



***"A different feel  
when you enter the house"***

*Keith Parsons, farm manager*

*John Swetnam, co-owner*

**John Swetnam, co-owner of Wilmar Acres from Centreville, Nova Scotia in Canada, runs a 150 000-broiler operation. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 John placed the first crop in his two new DACS ventilated broiler barns, just when Covid had shut down everything. On-line guidance and supervision from DACS was the only option and that worked beyond expectations.**

"We bought the DACS electrical panels with built-in ACS6 controllers. A complete set of electrical documentation was included and it was very easy to connect cables from the board to the ventilation, sensors and scales. DACS were on-line and checked if everything was tied together correctly and they could actually do remote fault-finding and point out if a sensor did not feed the proper signal to the ACS6 controller. This detailed on-line functionality check of the entire DACS system gave us peace of mind and a smooth start when the day-old chicks arrived," says John.

### **Expectations have been fully met**

"Together with my nearby colleagues I was in England in December 2018 to see DACS barns in operation so I knew what I could expect from the system. We have been in operation for nearly 20 months now and my expectations have been fully met. The system brings a different feel when you enter the barn. Due to the air mixing function integrated in the DACS air inlets, where warm room air and colder air from outside is mixed, climate and litter conditions are by far the best in my DACS barns and my propane bill is also lower," John points out.

### **Hot weather performance**

"In our cross-ventilated barns, we often see cold spots close to the side wall inlets during the colder months. And during summer there are also issues because of the uneven spread of air in the barn. Contrary to that, in the DACS barns we always have good litter and nice climate throughout the year. This summer we had a cocktail of big birds, high humidity and temperatures reaching 95°F (35°C). That would normally be of concern to us but even under these stressful conditions, and birds 35 days of age, predicted daily gain was maintained in our two DACS ventilated barns. I think this frames in well the superiority of the DACS system over my cross ventilation systems," notes John.

### **Free-range birds**

"We might want to grow free-range birds in the future and because the DACS system works around 0 static pressure there will be no uncontrolled cold-air rush passing through the doors from outside. Meaning I can keep the barn climate just as well if in the future we decide to produce free-range broilers," John concludes.