



Fibrowatt News Update | October 11, 2007

North Carolina Ranks Among Nation's Leading Poultry Producers

When people think of farming in North Carolina, two things typically come to mind: tobacco and hogs. But chickens are North Carolina's leading agriculture commodity, generating more than \$2.2 billion a year. The poultry industry (chickens, turkeys and eggs) accounts for more than 1/3 of the state's total farm income.

Many people may be surprised to learn that North Carolina is one of the nation's largest poultry producers — ranking second in turkey production and fifth in chicken production. The N.C. Department of Agriculture estimates there are 5,000 poultry farms across the state.

That translates into lots of chickens and turkeys — and lots of poultry litter.

Fibrowatt hopes to help North Carolina's poultry farmers manage excess litter (manure and bedding) in a responsible and useful manner. The solution: transform it into renewable energy. (Most of the litter is currently spread on fields as a low nutrient grade fertilizer.)

Fibrowatt is currently looking at potential sites across North Carolina to establish as many as three power plants that would generate renewable energy from poultry litter.

We have already met with many poultry farmers around the state and have received positive feedback about providing a dependable way to manage this excess waste. It provides many benefits for the poultry farmers and provides a new type of fuel to increase North Carolina's production of renewable energy.

"There aren't many projects that truly qualify as a win-win situation, but the potential Fibrowatt plants represent exactly that. They will bring valuable jobs to North Carolina and provide a strong alternative for poultry growers who are limited by current land application regulations," said Jim Shepard, director of live operations at Mountaire Farms of North Carolina.

"Fibrowatt has a proven track record of success and would be a great friend to North Carolina's poultry industry."

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