PEDA Grant Update

MIDDLEBURY CENTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Dairy Farmers of America

DFA's Middlebury Center plant received a grant from the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) to invest in a new burner and economizer in order to improve the capability of their boiler.

The project began January 19, 2015, and was completed February 16, 2015. The following information provides more details on this initiative.

What does the plant produce?

We produce milk powders, skim milk condense, cream and specialty powders.

What was the condition of the old equipment?

The old equipment was a 25-year-old mechanical Johnston boiler burner. It was oversized and outdated. Having to adjust it manually proved to be problematic through the years.

How would you describe the new equipment?

The new burner is sleek. It is controlled by electronic sensors that change the flame size based on demand, and adjusts oxygen levels to maintain a perfect mixture of fuel/air to maximize fuel output.

What are the energy savings to date and anticipated return on investment?

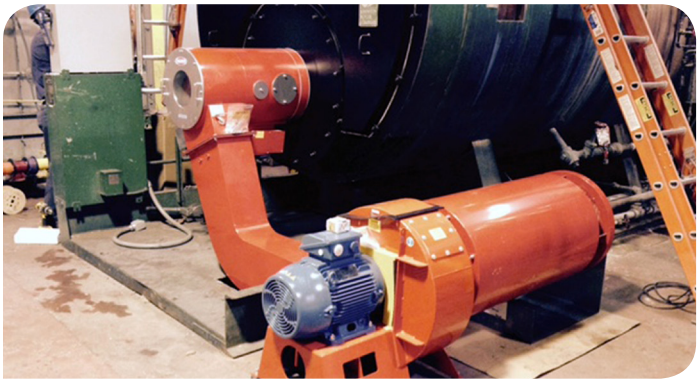
So far, the savings amount to about 400 DTH per month. The projected investment return rate is about 52.4 percent, with a payback in less than two years.

What is your overall satisfaction with the new burner?

The new burner was a much-needed improvement to our plant. It has maximized efficiency and increased the capabilities of our production, which in turn will allow us to add three additional jobs in Middlebury Center. This is good news for our plant and our community.

Did you encounter any problems with the new equipment?

The biggest problems occurred during construction. The economizer is so large that we were forced to tear down some steam lines to install it. A challenge we expect to face moving forward is the air flow in the boiler room itself. Additional vents will need to be installed to accommodate the new equipment.



Left: The burner is controlled electronically and manages the flame to ensure maximum fuel output of the boiler.

Above: The economizer preheats water by using heat from the boiler supply so it doesn't have to work as hard.