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October 1973

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PEST BIRD CONTROL IN AND AROUND FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS

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When a food product arrives at a food processing plant or a food warehouse, an additional element of concern is introduced. Under the Federal Food Drug Cosmetic Act, Chapter IV, "Food", Section 402, describes "Adulterated Food" as under A3, if it consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance, etc. A4, if it has been prepared, packed or held under unsanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth, etc.

Pest birds living in or on the exterior of a food plant are therefore just as great a concern to food plant operators as rats, mice, bat or insect infestation. Part A4 is especially noteworthy inasmuch as contamination does not have to take place. The presence of pests alone without contamination having taken place, if in the opinion of the inspector present a potential hazard, will constitute ground for Federal Citation.

What are some of the conditions with which we are concerned?

Direct Contamination

(Feathers, nesting material, droppings, regurgitated pellets of undigestible matter, eggs, ectoparasites, insects, fruits, seeds)

- To:
- a) Product
 - b) Product Packaging
 - c) Processing Equipment
 - d) Storage Equipment

Indirect

(Diseases and ectoparasites - fleas, ticks, mites)
Several species of Salmonella spread by bird droppings and Histoplasmosites and Cryptococcus grow in accumulated dung.

- a) Product
- b) Packaging
- c) Processing Equipment
- d) Storage Equipment

Controls

Programming must:

- a) be on a preventive basis
- b) be in compliance with *Label Requirements*
(We must work smarter as well as hard, now.)

Types of Controls:

- a) Mechanical or Structural Changes

- screens (hardware cloth) - Doors, replace broken windows
- cement 60
- styrofoam eliminates ledge
- nets

b) Repellents

- sticky pastes and sprays (small trees and roosting starlings)
- chemical (Avitrol)

c) Toxicants

- strychnine
- Rid-A-Birds

d) Traps

(canibeau small animal trap)

e) Flashing lights, sound devices, fire-crackers, etc.

Question: What kind of results do you get when encouraging customers to make structural changes such as screening a ventilation system?

Answer: We've had very, very limited success. Generally most programs that we're involved in advise some structural change, and many times companies will make these changes; but normally I think they are looking to us to provide bird control.

Question: You commented on styrofoam. I know of a plant where styrofoam was used, and the birds ate it and went right back to their roosting.

Answer: Yes, in some situations it has created more problems than it has solved. Styrofoam however, when used with other procedures does have its place in bird control. In particular situations where we have used it, in conjunction with Avitrol basically, we've taken the nest site or roost site away from the bird as well as distributing strychnine. After eliminating the birds, we haven't had any problems as far as birds coming back to this particular area.