



Carving Usage at Cooper Farms

Upgrading efficiency without compromising production

Family-owned for over 75 years, Cooper Farms is a fully integrated turkey processing company in Van Wert with a longstanding commitment to improve sustainability and efficiency.

Their initial efficiency focus was at their cooked meats facility, where they could get the most bang for their buck. “When you reinvest back into the business, you have to spend wisely. Investing in energy efficiency is a smart thing to do because of the long-term benefits,” said Brad Alspaugh, Cooper Farm’s Maintenance Project Engineer.

The energy efficiency upgrades included new LED lighting and the retrofitting of variable speed drives (VSDs) into the ventilation system.

The installation faced a major challenge—to preserve the plant’s production schedule and to introduce as few foreign materials as possible into the processing facility. Installers strategically worked around the plant schedule on weekends and overnights.



Cooper Farms has a diverse line of products including chicken eggs for consumer table use

The savings were impressive, and the success of the upgrades has inspired plans for similar projects. “New buildings are on the drawing board, and the plan is to make them energy efficient from the ground up,” said Alspaugh.

“Investing in energy efficiency is a smart thing to do because of the long-term benefits.”

— Brad Alspaugh
Maintenance Project Engineer
Cooper Farms

Project brief:

Upgrades:

- VSDs in ventilation system
- LED lighting

Annual energy savings:

\$68,830

Incentives paid:

\$32,345

Note: The annual energy savings are calculated using an electric rate of \$0.08 per kilowatt hour (kWh).



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