How much electricity are you using?

The goal of the poultry house evaluation service (PHES) was to identify areas where there may be potential to reduce energy costs and, in some cases, increase income to the producer through improved production. In order to evaluate the magnitude of any reduction it is important to know your current energy usage.

The amount of electricity used varied considerably among the producers participating in the evaluations (see Figure 1 below). The amount of electricity used is converted to per kg of broiler produced. There was a 2-fold difference between the lowest and highest user of electricity, but they both received the same income from the broilers produced.

What is your electricity consumption? To determine you electrical consumption divide the total kWh used during a two year period (to account for any year to year fluctuations), preferably on a per house basis if possible, by the kg of meat produced. Then multiply by 1,000. For the producers in the study, the highest usage was 126.5 kWh/1,000 kg of broilers sold, and the lowest was 62.4. The average was 87.6.

Figure 1. Electrical use (2007-2008) for the farms participating in the evaluations