

News for poultry members of the National Farmers' Union

Poultry Forum

September • October 2009

Focus on Breeding & Technical Development

We take a look at what's motivating commercial poultry breeders and explore technical development on the farm and in the academic world. Also included is a round up of disease challenge facing the vets this summer, news from NFU Brussels, notice of the Autumn Turkey Marketing meeting dates plus much more.



Growing for another century

Good vibrations keep broilers healthier

It may sound a bit 'new age' but the introduction of natural oxygen vibrations to the digestive tract of broilers, either in feed or in water, appears to be improving bird health, reducing mortality and increasing food conversion, so that not only are more birds reaching maturity, they are doing so at increased weights.

The BioAktiv range of products were developed some 16 years ago as a result of a co-operation between a homoeopathist and an engineer, who designed an oscillating device that, operating at the frequency of oxygen atoms in a contained chamber, transfers the specific natural vibration of oxygen into a delivery medium, either calcium or salt, over a period of several hours so that it takes on the specific information permanently. Depending on the final product use, other vibrations such as those of trace elements can be added to or superimposed on the oxygen vibration.

How does it work?

"While the calcium itself is a valuable additive in poultry feed, it is used purely to introduce the oxygen vibration to the digestive tract of birds" says Ron Edmonds, who is the UK distributor of BioAktiv products and is currently assessing the results of trials on several UK broiler units.

"Once in the birds, it stimulates the aerobic (beneficial) bacteria and reduces the level of anerobic (harmful) bacteria in the bird's gut, improving digestion and boosting the immune system. The product is completely natural and safe for people, animals and the environment."

Research across Europe and North Africa

A recent seminar organised by BioAktiv Evolution GmbH was held in Germany to present and exchange the results of research trials of BioAktiv poultry products across Europe, including Egypt, UK and France. Of particular interest were the outcomes of studies comparing two whole farm units that had been carried out by the Cairo Poultry Group, and results from trials at Cairo University, supervised by Professor Hany Gado, who has spent some years undertaking research on the product in France.

The results of the Cairo Poultry Group farm studies showed definite improvements in mortality, reduced days to slaughter weight and improved FCR.

With BIOAKTIV Calcium Carbonate		Control farm = no BIOAKTIV	
Number of Birds Started	196700	Number of Birds Started	215150
Culled Birds	0.25%	Mortality	2.96%
Average Age at Marketing	33.6 Days	Culled Birds	0.43%
Average Flock Body Weight	1.534 Kg	Average Age at Marketing	35.14 Days
FCR	1.63	Average Flock Body Weight	1.585 Kg
EEF	271	FCR	1.68
Medication cost (Vaccines + Medicines + Cleaning and Disinfecting)	0.5819 LE/Kg	EEF	273
		Medication cost (Vaccines + Medicines + Cleaning and Disinfecting)	0.589 LE/Kg

Cairo University experimented with differing concentrations of product, either in powdered form or liquid, focusing on improvements in FCR. The trials showed best results from using CaCO₃ at 500gm/tonne in feed, giving a FCR improvement of 13.04% or NaCl at 1gm/10L liquid providing improved FCR of 9.4%. The general health of birds treated also showed significant improvement, with less stress, less illness and better growth being observed.

Winning Ways

In the UK, whilst BioAktiv Liquid Feed has only recently been introduced, initial results are proving positive, with again improved FCRs, increased weights, better litter quality, lower rejects and lower mortality.



Such was the impact of the Cairo research trials that BioAktiv went on to win an Innovative Product Award.

Ron Edmonds at E.W.I. Associates Ltd has 10kg trial cartons of BioAktiv Liquid Feed available for those who wish to make trials, at an introductory price of £25.00 plus VAT per kilo, delivery is free. Normal price is £30.00 in 25 kilo cartons. It is estimated that the cost of applying BioAktiv Liquid feed to the drinking water adds less than 0.1p to the cost of a bird for the crop.

For more information email ewibio@tiscali.co.uk or tel: 0116 2592590

Official NCP sampling for broilers underway

As part of the National Control Programme for Salmonella in broiler flocks Defra have to collect control samples annually from 10% of holdings with more than 5,000 birds. Testing to meet this requirement will be taking place over the next few months. The holdings are selected at random and producers will be contacted by local animal health officers to inform them if they are to be tested as part of the NCP. For more information about the NCP for broiler flocks please go to <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/zoonoses/pdf/ncp-guide-salmonella.pdf>



4% hike in MHS charges will not be imposed at the moment

The Food Standards Agency is to proceed with the introduction of regulations for a new system of calculating charges for official controls in meat plants.

The new system will base charges on the time cost of the inspection process at meat businesses. Subject to the normal Parliamentary procedures, the new system will take effect from 27 September in Northern Ireland and 28 September in Great Britain.

Increases to charges that had been proposed by the FSA are not being introduced at this time. This means that, if official control time remains unchanged, meat businesses will not face an increase in the charges they pay when time-based charging is introduced. Charges could be lower for some businesses where official control time is reduced.