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TED Units From Bock Industries Used in Indiana Turkey Depopulation

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Following difficulties and delays in implementing carbon dioxide foam depopulation of turkey flocks infected with avian influenza in the January outbreak of LPAI in Indiana, USDA-APHIS deployed TED captive bolt units manufactured by Bock Industries. The low ambient temperature which resulted in freezing of water prevented the use of foam generators. It is noted that during the 2015 Minnesota HPAI outbreaks on turkey farms, the Governor activated the National Guard to convey sufficient water to facilitate depopulation.

Information derived from the Department of Agriculture in a Mid-Atlantic state, confirmed that foam generators cost in the region of \$40,000 with resulting fixed costs for depreciation and interest. Depletion of a house of mature growing turkeys ranging from 15,000 to 20,000, takes approximately 3 hours, involving one hour for set-up, one hour for the depopulation process and a third hour for disassembly and packing before moving to the next farm. The time per bird is however reduced on multiple-house sites. The process usually requires a crew of four wearing personal protective gear.

The TED captive bolt unit provides 1,000 stuns per \$8 gas canister at a variable cost less than one cent per bird. Impact of the TED bolt on the skull of a standing, unrestrained turkey results in instant insensibility which is followed by rapid humane death. During the Indiana depopulation, Bock TED units which cost approximately \$1,400 each were deployed with a crew of 10 workers to depopulate a house of 10,000 toms in 3 hours.

Obviously in the event of unavailability of water or freezing temperature or malfunction of the foam generators, the process of depletion is delayed. In contrast the Bock TED units can be deployed within a short time of arrival at a farm and the speed of depopulation is only limited by the number of workers and the marshalling of the birds from the floor area into the location where euthanasia is performed.

The deployment of TED equipment could be considered to euthanize any live birds remaining after implementation of ventilation-shut-down. It is calculated that fixed and variable costs of depopulation using TED equipment would be in the region of 5.5 cents per bird. Recent experience in Indiana obviously demonstrates the flexibility of captive bolt units especially for single house farms.

In contrast it would appear more effective to use foam on a multi-house complex providing that generators and an adequate supply of water are available.



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