

Distribution of New Lighting Technology throughout Arkansas Poultry Industries thru the Use of Federal Economic Stimulus Bill Energy Efficiency Funds.

The Arkansas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils in collaboration with the University of Arkansas Poultry Sciences and Arkansas Energy Office will conduct field trials for new lighting technology. After the field trial and collecting of data on the most efficient and productive lighting, the RC&D councils along with Conservation Districts will distribute the light bulbs throughout Arkansas' poultry industry to increase poultry producer's energy efficiency, reduce industry production costs, and encourage integrators to retain processing facilities in Arkansas.

Arkansas poultry growers and integrator complexes compete with their counterparts in other states to achieve the lowest production costs possible. Because of economic pressures, integrators have been forced to close their least efficient complexes and ship that production to other states. Poultry house lighting is one of the three major utility expenses in poultry production. The U of A research coupled with farm energy audits performed by Arkansas RC & D Councils indicate that introduction of new lighting technology reduces an average grower's electricity consumption for lighting by approximately 76-80%. There are, however, broad differences of opinion among poultry integrators as to which types of new lighting technologies are most desirable for their operations.

The project will involve two phases with each of the partners providing assistance in each of the phases. Phase One would be a field trial where the U of A School of Poultry Science, in cooperation with willing integrators and growers, would conduct a field trial and technology demonstration, in all poultry complex areas across Arkansas, where the energy efficiency, and durability of, and flock performance under, the various lighting technologies would be tested under field conditions. -After the field trials have been concluded, and results distributed, integrators will be asked to identify the types and mixes of lighting technology they would allow producers to install in their poultry houses. Phase Two will be the procurement and distribution of the mix of bulbs representing the various lighting technologies, as requested by the various integrators. Distribution will initially be limited to a certain number of houses per grower, until all growers have had an opportunity to receive some number of bulbs. The Arkansas Association of RC & D Councils will procure bulbs using competitive procurement procedures, and arrange to distribute the bulbs, on an equitable basis, to all growers throughout all regions of the state using the state's seven regional council offices. The Councils will advertise the availability of the bulbs through integrator newsletters to their growers, conservation district newsletters, and newspaper articles. The Councils will work with the Conservation Districts to distribute bulbs. They will be the local contact and can coordinate when the growers send their flocks to market in order that the bulbs can be installed before the next flock arrives. During this phase, records of bulb distribution, by county, poultry integrator, and grower, will be assembled. This will allow us to track the farms bulbs have been provided to and the energy savings and success of the new lighting.

For more information about the New Lighting Technology project, contact Pat Womack at 870-523-8986 ext 4.