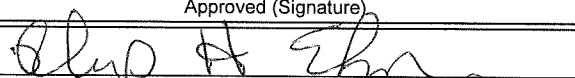


Hill Farm

U.S. Department of Agriculture Accomplishments Report AD-421 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Other Institutions			Date (Month, Day, Year) 03/22/2012
1. Accession 0213282	Agency Identification No. 2. SAES 3. LA.B	5. Work Unit/Project No. LAB03890	6. Status Annual Report
7. Title A Comparison of Poultry Equipment and Other Critical Variables on Fuel/Energy Consumption and Broiler Performance			
12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) Owens, W. E.; Lavergne, T.			
20. Termination Date 10/31/2012		40. Period Covered (mo/da/year): 01/01/2011 TO 12/31/2011	
Outputs: The poultry demonstration houses have completed a total of six flocks; four flocks were in the calendar year 2011. Preliminary results of the comparison between tube heat and brooder heat were presented at the Hill Farm field day in September of 2011, and written summaries were made available to all attendees. A demonstration program for NRCS agents on in-house stacking of poultry litter was conducted. A video of the program was made and will be viewable on the Hill Farm poultry web site in 2012. An additional news video was made by the LSU AgCenter discussing the demonstration houses, their purpose and the ongoing research project. This video is also available on the poultry page of the Hill Farm web site. The Poultry Steering Committee met in 2011. A summary of the research project was presented to the committee and potential new projects were discussed.			
Outcomes/Impacts: Preliminary results from six flocks indicate that tube heaters cost approximately \$824.00/house/year less to operate than conventional brooder type heaters. Tube heaters are more expensive to install, and the potential savings in propane cost must be weighed against the additional installation costs. The retail cost of tube heaters is approximately \$3,600/house more than brooder type heaters. Preliminary results from this study suggest that it would take three to four years to recover the additional cost. These studies are scheduled to continue through a second year before finalizing recommendations. An additional study is evaluating the incidence and antimicrobial resistance of high interest pathogens isolated from poultry and poultry litter at the demonstration houses. Evaluation of poultry isolates, including Salmonella, Escherichia coli, Enterococcus species, and Campylobacter species, is currently underway. The study will evaluate these high-interest pathogens from poultry sources and compare their antimicrobial susceptibility to previous levels and to those isolated from humans. If highly resistant organisms are encountered, broilers from that flock would be followed through processing and to market to determine if those same strains persist in the finished product. The poultry web page was developed and is scheduled to go on line in January of 2012, allowing poultry growers access to data on temperature, humidity, static pressure and other house parameters.			
Publications: No Publications Reported			
Participants: W.E. Owens (PI), T. Lavergne, C.H. Ray, LSU AgCenter.			
Target Audiences: Poultry producers of Louisiana, LSU AgCenter research and extension faculty, and poultry industry professionals.			
Project Modifications: Nothing significant to report during this reporting period.			
Approved (Signature) 		Title	Date 3-23-12