



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>
aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

The Economic Feasibility of Controlled Atmosphere Storage For Sweet Onions

by

J. E. Epperson
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

W. T. Huang
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Georgia
Athens, GA

Problem

The availability of sweet onions from a particular producing area has been limited to a very short season of about six to ten weeks each year, primarily because of perishability. A recent breakthrough at the University of Georgia, though, has resulted in successful storage of sweet onions for up to seven months with only a one percent loss in inventory and without a material increase in pungency. The relatively long-term storage is made possible with the discovery of a unique mix of the atmosphere, relative humidity, and temperature in a controlled environment. The purpose of this study is to determine the economic feasibility of controlled atmosphere storage for sweet onions.

Methodology

Preliminary investigation entails an economic engineering approach. Breakeven analysis is being conducted, with the initial assumption that

storage occurs over a period of seven months with a uniform distribution of sweet onions being released to the market.

Implications

It may be economically feasible to store and market sweet onions over most of the year, given the early harvesting season in the southern United States and the later season in the northwestern United States.

Contact

Dr. J. E. Epperson
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
Conner Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602