

A Brighter More Energy Efficient Way To Light Poultry Houses

Poultry production is one of North Carolina's leading industries. Farmers are always looking for ways to streamline their operation while trimming costs. One area of opportunity is lighting.

Traditionally, chicken broiler houses use 60 to 75 watt incandescent bulbs in their lighting programs to achieve feed conversion goals. With over 50 bulbs per house in most cases, the lighting load amounts to a very significant cost for the grower. Over the last few years, companies have brought to market LED lighting specifically designed for the rigors of the industrial poultry production environment.

LED lighting has many advantages over traditional incandescent and florescent lighting. The energy consumption is much lower, the lifespan is much longer, there is virtually



no heat output, there are no ballasts to replace, and a host of other benefits. These advantages have been realized in outdoor lighting, residential, commercial, and industrial applications and, in the last few years, the agricultural industry.

LED bulbs tend to range between 11 to 12 watts each but produce the same amount and quality of light as a 75-watt incandescent bulb. This represents a greater than 80 percent reduction in electricity use when comparing both bulbs at full power. Furthermore, the average LED bulb has a lifespan of 50,000 hours compared to just over 1,000 hours for an incandescent.

LED lighting has gained wide acceptance in the United States and a strong foothold in the lighting market. The Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that by 2020, LED lighting will account for 48 percent of all lumen-hour lighting sales in the United States. By 2030 the DOE expects that figure to increase to 84 percent.

Many South River EMC members who are poultry farmers who own broilers have already



Advise Guy Aaron Jackson

made the switch to LED lighting and reaped the benefits. These members have seen significant cost savings per flock and reduced maintenance expenses. We have yet to see any LED conversions take place in breeder or pullet houses, but I encourage any poultry farm owner interested in lowering their lighting costs to contact their integrator and explore the options. Considering converting to LED lighting? Let me help you get an idea of what your energy savings and payback period might be. You can reach me at 910-892-8071 x 2153 or abjackson@sremc.com.

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