

NEWS/BUSINESS

Excel Engineering continues to grow, offers efficient, total solutions for building design

By Alyssa Mitchell

FOND DU LAC, Wis. — Excel Engineering is growing and continuing to expand its dairy industry offerings and customer base.

Founded in 1990, Excel Engineering Inc. is a full-service, employee-owned design firm located in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, that has grown to include more than 200 professional architects, engineers and associates. Repeat business, client referrals and a reputation for superior plans have contributed greatly to a company that has grown steadily for the past 30

New research shows effects of light exposure on milk, other dairy

WILMINGTON, Del. — Noluma International LLC, a light protection services and certification company, has released a new report called “Packaged Foods Should Be Kept In The Dark: Consumers Shouldn’t Be” examining how light exposure can affect the taste, freshness, and nutritional value of milk and other dairy products.

The report’s research says that all forms of light exposure, including common retail case and refrigerator lighting, can degrade milk’s quality and freshness.

Studies in the report show that exposure to fluorescent, LED or other lighting can erode the nutritional content, flavor and smell of milk. Food scientists studying light’s impact on milk used expert tasting panels to find that taste and smell changes in milk are detectable after 15 minutes of light exposure.

Other key findings from food scientists in the report show that vitamin A, vitamin D and riboflavin levels in milk can decrease over time. The report notes that milk can lose vitamin A after two hours of retail light exposure; and after 16 hours of light exposure, less than half of the vitamin A (49 percent) remained in nonfat milk packaged in a typical plastic bottle. One hour of sunlight exposure can cause riboflavin in pasteurized whole milk to drop by 28 percent, according to research in the report.

The report cites a significant nutrient decline in fortified, reduced-fat UHT milk after 14 days of retail light exposure in a PET bottle. Forty-five percent of riboflavin, 60 percent of Vitamin A and 80 percent of vitamin D was lost during this time period.

After 12 weeks of light exposure in a retail setting, UHT milk’s nutritional value declined further — 93 percent of vitamin A, 100 percent of vitamin B2 and 66 percent of vitamin D were lost, according to research in the report. CMN

years, says Tim Tolley, principal, Excel Engineering.

Excel Engineering provides services throughout North America and is registered in all 50 U.S. states and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick.

Tolley heads up the Process Engineering Division within Excel Engineering, where he works on a multitude of dairy- and food-related projects from small plant expansions or modifications to multi-million dollar greenfield projects.

“We strive to work as part of our customers’ team rather than simply push them into equipment and processes,” he says. “We do not sell equipment and hence can guide our customers through the various choices within a complete design. Our vast experience within the dairy and food industry gives us a unique advantage in assisting with choices.”

Excel Engineering keeps costs competitive for clients by getting bids from multiple vendors to get the best value, Tolley says.

The company’s Process Engineering Group also works through the design, installation and 3-D modeling process to offer a fully-integrated approach to design.

In addition to new buildings, a large portion of Excel Engineering’s business is plant expansions, upgrades and renovations, Tolley says.

“We can come in and look at a client’s facility and ask them what they want to do — what do they think the next 15 years will look like?” Tolley says. “We then examine what the next best steps are in terms of renovation

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Tim Tolley
EXCEL ENGINEERING

versus replacement.”

“We’re there to listen to the customer,” adds David Koenes, principal. “They are paying for our knowledge and expertise.”

Tolley notes the company’s food group comprises about 40 percent of the business, and within that, cheese and dairy make up about 80 percent.

“We’re very dedicated to dairy,” Tolley says. “It’s a major area of our business.”

Koenes says the company takes a unique approach when taking on a project.

“Everything starts around the processing,” he says. “So we focus on that to make sure everything flows from point A to point B in terms of construction.”

The company calls this method its “inside-out approach.”

“It ensures that every plan reflects a design and level of detail that serves

a specific process, employing form to optimize function. Smart, streamlined and client-centric, we’ve built our reputation by design,” Koenes says.

Tolley notes that today’s technology and global connectivity allow the company to be anywhere in the country in 24 hours.

At the same time, Excel Engineering prides itself on having one corporate location in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, to house its expertise under one roof, allowing for consultation and communication across the company.

“The communication and flow between our engineers and other areas of expertise is very organic,” he says.

“There’s no hesitation between us to ask a question or weigh in on any project aspect,” he adds. “It’s part of our mission statement — Always a Better Plan.”

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Tolley says the dairy industry is one of the most efficient industries out there.

“We strive to be energy conscious and implement efficiencies and sanitation in our building design,” he says. “And these days, making a building hygienic and sanitary has become more efficient and economical.” CMN



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