

NEWS From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

Atlanta, Georgia 30332

PRESS ADVISORY

For Wednesday, September 9 at 3 P.M.

MARIETTA COMPANY SHOWCASES SOLUTION FOR POULTRY INDUSTRY NOISE PROBLEM

Georgia Tech engineers have dramatically reduced noise pollution at a Marietta poultry plant, an achievement which has answered one of the industry's most pressing productivity and environmental problems.

Tech engineers have designed acoustical noise control panels and successfully tested them at Tip Top Poultry, a processing plant off I-75 near Marietta.

The results of this R&D program have been so favorable that the work will be inspected Wednesday, September 9 at 3 p.m. by Dr. Tom Stelson, vice president for research at Georgia Tech.

Dr. Stelson is touring Georgia this month to get a closer look at some of the Institute's most notable recent contributions to the state's industrial community.

You are invited to join Stelson and Tip Top Vice President Chet Austin on this tour and find out more about the far reaching economic benefits of effective poultry plant noise control, a problem which the industry once considered unsolvable.

For further information, contact Mark Hodges or Lee Hughey at Georgia Tech Research Communications, (404) 894-3444.

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FACT SHEET

on
Georgia Tech Poultry Processing Plant
Noise Abatement Project

- PROBLEM.** High noise levels in poultry plants create high turnover rates and impair the hearing of workers who remain on the job. Moreover, studies indicate that noise heightens social conflicts at home and on the job. In addition, loud noise leads to breaks in concentration sometimes followed by changes in work rates and quality.
- SOLUTION.** Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station conducted several years of research with technical support of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The result of this work was a recommendation to suspend noise absorption panels from the ceiling of the test processing plant, Tip Top Poultry of Marietta, Georgia. The panels almost halved sound pressure levels in the plant (a noise reduction of 5 decibels).
- THE PANELS.** The noise panels are two feet by four feet and consist of a glass fiber core supplied by Owens Corning Fiberglas Corporation and a plastic cloth composite covering manufactured by Fiberflex of Atlanta. Fiberflex is manufacturing and marketing the panels. The covering is durable enough to withstand high pressure water cleaning and other harsh maintenance procedures. Glass fiber core material has sound absorbent properties and cost advantages over other sound absorbing mediums.
- APPLICATION.** Georgia Tech has designed these noise reduction panels for use throughout the poultry industry.
- PROJECT FUNDING.** This noise abatement program ran from 1976 through 1979 with the active encouragement and cooperation of the Georgia Poultry Federation. Funds came through a cost-sharing agreement between the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the NASA Office of Technology Utilization. This arrangement called for a one-to-one cost share eventually totalling \$240,000.