



Hen Laying Operation in Full Swing at Montgomery

GCI began construction for a new egg laying facility in May 2019. The facility was completed in July 2020 with our first flock of pullets being delivered in late July 2020. GCI has a total of three houses. The remaining two houses will be filled in September and December of this year. The facility is located in Mount Vernon, Georgia next to Montgomery State Prison. Offenders are given the opportunity to learn the process of growing hens and collecting eggs on a daily basis.

The operation runs seven days per week and 365 days per year and is always in production. GCI delivers our fresh eggs to a processing facility where the eggs are cracked and blended into a frozen egg product. Once the eggs are blended and frozen they are shipped to FDU (Food Distribution Unit) in Milledgeville for cold storage. The frozen blended eggs are then delivered to all the state prisons around the

state of Georgia. In addition to frozen egg products, GCI also delivers fresh eggs to certain facilities as needed.

Our new facility is equipped with a fully operational feed mill that allows us to mix feed on sight as needed. We added an additional 35,000 bushels of storage for yellow corn which now allows us to store 95,000 bushels on sight. Our estimated annual usage of yellow corn should be around 110,000 bushels. All corn used at this facility is also grown by our Joe Kennedy Farm and Rogers Farm operation. In addition to storing corn, we also have the capability to store all other feed ingredients needed to prepare feed for the laying operation. This includes bulk storage for soybean meal and finished feed. Each house is equipped with automated feeding systems and alarm systems to monitor feed, ventilation, and water. The entire system can be monitored from your cell phone.



Information such as room temperature, water pressure, and fan units operating are constantly monitored and if issues arise, will notify the farm manager via phone. The farm manager and staff can also turn on fans and other devices from their cell phone if the need arises. In addition, the new facility has 2 standalone generators that are automatically tested each Tuesday morning to ensure they are working properly. If inclement weather arises, the facility is capable of operating the houses and coolers without an outside power source which allows us the comfort of operating in times of power interruptions which may result from bad weather.

GCI also has the capability to store enough finished feed for three days of operation. When all three houses are in operation, GCI will have 120,000 bird capacity. The eggs are collected with automated equipment and transferred to our egg room via egg conveyor where the eggs are pack-

aged for transportation to our processing vendor. Each truck contains a total of 19,800 dozen eggs. These eggs are delivered several times per week to our processing vendor. GCI normally runs about 65,000 cases per year of blended frozen egg product. This allows for a great cost savings for the state and also allows GCI to be self-sufficient when fresh eggs are in short supply.

GCI has plans to be UEP (United Egg Producers) certified in October. This organization is helpful in monitoring your safety processes as it pertains to the handling of eggs, animal husbandry, bio-security, and ensures that proper training for all staff is done accordingly. Our goal is to provide the best quality product while also having the opportunity to teach offenders a new trade. Everyone participates daily and it takes the entire organization to make sure every state prison has the eggs needed.