

Pilot Site: Marc DeJong, Jarvis, ON Miscanthus v. Wheat Straw

- 2 storey barn, 24,000 birds, 1.8 kg bird, 30 day cycle
- Split each floor - half miscanthus, half wheat straw
- Different bale size, tub grinder bale chopper couldn't handle large miscanthus bale:
 - Wheat Straw: 3 X 3 X 7 ft. - 530 lb bale 8.4 lb/cuft.
 - Miscanthus: 3 X 4 X 7.5 ft - 1050 lb bale 11.5 lb/cuft.
 - Denser bale and material



DeJong Pilot: Miscanthus v. Straw

- Miscanthus wore through the hose wall when blowing it.
- Waterer leak at start-up: 2' X 6' wet spot before birds came. Left it to dry on its own.
- Farm has not had darkling beetle issue, so not significant results at this site.
- Used equal weight of bedding material on each floor. Result: miscanthus was very thin.
 - Would put in 1/3 more by weight compared to straw
- Floor under miscanthus was observably less wet/slimey during occupancy, and during clean-out

DeJong: Broiler Culls and Condemns

- 14% fewer culls through growth cycle on miscanthus
 - Mostly leg-related culls. Grippier, less slip?
- Body condition: 20 birds per bedding type
 - Equal. 1/40 had minor foot issue
- 50% fewer condemns at the plant for miscanthus birds
 - Loaded 1 truck with miscanthus birds, 1 with straw

	Culls	Condemns
Wheat Straw	478	147 kg
Miscanthus	411	73 kg
% reduction	14%	50%

- Next step: currently running miscanthus vs. wood shavings