First Quality Eggs
THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Consistently the most prolific producers of first quality eggs in the UK, ISA breeds offer egg producers the choice of four proven performers backed by expert support in the field.

- Simple feed regimes
- Easy to manage
- Excellent shell strength to the end of lay
- World class genetics programme and pioneering genetics
- Expert field support and personal service by experienced poultry professionals

Met Office air quality model aids planning

The Met Office is best known for its work on forecasting the weather. But it also provides air quality modelling services as Phil Edgington of ADAS explains:

With demand for poultry on the increase - in part due to last year's horsemeat scandal - many new poultry units are currently focused on expansion. To achieve this, they will have to fulfill stringent requirements concerning environmental pollution controls in both permit and planning applications, to account for the potential environmental impacts of large stock levels and associated housing.

Two of the main environmental problems they face are odor emissions and ammonia. Strict odour management legislation and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) regulations require businesses to act on environmental benchmarks when planning new housing.

They have to take into account the nature and proximity of a variety of local features, including human habitats, protected woodland, rivers, lakes and bog land, and other ecosystems, many of which could be easily degraded by ammonia pollution.

In addition, it is essential that local meteorological conditions, in particular wind direction, are used to make assessments of potential pollution effects. And any assessment of the amount and concentration of poultry housing emissions will have to be added to existing background emissions from other farm operations.

The potential impact of ammonia on protected ecological sites is increasingly one of the "make or break" factors when it comes to assessing the feasibility of potential sites for new or expanded poultry units.

It is here that a service from the Met Office Rural Environment Team (Moret), working with consultants at ADAS, can help businesses measure and overcome the potential effects, and so gain the necessary permits and planning approval for their projects.

They are able to provide poultry operators and their consultants with expert, site-specific advice on pollution dispersion and odour management mitigation.

Factoring in all the meteorological conditions in relation to the local environment and the proposed size and position of new housing, Moret can produce models that will accurately assess potential pollutant concentrations and any ensuing damage for a particular area.

The models can analyse not only ammonia and odour pollution, but also the water pollution from farm combination facilities and other activities, such as gardens, pastures, metals and silo storage areas which can cause pollution and threaten human health in the local community.

All of this information is required for the air quality assessments needed to support environmental permit and planning applications.

Phil Edgington works for the Meteorological Office Rural Environment Team (Moret) and ADAS in Wolverhampton.