

The Soy Daily

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Biodiesel Biobased News

Ag-Tite Uses Soy To Create Unique Sealants for the Construction Industry

April 24, 2006 – Columbia , MO - As most know, success is created by necessity and good timing. Just two years ago, a management team from Latco Inc., a successful Arkansas-based construction company specializing in building chicken houses for the poultry industry, needed a solution. While retrofitting hundreds such enclosures in Oklahoma , they began searching for ways to fill the gaping holes often found in these structures, all of which were 15 years old. They needed material that could go up quickly, keep out the cold and heat, and be cost-effective. A closed-cell polyurethane product was created, which doesn't use air to insulate. A new corporation, EDGE Inc. was formed, and Ag-Tite products were born. "At first we had a few naysayers", Bill Collins, General Manager of EDGE, said. "But today we are a company with a line of products that can literally seal any size crack in any kind of structure."

Today, Ag-Tite sealants (www.ag-tite.com) are used outside of the agricultural industry and find applications in residential, commercial and industrial installations. "The benefit is speed", Collins added. "Our closed cell technology allows our products to be used to solve many problems in the construction industry including repair work, insulation, moisture control and structural stability.

EDGE and its Ag-Tite soy sealants are part of a partnership developed with another Arkansas company, Bio-Based Systems, who supplies the soy polymers used in the formulation. For large jobs, a trailer is loaded with 55 gallon drums of product materials, which are combined, heated, put under pressure and applied by hose. The finished sealant, a black, plastic-like material, is shaped as it is applied, and made ready for any kind of internal or external covering. "We're a manufacturing plant on wheels", Collins said.



EDGE personnel are extending their marketing in an effort to form partnerships around the country. New service associates as far away as Vermont are sold the trailer and equipment, then work with EDGE and Bio-Based to secure materials needed to make product. No fees are charged.

Auburn University , University of Arkansas in nearby Fayetteville and the University of Georgia , all large research universities, have come on board to offer their expertise because of their appreciation for this start-up's pioneering efforts. "We value the interest coming from these institutions," Collins said. And now that EDGE has launched a line of Ag-Tite retail products for smaller projects, it hopes to expand commercially while growing its industrial base.

"We are proud of the fact that we can take 14 acres of soy beans grown on an American farm, refine that into one 55 gallon set of Ag-Tite Soy Sealant and then seal up a 400 foot poultry house. When we do that, the poultry farmer can realize a 25% - 50% reduction in propane fuel usage, which is the common energy source for that industry. It's a Win-Win-Win situation for everyone involved." Collins concluded.