

Port expands container storage

THE Georgia Ports Authority's (GPA) board of directors approved a \$4.75 million project Sept. 26 that will expand the capacity for refrigerated container storage at the Port of Savannah, Ga., by 45%.

"As the leading U.S. container port for poultry exports, this new investment will not only expand capacity but create additional opportunity to export American-made and grown products to the world," GPA executive director Curtis J. Foltz said.

The project will consist of the fabrication and installation of 20 four-story, steel-framed refrigerated container racks at Garden City Terminal's Container Berth 8. It is scheduled to be completed in September 2012.

GPA currently has 44 refrigerated container racks in service. Each rack powers 24 refrigerated containers. When the project is

Key Points

- Savannah port's refrigerated cargo is 76% exports versus 24% imports.
- New racks will accommodate 1,536 containers.
- Port also enters wood pellet partnership.

completed, there will be 64 racks total that will allow the Port of Savannah to accommodate 1,536 containers.

The Port of Savannah moves more than 40% of U.S. containerized poultry, or 1.6 billion lb. annually. In the past five years, the port's refrigerated container volume has increased 54%. Savannah's refrigerated containerized cargo was dominated by exports in fiscal 2011 (July 2010 to June

2011), with 76% exports versus 24% imports.

Poultry was GPA's fourth-largest export commodity during fiscal 2011, behind wood pulp, paper and paperboard (including paper waste) and fabrics (including raw cotton). Savannah also exported more than \$804.5 million of containerized poultry during fiscal 2011, with the bulk of it going to Hong Kong.

"Each year, we continue to invest in infrastructure to make sure that wherever the Port of Savannah is today, it will remain so in the future," GPA chairman of the board Alec Poitevint said. "Improvements like these ensure Georgia's role in global commerce as a gateway for American agricultural products."

Before electrified refrigerated container racks were brought on line in 2008, refrigerated containers were powered by diesel generators, in tandem with wheeled parking spots with electrical hookups.

For every 10 racks placed into service, GPA saves about 540,000 gal. of diesel fuel annually that would have been used to power the diesel generators. With a total of 44 racks on line now, GPA avoids using more than 2.376 million gal. of diesel annually.

In the first phase of this expanded partnership, the East River Terminal will be significantly upgraded to handle up to 1 million tons of wood pellets and chips annually.

"We welcome this renewed partnership with Logistec and look forward to enhanced customer service at the East River Terminal," Foltz said. "The significant expansion and installation of new infrastructure at the East River Terminal will accommodate Georgia's export for biomass fuels and create jobs throughout Georgia's transportation, logistics and forest industries."

"We are very pleased to participate as a key supplier in the development of the biomass industry in Georgia," Logistec Corp. president and chief executive officer Madeleine Paquin said. "Our commitment to invest in a modern facility specializing in the handling of wood and peanut pellets will ensure a key competitive component in the supply chain and will make available a competitive facility to generate growing exports from Georgia for years to come."

The East River Terminal in Brunswick is in close proximity to customers' manufacturing facilities in the heart of Georgia's timber country. Pellets are transported to the terminal and stored before Logistec loads the cargo into vessels bound for biomass power plant utility companies in the U.K., Scandinavia and elsewhere within the European Union.

The project started in September 2011 and is scheduled to be completed in January 2012. It will include deepening three berths to 36 ft. at mean low water and significant investment to upgrade the docks and handling facility.

"There will be further investment in the East River Terminal and its handling facility as the market for biomass fuels grows," Foltz said. ■

Foundation dedicates itself to feed education, research

By SARAH MUIRHEAD

THE Institute for Feed Education & Research (IFEEDER) is a relatively new nonprofit foundation created with the mission of sustaining the future of food and feed production through education and research while securing the future of the global feed industry.

IFEEDER was created

in May 2009 as a 501(c)(3) foundation and is structured to broadly represent the feed industry, including academia and experts in science and technology. Its overall mission is to meet the critical need to find solutions to the difficult challenges the feed industry faces in feeding the world over the next 50 years.

"Sustainable agriculture means moving forward with new technology. The improvements we've experienced in our lifetime came to fruition through investment in education, ideas, research and new practices," the foundation explained on its website.

IFEEDER is managed by a board of trustees, and its education and research committees are responsible for establishing the goals and objectives used to select the projects of maximum value to the feed industry and animal agriculture as a whole.

Thanks to investments made by the feed industry, IFEEDER has already lent its support to the National Research Council to update new nutrient requirement guidelines for both swine and beef cattle. IFEEDER board of trustees vice chair Dean Warras explained that updating this work is essential to moving toward more efficient food production.

IFEEDER also has put its support behind several industry-based initiatives to educate school children, including the Animal Agriculture Alliance's

classroom outreach in schools and supplying "The ABCs of Farming Coloring Book" to various classrooms, farmers markets, on-the-farm days and industry events across the nation.

The first of these efforts will take place at the World Dairy

Expo in Madison, Wis., where the coloring books will be handed out to

more than 1,500 elementary students from various local schools.

"The ABCs of Farming Coloring Book" was written and illustrated by the *Feedstuffs/Feedstuffs FoodLink* editorial and production team. IFEEDER also has become a sponsor partner with the *Feedstuffs FoodLink* effort to educate consumers, food industry decision-makers and youth group leaders on issues related to food and how it is produced.

"Today, the average U.S. farmer feeds 144 people. In 1940, that number was only 19 people. We've made great progress, but we have a long way to go," Warras said. "Today, one acre feeds 1.6 people. By 2050, one acre must feed four people. To feed the world in 2050, investment in agriculture must reach \$83 billion per year. This equals a 50% increase in investment from current levels. The U.S. feed industry is a critical part of this chain."

He noted that only through education and science-based research today will future generations be able to support the increased global demand for food. This, Warras emphasized, is what IFEEDER is all about.

IFEEDER is an independent entity of the American Feed Industry Assn., a trade group representing the U.S. feed industry. IFEEDER has a broader mission with a larger scope and with separate funding. For more information on the institute, visit www.IFEEDER.org. ■



Wood pellet partnership

GPA and Logistec USA Inc. signed a partnership in August that will modernize the East River Terminal at the Port of Brunswick in Georgia to facilitate the growing international market for wood pellets.

Logistec, a marine and environmental services provider, will invest \$5 million to expand the bio-fuel export market in Georgia and increase capacity for handling a broad range of general and bulk cargo.



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