

NEWS

From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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GEORGIA TECH MAY OPERATE
POULTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

February 28, 1980

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA....Georgia Tech could become the center of a national engineering research institute for the poultry industry.

Tech researchers will make their case for the institute in a nine-month feasibility study sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

A team from Tech's Engineering Experiment Station will attempt to learn whether a research institute would meet the poultry industry's needs for improved technology -- and whether the industry would support such a center.

Tech engineers believe the research institute concept is the best answer for an industry with rising problems in energy costs, environmental controls and productivity.

"There are now many new research developments which could greatly reduce costs in the industry," said Dale Atkins, director of the study project. "But there is no concerted effort to use the technology."

If created, the institute would operate in its initial phase with supporting money from the NSF. Financial backing from the poultry industry in America would have to increase later until the center became entirely industry-funded.

"The factors which make technological innovations in poultry operations important are varied," Atkins said. "Water supplies won't be so plentiful in the future, wastewater requirements are tightening and governmental regulations for noise control are becoming more stringent."

(more)

With production costs rising because of these demands, improvements in productivity have become a critical issue, too.

Atkins thinks that the institute could address all of these problems.

The poultry institute could function in several roles--developing technology to fit the industry as a whole or dealing with the specific problems of individual companies.

"With adequate support, it would be possible to have a center where private companies, universities and other research groups would be able to conduct engineering experiments," Atkins said.

The institute would initiate research and respond to requests. It would also serve as a clearing house of information pertinent to all aspects of the poultry industry, bringing together research data at a centralized location on the Tech campus.

Basic data on public research efforts would be available to interested parties. However, private research conducted at the institute would be kept confidential.

Georgia Tech now is soliciting ideas to help guide its study. Information letters have been mailed to various trade associations. A meeting of poultry industry leaders from throughout the country will be held to discuss the research institute proposal.

More information on the study is available from Dale Atkins at Georgia Institute of Technology, Engineering Experiment Station, Atlanta, Georgia 30332 (Telephone: 404/894-3623).

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