

RAG:gp  
January 11, 1988  
Ref: CEG

M/s Jean Vipardi,  
Secretary,  
Victorian Egg Marketing Board,  
P.O. Box 141,  
NOBLE PARK, Vic. 3174

Dear Madam,

re: Egg Washer for Bendigo

Following a recent visit to Bendigo by the Chairman and Messrs. Peacock and Taylor to have discussions with this company and Bendigo egg producers, we presented Submissions for an egg washing facility at Crystal Egg Co. in Bendigo. We had been advised earlier that the Board had formed a sub-committee of two, Messrs. Foster and Peacock, to investigate the matter and we are now making this Joint Submission from the Bendigo egg industry.

It was agreed that Crystal Egg Co. would investigate egg washers which are available in the market-place and, in particular, we were to pay great attention to the drying capacity of each egg washer. We know that one cannot stamp a wet egg the way we stamp our eggs, and we understand that laser printers cost around \$40,000, which takes them out of our league. Hence drying is vital for the success of this operation.

We looked at the possibility of a Kuhl drier or a Diamond drier. The Kuhl drier, as you know, is made for a Staalkat egg grader, and the Diamond is obviously not. Investigations revealed that the 12 lane Kuhl egg washer proposed for our machine has a 10 h.p. fan in the drying section which is far more efficient than the 5 h.p. fans operating on six-lane washers currently available in Australia. We were assured that the eggs coming out would be dry and that stamping would be no problem. We are following up the users of this washer in the Eastern States of America to verify this aspect of the Kuhl washer.

We understand that the Diamond washer does a better job and is more gentle with the eggs. However, feeding the eggs onto the washer and from the washer back onto the Staalkat egg grader could be difficult because of speed variations and egg spacing. To get around these problems may be impossible, or it may require additional distance in the length of the washer. We do not have much room with which to play. At this stage we have no definite preference for one washer or the other, and any assistance the Board may be able to give us with the Diamond would be greatly appreciated.

Crystal Egg Co. was requested to look closely at the financial gains which could be expected from washing the eggs of some of our major producers. These checks showed that it is viable to wash the eggs of the producers who requested such an investigation. The Board's own experience at Keysborough with its new machine was conveyed to us in a letter from Gordon Hudson which again confirms the viability for producers of egg washing.

The price quoted to us for the Kuhl egg washer was approximately \$US48,000. With currency fluctuations being what they are at the present time, this is approximately \$A70,000. We received a quoted price from Diamond at \$A55,540 for a machine landed in Sydney without any conversions to accommodate the Staalkat. There was also some doubt about the dutiable rate, if any, which would be applicable to this drier. So we feel that, when comparing the driers on a cost basis and an installed basis, there is very little difference. With installation and operating costs and with a through-put of approximately five and a half million dozen per annum, we estimate the cost of washing the eggs to be .6 cents per dozen if the machine is leased over five years.

We therefore propose that this extra cost be borne equally between Crystal Egg Co., the Bendigo egg producers and the Board on the basis of .2 cents per dozen each.

We are advised that delivery can be made between six and eight weeks from receipt of order for a Kuhl washer, and four months for the Diamond washer, and we are anxious to now start this programme as soon as possible. Would the Board consider this application, approve it and advise us as soon as possible so that we may place the order.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD A. GUY  
Managing Director

KEVIN FITZGIBBON  
Secretary, C.E.P.A.

c.c. Mr. Ron Robins  
President, C.E.P.A.