Manager, Applications - Litehouse Foods

