

Case Study: Morning Fresh Farms

Calling on a Ronning drying system to handle poultry waste created a primary income stream for one environmentally conscious egg operation.

“The Ronning dryer created a profit center for us,” said Joe Raith, owner of Morning Fresh Farms in northern Colorado. “The business has grown more widespread and it all has hinged around the dryer.”

In 1982 Morning Fresh installed a dryer incorporating Ronning’s patented three-stage dehydration technology. The dryer has been continually improved since then through ongoing consultation with the Ronning Engineering team, including the addition of a second dryer system.

The Raith family farm produces 200 to 300 tons of dried poultry waste (DPW) per week from an average of 1200 tons of wet manure run through the Ronning dryer system. The dried poultry waste is utilized as a primary ingredient in an extensive line of lawn and garden fertilizers.

“It has been a steady market for us, a growth area that’s been profitable,” Raith said.

About 15% of the farm’s wet manure is composted and combined with wood shavings to sell as a soil amendment. The rest of the waste is dried in two Ronning dryers and distributed to a broad variety of marketplaces, including major independent nurseries, landscape contractors, retail outlets and private labels.

An added benefit to drying waste is fewer problems. “When we dry the waste, a lot of problems go away,” Raith comments. “We don’t have any fly problems because there’s no moisture.”

“Ronning’s consultation has been a huge help to us,” Raith says. “Manure as a product has many variables and Ronning has been able to help solve problems and take things to the next level. They are diverse in their knowledge of how to improve operations. They are very easy to talk to – they use layman’s language but can get technical when necessary. Ronning has also been a tremendous help to us in permitting, giving us the data needed to give to the state or to satisfy authorities.”

The working relationship between Ronning and Morning Fresh has helped the farm prosper, even during years when egg prices declined, while supporting their commitment to operate a sanitary, natural and pristine facility.