Poultry House Evaluation Service

One part of a new Kentucky Poultry Federation project (funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board) is called a "Poultry House Evaluation Service." That portion of the project, which will be conducted by personnel from the University of Kentucky Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department, will focus primarily on conducting on-farm energy assessments at each integrator complex. Objectives of the Poultry House Evaluation Service program are to assist growers in the following areas:

• Improving production efficiency by properly operating and maintaining the equipment they have,
• Reducing energy costs by adopting energy saving practices and installing effective upgrades,
• Evaluating the cost effectiveness of potential barn improvements, and
• Sharing with all growers, through an educational workshop,

At the farm, the team will examine the building envelope, heating system, lighting, ventilation system, cooling and tunnel ventilation, and electrical service. Other equipment, such as incinerators, may also be included as appropriate. Each participating grower will receive a written report that outlines potential housing improvements, and estimated payback for these improvements.

After completing the on-farm assessments within a complex, results will be presented to all complex growers through one or more educational seminars. These seminars will focus on typical problems that have been found, energy efficiency practices that have been recommended, and cost effective upgrades that could be implemented.

Information obtained from poultry house evaluations.

Thermal Image Shows Floor Level Drafts.

Approximately 7 to 12 sites within each complex will be selected for on-farm assessments from applications submitted by interested growers. After collecting some basic data about the barns, equipment, and previous utility bills, the assessment team will meet individually with the selected growers and plan specific details for the assessment.