Another Wild Goose Chase®

CASE STUDY

Automated Lasers Strengthen Biosecurity at Egg Production Facilities

The Problem

In 2015, one of the United States' primary egg producers lost about 1.5 million egg-laying chickens at one of their 17 facilities due to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (commonly known as bird flu).

Wild birds have been, and remain, a key transmitter of bird flu to domestic flocks including poultry and egg-laying chickens. Each year during peak migration season, over 330 million wild birds fly directly over the organization's nation-wide egg production facilities. Furthermore, 80% of the organization's facilities are located in areas that experience medium or high wild bird traffic.

The migratory wild bird species that threaten the egg producer's facilities include, but are not limited to:

- Canada geese
- Snow geese
- Swans
- Multiple duck species

Actions

Beginning in 2015, the organization contracted with Wild Goose Chase (WGC), an environmental services company, to help strengthen biosecurity at each of their facilities through science-based, ecological solutions.

WGC's staff of experienced animal biologists and structural technicians installed, programmed, and advised on the proper use of automated lasers to cover high risk areas of the property.

The lasers provide continual harassment throughout the calendar year and are particularly effective during wild bird migration seasons.

Automated lasers work well in the egg producer's settings due to:

- **Coverage and range:** the laser beam can travel over 1,000 feet and cover over one hundred acres in minutes
- **Constant motion:** lasers can operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- **Variable patterns:** laser programming was customized for each facility site, with varying timeslots and speeds

Automated lasers have a high impact on migratory wild birds because:

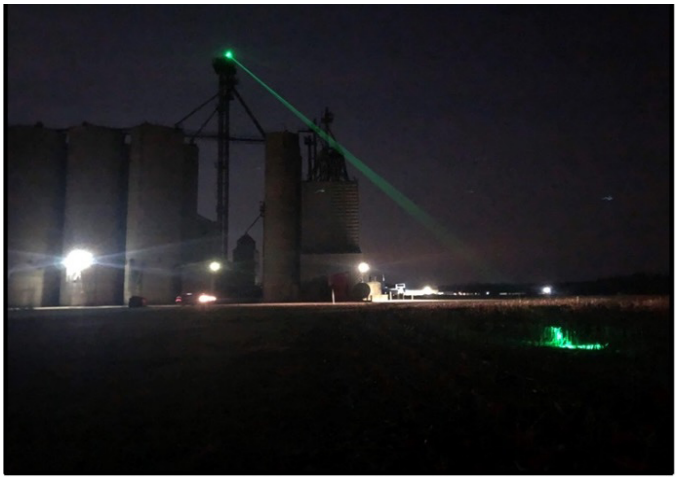
- Birds can see the entire laser beam, even in full daylight conditions
- Birds are visually attuned to motion
- Birds are adept at recognizing consistent patterns

CASE STUDY

Impact

WGC provided each of the organization's egg production facilities with:

- A site assessment conducted by staff biologists
- Installation of automated lasers
- Site specific programming
- Training for on-site facility managers
- Hands-on training for the in-house laser team
- Ongoing, remote equipment and tech support



Since partnering with WGC, the egg producer has not had any major outbreaks of bird flu when automated lasers are used correctly. Unlike other bird deterrent solutions, wild birds have not habituated to the automated lasers at any of the organization's facilities.

About Wild Goose Chase

Our philosophy is predicated on a sound understanding of wildlife heritage and the responsibility it requires. We have helped our customers better manage the negative impact of wild Canada geese, seagulls and other nuisance birds upon their properties since 1998. The Wild Goose Chase team, through years of experience and research, has formulated an approach that is both highly successful and conscientious. In fact, we are one of the first companies to develop a truly "integrated approach" which has proven most effective and humane in managing bird populations according to the Wildlife Society.

More at: www.wildgoosechasers.com

9955 S. Virginia Chicago Ridge IL 60415 **TEL** (708) 529-3858 **FAX** (708) 907-3195