

# Georgia Computer Connection Highlights Chicken Displays

SALISBURY, MD — Naturally, there have been changes in the industry since the legendary Mrs. Wilmer Steele began a poultry revolution with her first broiler flock 65 years ago at Ocean View, Del. In this modern age of computer technology the rate of change can be mind-boggling.

Only five years ago, for example, it would have taken months of work and considerable space to build an electronic control box for connecting a microcomputer to sensors in a chicken house like the model on display during this year's Delmarva Chicken Festival at Salisbury, Md.

The model was built by representatives of the Engineering Technology Branch at the Georgia Tech Research Institute in Atlanta. A telephone link-up (modem) allowed chicken festival visitors in Maryland to monitor environmental conditions in a chicken house near Gainesville, Ga.

Chuck Ross, a research engineer at Georgia Tech, accompanied the computerized model to the Delmarva festival. He noted that programmable computer chips only two inches square were the main feature of a control box measuring one foot high and two feet square.

Mr. Ross commented that control units in the box were put together with parts readily available from several manufacturers.

Five years ago, many of the parts would have had to be fashioned from scratch-- and the control box would have taken up at least three times more space.

"The goal of our project is to provide poultry farmers with a low-cost monitoring and control system for broiler houses," Ross declared. "Ideally, the system will produce superior chicken for consumers."

Ross said his Poultry Environmental Computer System (PECS) is designed for automatic control of virtually every environmental factor in a chicken house -- including temperature, humidity, lighting, feed and water.

In a typical broiler farm situation, control boxes in each grow-out house would be linked to a central microcomputer on the farm. Such a system could simplify management for the farmer, reduce labor costs and provide almost fail-safe reliability.

Georgia Tech's eventual goal is to link the PECS to computer systems in processing plants. This would allow integrated operators to have more direct control over activities of contract operators providing growout services.

The University of Maryland this year began a modified version of Georgia Tech's computerized chicken house at its Lower Shore Research and Education Center facility near Princess Anne.



A popular new attraction in the poultry industry exhibit at the Delmarva Chicken Festival was the Georgia Tech computer controlled broiler house. Using sensors, the system is able to monitor the house environment. Chuck Ross, a Georgia Tech research engineer, worked at the model, shown on the left, and was able to gather information on a broiler house in Georgia through the computer and telephone lines.

Results to date look promising.

The University of Delaware has announced plans to have a computerized system in place for broiler production on its Newark campus by this fall. Plans also are underway for a similar installation at its Research and Education Center located near Georgetown.

About a half-dozen poultry pro-

ducers on the Eastern Seaboard are involved with computerized chicken house operations similar to the PECS developed at Georgia Tech. This count includes two broiler operations in Georgia, one on the Delmarva Peninsula and three or four commercial laying flock operators in the Northeast.

The Georgia Tech computer

system was part of the industry display "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" put together by the poultry specialists at the Universities of Delaware and Maryland. This year's expanded display showed comparisons of poultry technology today and in the early years of the industry.

## SPREADERS

Models: 514, 520, 795



## DISC MOWERS

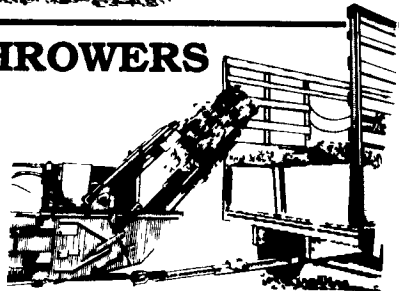
Model: 442



## BALE THROWERS

Models:

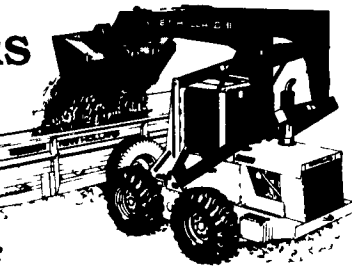
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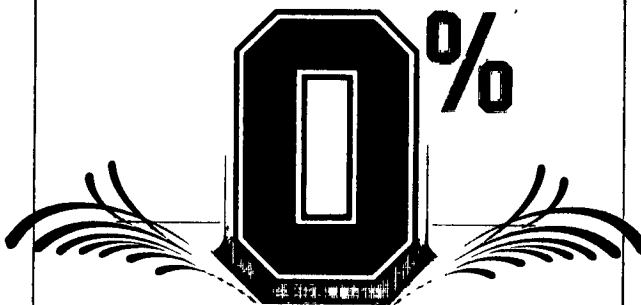
## SKID LOADERS

Models: 553  
555  
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Attachments Also Available



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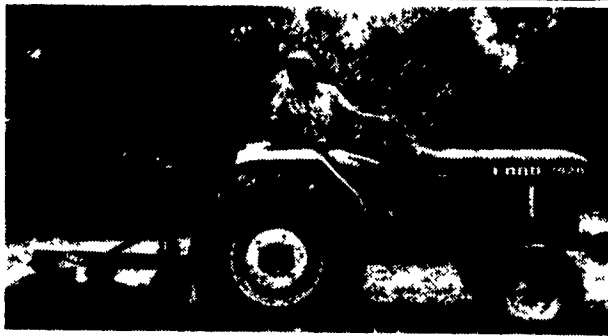
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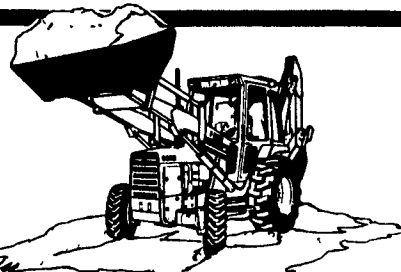


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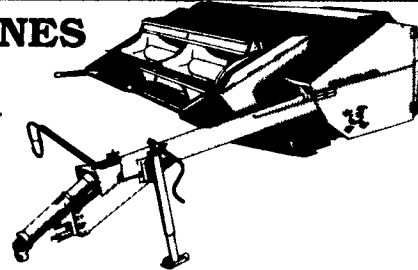
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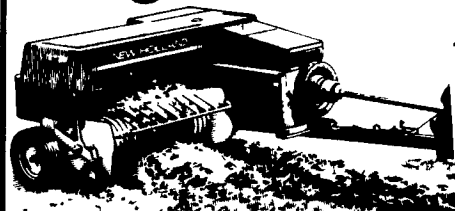
489



## SQUARE BALERS

Models:

311  
316's  
320's  
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## DISC BINES

Model:

411



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