

NEWS

From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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POULTRY PROCESSOR

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BOOSTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY

For Immediate Release

Atlanta, Ga....Poultry processing plants may be able to increase their energy efficiency by 20 percent as a result of a Georgia Tech/Gold Kist project in Ellijay, Ga.

Gold Kist's Ellijay poultry processing plant reduced its actual energy use by the equivalent of 5,357 gallons of fuel oil during the first seven months of this year even though production increased 27 percent. Improvements in energy efficiency also saved the plant nearly \$29,000 in fuel costs projected for January to July 1979.

Bill Boykin of Tech's Engineering Experiment Station said, "We increased the plant's energy efficiency 20 percent by installing energy-conserving equipment and systems to reclaim heat wasted during the production process."

Gold Kist's plant was selected for Tech's Department of Energy-sponsored project because of its representative size, operations and production volume. The technology designed for the Gold Kist plant can be adopted by other poultry processors wanting to achieve similar fuel and cost savings.

Boykin said, "We conducted this project because the poultry processing industry is energy-intensive. Georgia's poultry processors paid a \$6.5 million energy bill in 1978 alone. We hope to reduce this energy burden by conducting a seminar and tour of the Gold Kist plant on December 10, 1979." The tour will be sponsored by the Georgia Poultry Federation and the Georgia Processors Association.

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Poultry processors who attend the tour will be shown how Tech and Gold Kist reclaimed heat that was being wasted in the plant's scalding, refrigeration and clean-up operations. To add wasted heat back into the plant's total energy supply, Tech and Gold Kist installed:

- * A new poultry scalding tank that holds less water and loses less heat from its sides and surface than the old scalding tank.

- * A heat exchanger which uses heat rejected from the refrigeration system to heat water for other uses.

- * A more efficient rinse system which requires less fuel to heat the water used in cleaning-up the plant.

The energy and cost savings at the Ellijay plant are due largely to the new scalding tank which uses 65 percent less steam than the previous model. Boykin said further savings are expected with continued use of the new heat exchangers and clean-up system.

Tech will also acquaint poultry processors with the equipment and parts used to modify the Gold Kist plant. "We used only commercially available and cost-effective equipment," said Boykin.

Gold Kist and the U.S. Department of Energy spent \$92,000 to install equipment which saved this plant almost \$29,000 in seven months. "That's a sound investment," said Boykin, "because the energy-efficient equipment will pay for itself in three years."

Processors wishing to attend the seminar and tour on December 10, 1979, should contact Bill Boykin at 404/894-3623 or Mr. H.L. Hadden, Gold Kist Division Manager, at 404/635-4991.

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