

NEWS

From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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GEORGIA'S POULTRY INDUSTRY GETS
HELP FROM SPACE PROGRAM

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ATLANTA, GA...NASA may never send a chicken to the moon, but space-age technology may help Georgia chicken producers with an acoustics problem.

With the aid of NASA technology, Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station (EES) will begin a year-long study of noise levels in poultry processing plants. Scheduled to start sometime this fall, the study will aid poultry producers by finding ways to lower noise levels in the processing plants.

Working with a budget of \$123,100, EES engineers will use NASA sound and vibration measurement equipment to record sound data in the plants. Additionally, materials used in space craft will be studied to see if they can be used to lower noise levels. Funding for the noise study is being provided by NASA, the Georgia Department of Agriculture and Georgia Tech.

For the major part of the study, EES personnel will survey two typical processing plants to obtain data on noise characteristics such as loudness and pitch. This data will enable engineers to find noise reduction methods which can be applied to processing plants. The Georgia Poultry Federation, which represents the Georgia poultry industry, will assist EES in selecting

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plants for the study.

"What makes the problem of noise control so difficult," says Dr. Robert Cassanova of EES, "is the layout of the processing plants. In most plants there is no separation between working areas, and persons working on the different processing lines are exposed to noise from machinery throughout the plants."

Cassanova points out, however, that the processing plants find it easier to comply with USDA sanitation regulations by using open working areas which are easier to keep clean than partitioned areas.

Another problem, adds Cassanova, is the reverberation of sounds from walls and floors. Because of USDA regulations on cleanliness, the floors and walls of processing plants are constructed of smooth, hard materials which are easy to clean but difficult to insulate.