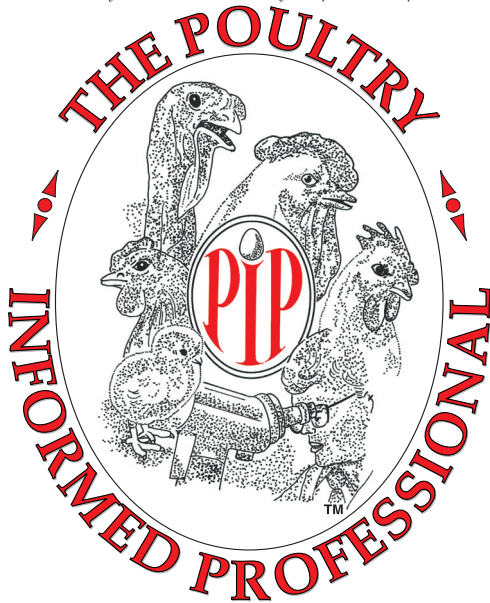


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January
February 2007

Issue 91



The Poultry Informed Professional

Published by the Department
of Population Health, University of Georgia
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BROILER FIRST WEEK MANAGEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

There is a very strong correlation between chick weight at 7 days and final body weight at market. So, it is very important for an integrated broiler company to achieve the best possible weights at an early age. Achieving these goals decrease market age, improves flock uniformity, improves feed conversion and under certain conditions it will also improve processing meat yield. It is also very clear that chick weight at seven days is directly related to chick feed consumption during the first week.

There are many factors that affect chick body weight at seven days and we will comment on some of them in this review. Knowing and evaluating these factors the integrator can design an action plan that will lead to substantial improvements of this parameter.

Continued on Page 2

Broiler Performance Data (Region) Live Production Cost					
	SW	Midwest	Southeast	Mid-Atlantic	S-Central
Feed cost/ton w/o color (\$)	188.25	184.28	190.79	169.53	189.86
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	17.68	17.93	17.68	15.03	18.16
Days to 4.6 lbs	41	41	43	41	41
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.38	3.53	4.31	4.58	3.81
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.07	0.11	0.09	0.06	0.07
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.19
% mortality	4.95	3.64	5.09	3.94	4.40
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.82	0.92	0.77	0.77	0.82
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	7.02	7.50	7.18	6.64	7.66
Down time (days)	18	19	17	17	17

Data for week ending January 20, 2007

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1. Chickens should be hatched with cloacal temperatures of 104 to 105 F (40 to 40.5 C).



2: Correct moisture loss of the embryo (left). Chicken pipping too high due to incorrect moisture loss (right).

In a very simple way, we can say that our goal should be to quadruplicate at seven days the day old chick body weight.

BREEDERS

Breeder male and female management, nutrition and feeding have a tremendous influence on the broiler results in the growout. More specifically, age at production onset, will affect egg weight and therefore day old chick body weight and this in turn, will have an effect on body weight

at seven days. With the modern female, it is very important to grow them under light controlled conditions and photostimulate them after a minimum of 154 days of age.

Feed amount and ration quality will also influence seven day body weights. Breeder feeds should contain the vitamins and mineral levels recommended by the primary breeder and the flock should be given sufficient feed, especially those that exceed standard production levels.

Males should also receive sufficient amount of a good quality ration. Work done at the University of Georgia shows that when males are underfed, the first birds to lose fertility or die are those with the greatest genetic growth potential and therefore many of the surviving and fertile males will produce chicks of lower body weights at all ages.

HATCHING EGGS MANAGEMENT

We must only set clean nest eggs to avoid contamination problems that can depress chick seven day body weights. Eggs should be maintained at the same temperature and relative humidity all the time, from pick up to set, to avoid internal egg temperature fluctuations and variations that negatively impact the hatch window (Hours from first chick to hatch, to pull). A prolonged hatch window will affect seven day body weight.

INCUBATION PROCESS

We must always emphasize chick quality and not percent hatchability. The machines must operate according to their design and operation instructions from the manufacturer and must be housed in rooms with environmental conditions conducive to correct functioning. All equipment should be well maintained.

Some of the key points in the incubation process are: achieve an adequate moisture loss (14-15%) which allows chicks to pip at the correct height, avoid overheating the embryos/chicks, in the setters and hatchers, avoid excessive humidity in both machines and pull chicks on time. The hatch window in multiple stage systems should be between 24-30 hours.

Setters should be managed to maintain a certain level of infertile internal egg temperatures at transfer time. Hatchers are now managed with temperatures which are lower than in the past. The main purpose is to hatch chicks with cloacal temperatures of 104°-105° F and to keep them with temperatures of between 101° F and 104° F up to their third day of life. Overheating embryos and chicks will negatively affect the development of the digestive and immune systems.

The chick room should be kept at 24° C with a minimum relative humidity of 50%. The cloacal chick temperature should be 101°-104° F. Chicks should not stay too long without feed. Sending them to the farms as soon as possible is key in obtaining the best early body weights. Work from Israel, which has been replicated in other countries; clearly shows that the presence of feed in the digestive tract stimulates growth, the development of the GI system, the absorption of the yolk (with maternal antibodies) and even meat yield at market time.

Chick transport is a "black hole" in many poultry companies because, in many cases, nobody knows what happens while the chicks are on their way to the farms. There are very few publications on the subject in the scientific literature but the work done by Dr., Ernst from California, very clearly showed that one or a few hours of overheating during transport have a detrimental effect on early body weights and this effect remain up to at least 16 days. Obviously, uneven heating will have an effect on the uniformity of weights by seven days. From the practical point of view, many companies have realized that chick transport has a tremendous influence on broiler results and their internal numbers show negative effects on seven day and subsequent body weights, FCR and yield. It is also

interesting that today many companies, in several countries, utilize chick transports with air conditioning.

MANAGEMENT DURING THE FIRST SEVEN DAYS

Even with the best chick quality, excellent breeder nutrition and management, we may still fail to achieve our goal for seven day body weight. It is clear that it is easier to change a few minds than to change many. In any poultry integrated company there are a lot more broiler growers than breeder growers or hatchery managers. The growout is an area where changes do not occur very rapidly. But, with a defined purpose, with a good work plan, a dedicated technical group and a lot of work, changes in the growout can happen much faster than expected.

Management during the first seven days and especially during the first three days is key to obtain the best first week body weights.

Broiler management, and especially management during the first seven days, must be responsive, that is: a deviation from the normal is observed in measurements (T, HR, static pressure, etc.), air quality (ammonia, poor air quality, etc.), litter quality (moisture, etc.) of chick behavior (piling up, against walls, too active, etc.) and a corrective action is taken immediately. In house with controllers, many responses to environmental conditions happen automatically by means of computers incorporated in the system. Even under these conditions, or because of these conditions, the observations and inputs from the grower are key to success. In operations where there is not any type of environmental controllers, birds are totally dependent on the interpretation and the reaction speed of the grower. For example, investigations at the University of Georgia have shown that if very young chicks are cooled for just 45 minutes, there will be weight loss of 135 grams at 35 days. If only part of the flock is cooled down growth will be uneven and the flock will have poor uniformity. On the other hand, overheating young chicks will depress appetite and decrease seven day body weight. By the same token when overheating is uneven the flock will also have poor uniformity.

The key of management during the first seven days is to OBSERVE and RESPOND to the chick's needs.

Previously the importance of achieving the greatest possible feed consumption during this period was mentioned. The great majority of factors that affect seven day body weight do so because they decrease feed consumption.

Below is a brief review of the main management factors that affect seven day body weight:

LIGHT

Chicks do better with minimum light intensity of 25 lux, uniformly distributed, so that they can easily access feed and water. Several companies have found that chicks do much better when the light intensity during the first week is of 50-60 lux.

WATER

It must be available at all times, at the correct temperature and it must have excellent chemical and microbiological quality. There should be plenty of drinkers. When nipples are used, it is a good idea to add supplemental baby drinkers for chicks from very young breeders.

FEED

It is preferable to utilize rations in crumbles during the first week to stimulate feed consumption and thus obtain better weight. The nutritional profile to use should be the one recommended by the primary breeder. We should never try to save money on this first feed because its consumption is very low (140-150 g/ bird) and the benefits more than pay for this investment.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

When the relative humidity is too low chicks will dehydrate, which will affect seven day body weight. If it is too high and the temperature is not adjusted accordingly, feed consumption and weight will be affected. Ideally, the relative humidity should be maintained at a level of 60-65%.

TEMPERATURE

In my opinion, poor temperature management is at the root of many problems with poor seven day body weights. The modern broiler chick is very sensitive to temperature variations out of the normal range. During the first seven days these birds still have not fully developed their thermoregulatory capacity.

Temperatures which are too low will cause the chick to utilize the energy in the feed to heat itself instead of growing and thus seven day body weight will be affected. The above mentioned work from the University of Georgia, clearly shows that it only takes a few minutes of cooling to affect body weight. A cold chick will have cold feet (press chick feet against your neck), will have cloacal temperatures <101° F and will have a tendency to congregate near the source of heat. Another way to cool chicks is with the presence of

drafts in the house (which will cause a “windchill” effect). In this case the chicks will also tend to get closer to each other.

Temperatures that are too high will depress appetite and will therefore affect feed consumption during the first seven days. This problem is very common in warm climate countries of Latin America.

Air and litter temperature a few centimeters away will have an effect on the chick. The chick contacts the litter with its bare feet which are devoid of insulating feathers. We should always measure litter temperature with an infrared thermometer. This temperature should be 84°-86° F when the RH is 60-65% during the first three days. This temperature should be higher when the RH is lower and lower when the RH is higher. After the first three days, the temperature should gradually come down so that it reaches 79°-81° F by 7 days.

The best way to supply chicks with the heat they need is through the use of radiant brooders combined with a good system of minimum ventilation with or without controllers. When the grower does not have any of those systems, temperature control becomes more difficult and consequently management must be better. Under these conditions, the use of brooders, along with the grower’s capacity of observation and ability to react by working the curtains, will help obtain good results. In many Latin American locales, lowering the temperature during the day is more of a problem than heating at night because in some cases, it will naturally get above 95° F on the litter during the day

FEEDERS

The more the better. Many companies feed on paper that usually covers 25% of the litter surface in the brooding area. It is best to feed small amounts more frequently. This stimulates activity and appetite.

DRINKERS

Use more than needed. If nipples are used, the height should be adjusted daily. Make sure the water temperature is right for first week chicks (77°F).

EQUIPMENT SWITCH

We must be very careful when changing from baby chick equipment (feeders, drinkers) to the permanent type. This switch must be gradual so that the birds get used to the new equipment while still using the old.

MINIMUM VENTILATION

The use of minimum ventilation system is ideal but it is not available in all countries. If we do not have a proper system, we have to become very proficient in managing the curtains in such a way that we keep the correct temperatures, at litter level, and maintain good air quality while removing noxious gases.

GENERAL BIRD MANAGEMENT

The time utilized observing chick behavior is vital in obtaining the best possible results. It is not just observing that is important, but immediate action when there are deviations from the normal. Measuring the % of chicks that have eaten will help us find out if our system is working. To do this we simply determine how many birds out of 100 have a full crop with a content that is pliable, By 8-10 hours after arrival to the farms at least 80% of the chicks should have a full crop. By 24 hours this factor should be 95-100%. More important than the number is to act to solve the problem, if the percent is below expectation.

NUTRITION

We touched upon this subject before but it is so important that it must be mentioned repeatedly. Modern broilers are highly selected to produce more meat every new generation. The nutrition of these birds must also consequently evolve. We must be up to date on nutritional requirements for the line we are utilizing and get used to think in profit per lb (kilogram) of meat produced and not on cost of lb (kilogram) of feed, especially with starter feeds.

We must also make sure that feeds are manufactured correctly and there are no deficiencies in the addition of ingredients. Lack of salt in a feed, for example, will have a tremendous effect on growth rate and overall results.

HEALTH

There is no doubt that many pathogens could affect seven day body weights in broilers. Among the bacteria the Salmonella genus could contaminate eggs and chicks causing health problems and a lower growth rate.

There are several viruses that have been implicated in outbreaks of infectious runting and stunting which will definitively affect seven day body weights and flock uniformity.

Last but not least, we must not forget that many of the live vaccines we use, especially the respiratory virus, can affect the growth rate. This is more common when less attenuated strains are used and which cause a more severe reaction. This can also happen when vaccine application is inefficient.

Down time also has a marked effect on seven days body weights. Experience has shown that the longer the down time, the better the seven day and final weights are. Down time over 15 days are advisable.

The presence of toxins or certain drugs in the feed can also affect broiler growth rate during the first week of life.

CONCLUSION

Seven day body weight is important and it will become even more important in the future because birds are getting to market earlier every new generation. This means that every year the first seven days of a broiler's life becomes a higher percentage of the broilers total life. If we do not do a good job during the first seven days, it would be impossible to achieve our production goals. The first step must be to find out where we stand on this parameter and then design an action plan to correct all of the factors that may be influencing seven day body weight.

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Region)

	SW	Mid-West	S. East	Mid-Atlantic	S. Central
% Septox	0.192	0.187	0.196	0.235	0.150
% Airsac	0.104	0.063	0.062	0.044	0.067
% I.P.	0.011	0.033	0.010	0.011	0.063
% Leukosis	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.000	0.000
% Bruise	0.004	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.003
% Other	0.021	0.010	0.018	0.005	0.016
% Total	0.332	0.298	0.277	0.296	0.280
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.215	0.316	0.336	0.566	0.369

Data for week ending January 20, 2007

Broiler Performance Data (Company) Live Production Cost

	Average Co.
Feed cost/ton w/o color (\$)	187.53
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	17.64
Days to 4.6 lbs	42
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.18
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.09
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.19
% mortality	4.44
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.83
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	7.15
Down time (days)	17

Data for week ending January 20, 2007

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Company)

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
% Septox	0.189	0.123	0.215
% Airsac	0.075	0.079	0.041
% I.P.	0.029	0.035	0.019
% Leukosis	0.001	0.001	0.001
% Bruise	0.003	0.003	0.002
% Other	0.014	0.009	0.004
% Total	0.311	0.252	0.282
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.331	0.327	0.495

Data for week ending January 20, 2007

Excerpts from the latest USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) "Broiler Hatchery," "Chicken and Eggs" and "Turkey Hatchery" Reports and Economic Research Service (ERS) "Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation Outlook"

Broiler-Type Eggs Set In 19 Selected States Down 1 Percent

According to the latest National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports, commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 211 million eggs in incubators during the week ending January 13, 2007. This was down 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three-weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Down 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 171 million chicks for meat production during the week ending January 13, 2007. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 31, 2006 through January 13, 2007 were 344 million, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

December Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.78 billion during December 2006, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.68 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2006 averaged 348 million, down slightly from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,234 eggs, down slightly from December 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2007 totaled 348 million, down slightly from last year. The 348 million layers consisted of 290 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2007, averaged 71.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 7 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2006 totaled 33.4 million, down 7 percent from December 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.4 million on January 1, 2007, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 205,000 during December 2006, down 17 percent from December 2005.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Down 2 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2006 totaled 795 million, down 2 percent from December 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 652 million on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.20 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2006, up 1 percent from December 2005.

Eggs in Incubators on January 1 Up 5 Percent from Last Year

Turkey eggs in incubators on January 1, 2007, in the United States totaled 31.2 million, up 5 percent from January 1, 2006. Eggs in incubators were up 7 percent from the December 1, 2006 total of 29.2 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 9 percent, West North Central up 6 percent, North and South Atlantic up 5 percent, and South Central and West down 5 percent.

Poults Placed During October Up 15 Percent From Last Year

The 24.7 million poults placed during October 2006 in the United States were up 15 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Placements were up 6 percent from the September 2006 total of 23.4 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 20 percent, West North Central up 12 percent, North and South Atlantic up 14 percent, and South Central and West up 27 percent.

Poults Placed During December Down Slightly from Last Year

According to the latest Economic Research Service (ERS) reports, The 23.6 million poults placed during December 2006 in the United States were down slightly from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Placements were up 1 percent from the November 2006 total of 23.4 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 2 percent, West North Central down 7 percent, North and South Atlantic up 4 percent, and South Central and West up 13 percent.

Broiler Production Expected To Go Up Only Slightly in 2007

During the fourth quarter of 2006, the number of eggs set in incubators per week averaged 206 million, down 1.8 percent from the same period a year earlier. The number of chicks placed for growout per week averaged 166 million, a decrease of 1.8 percent from the same period in 2005. The result has been a slightly smaller number of birds available for slaughter and lower broiler meat production. The expected broiler meat production for fourth-quarter 2006 has been reduced by 50 million pounds to 8.85 billion, down 0.6 percent from fourth-quarter 2005. This slowdown in production is expected to continue into first-quarter 2007, with a production estimate reduced by 25 million pounds to 8.88 billion, again lower (down 0.7 percent) than for the same period the previous year. In 2007, broiler meat production is expected to be lower than in the previous year in the first two quarters, but rising prices are expected to provide an incentive to increase production in the second half of the year. Overall broiler meat production in 2007 is expected to be 1.1 percent higher than in 2006.

Broiler meat production in November was 2.88 billion pounds, a decrease of 2.1 percent from a year earlier. The decrease reflects a 1.1-percent decline in the number of birds slaughtered and a 1-percent decrease in the average meat production per bird. Broiler meat production in December is expected to be lower than the previous year, as December 2006 has 1 less slaughter day than in 2005.

Broiler stocks at the end of November totaled 686 million pounds, 23 million pounds lower than the previous month and 22 percent lower than the high levels seen the previous year. While stocks of whole birds are down significantly, most of the change has come from lower cold storage holdings of broiler parts, which represent the bulk of cold storage holdings. Lower cold storage holdings of leg quarters were the major cause of the decline as stocks fell from 157 million pounds to 50 million, a decrease of 68 percent. Stocks of leg products also declined significantly, down 41 percent. Estimated ending stocks for fourth-quarter 2006 were reduced by 25 million pounds to 675 million, and ending stocks for first-quarter 2007 are now estimated at 700 million pounds.

With the slowdown in broiler production, prices for broiler products, which had been falling for several months, turned higher in December. After reaching a high of 68.3 cents per pound in August, the 12-City average price for whole birds fell to 65.9 cents per pound by November. However, as the broiler supply tightened, prices started moving higher in December, with the average monthly

12-City whole bird price at 66.5 cents per pound. Recent weekly prices point towards even higher prices in January. This pattern has been repeated for a number of broiler parts. Prices in the Northeast market for leg quarters were 2.5 cents per pound higher in December compared with their November average and prices for boneless/skinless breast meat rose by 19.6 cents per pound.

Turkey Prices Higher

After rising to a near-record of 99.5 cents per pound in November, the price for whole hen turkeys in the Eastern region fell to 74.2 cents per pound in December, down 25.3 cents per pound and 10 percent lower than in December 2005. Prices for fourth-quarter 2006 averaged 89.8 cents per pound, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Even with increasing production, prices for whole hens are expected to be higher during the first half of 2007, but they may not have the same price strength in the second half of the 2007 as they did in 2006.

Turkey production in November was 502 million pounds, 4 percent higher than in November 2005. The overall turkey meat production reflects a number of increases. The number of turkeys slaughtered in November was up 3.3 percent from the previous year, and the average weight at slaughter rose 1.2 percent to 27.1 pounds. In addition, the average meat production per bird rose by 0.7 percent. With 1 less slaughter day, turkey meat production in December 2007 is expected to be down slightly from the previous year. The estimate for turkey meat production in fourth-quarter 2006 was increased by 20 million pounds to 1.48 billion, up 5 percent from fourth-quarter 2005. The production estimate for first-quarter 2007 was also increased by 20 million pounds to 1.41 billion pounds, pushing the estimate for 2007 to 5.78 billion, up 1.6 percent from 2006.

Ending stocks for turkey products in fourth-quarter 2006 are estimated at 225 million pounds, up 9 percent from the same period in 2005. At the end of November, cold storage holdings for turkey totaled 209 million pounds, up 7.5 percent from a year earlier. The increase was due to a combination of higher cold storage holdings for whole birds and turkey parts. Over the first 10 months of 2006, stocks of whole birds were lower than the previous year, often by as much as 20-30 percent, which helped fuel the increases in whole bird prices. However, in November stocks of whole birds totaled 61.4 million pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. This change in the stocks situation is a major factor in the strong decline in whole bird prices in December 2006.

Meetings, Seminars and Conventions

2007 February

Feb. 12-14: Australian Poultry Science Symposium 2007, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Contact: Poultry Research Foundation, University of Sydney, 425 Werombi Road, Camden, NSW 2570, Australia. Phone: +61 2 46 550 656; Fax: +61 2 46 550 693; Website: www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/apss

Feb. 15-16: Avian influenza symposium, Istanbul, Turkey. Contact: Prof. Servet Yalcin, Ege University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science, Izmir, Turkey. Fax: +90 232 3884000/1449 (ext.), Email: servet.yalcin@ege.edu.tr

Feb. 21-23: XIII Jornada Medico Avicola, Auditorio Pablo Zierold, Mexico City, Mexico. Contact: Organizer, DPA: Aves, FMVZ-UNAM, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, UNAM, Av. Universidad 3000 Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico DF 04510 Mexico. Email: jma_unam@yahoo.com.mx or jma_unam@hotmail.com. Website: www.fmvz.unam.mx/fmvz/educontinua/DECcal

2007 March

March 1-3: 5th International Poultry Show and Seminars 2007, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Contact: International Seminar, Dr. Q.M.E. Huque, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Savar, Dhaka 1341, Bangladesh. Phone: +8802 770 8324; Fax: +880 2 770 8325; Email: qmehuque@bangla.net

March 5-6: 8th Asia Pacific Poultry Conference, Swissotel Le Concorde, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact: Swanvajokkasikit Animal R&D Institute, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand. Phone: +66 2 579 0193; Fax: +66 2 579 0193; Email: info@appc2007.org; Website: www.appc2007.org

March 7-8: Nebraska Poultry Industries Annual Convention, New World Inn & Conference Center, Columbus, Nebraska. Contact: Nebraska Poultry Industries, Inc., University of Nebraska, A103 Animal Sciences, P.O. Box 830908, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0908. Phone: 402-472-2051.

March 7-9: VIV Asia 2007, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact: VNU Exhibitions Europe B.V., P.O. Box 8800, 3503 RV Utrecht, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 30 295 2778; +66 2 229 3737; Fax: +31 30 295 2809; Website: www.viv.net

March 12-15: PEPA Convention, Loews Coronado Bay Resort, Coronado, California. Contact: Pacific Egg & Poultry Association, 1521 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814. Phone: 916 441 0801; Fax: 916 446 1063.

March 12-13: North Central Avian Disease Conference, St. Paul RiverCentre, St. Paul, Minnesota USA. Contact: Lara Durben, MPF, Phone: +1 763 682 2171; Fax: +1 763-682 5546; Email: lara@midwestpoultry.com

March 13-15: Midwest Poultry Federation Convention 2007, St. Paul, Minnesota USA. Contact: Midwest Poultry Federation, 108 Marty Drive, Buffalo, Minnesota 55313 USA. Phone: +1 763-682-2171; Fax: +1 763-682-5546; Email: Nicole@midwestpoultry.com; Website: www.midwestpoultry.com

March 27-29: 56th Western Poultry Disease Conference and ACPV Workshop, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact: R.P. Chin. Email: rpchin@ucdavis.edu

March 27-29: 4th Internatioinal Poultry Conference, Sharm El-sheikh, Egypt. Contact: Dr. MA. Kosba, Faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt. Phone: +20 35 921960; Fax _20 35 231939; Email: mkosba@hotmail.com

2007 April

April 12-15: Chicken Biology Meeting, Universitat Pompeu Favra, Barcelona, Spain. Contact: Claudia D. Stern, Department of Anatomy & Developmental Biology, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, United Kingdom, Phone: +44 20 7679 3346; Fax: +44 20 7679 2091; Email: c.stern@ucl.ac.uk; Website: www.lists.bbsrc.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/chicken-genome

April 19-20: 30th Technical Turkey Conference, Macclesfield, United Kingdom. Contact: Turkeytimes, P.O. Box 3541, Chester CH1 9FW, United Kingdom, Phone: +44 1829 741251; Fax: +44 1829 733778; Email: admin@turkeytimes.co.uk; Website: www.turkeytimes.co.uk

2007 May

May 8-10: Victam International 2007, Jaarbeurs Hall, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Contact: Victam International BV, P.O. Box 197, 38600 AD Nijkerk, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 33 246 4404; Fax: +31 33 246 4706; Website: www.victam.com

May 14-18: International Short Course in Poultry Production, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina USA. Contact: Dr. Edgar O. Oveido, Department of Poultry Science, Scott Hall O-239, Phone: +1 919 515 5391, Fax: +1 919 515 7070; Email: edgar_oviedo@ucsu.edu

May 21-23: VIV Russia 2007, Moscow, Russia. Contact: VNU Exhibitions Europe B.V., P.O. Box 8800, 3503 RV Utrecht, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 30 295 2772; Fax: +31 30 295 2809; Email: viv.russia@vnuexhibitions.com; Website: www.viv.net

2007 June

June 19-21: AgroFarm 2007, VVC exhibition grounds, Moscow, Russia. Contact: DLG (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft e.V.) Eschborner-Landstrasse 122, 60489 Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, Phone: +49 69 244788 265; Fax: +49 69 24788 113, Email: O.Hunger@DLG.org; Website: www.DLG.org

June 21-23: 4th International Symposium on Turkey Production, Berlin, Germany. Contact: Prof. H.M. Hafez, Free University Berlin, Konigsweb 63, 14163 Berlin, Germany. Phone: +49 30 8386 2677, Fax: +49 30 8386 2690; Email: hafez@vetmed.fu-berlin.de

June 28-30: VIV Turkey 2007, Istanbul, Turkey. Contact: Richard deBoer, VNU Exhibitions Europe, P.O. Box 8800, 3503 RV Utrecht, Netherlands. Phone: +31 30 295 2714; Fax: +31 30 295 2809; Email: richard.de.boer@vnuexhibitions.com; Website: vnuexhibitions.com or www.viv.net

2007 July

July 8-12: Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting 2007, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Poultry Science Association, 1111 N. Dunlap Avenue, Savoy, Illinois 61874; Phone: +1 217 356 5285; Fax: +1 217 398 4119; Website: www.poultryscience.org

July 14-18: AAAP/AVMA Annual Meeting, Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C. AAAP Lodging and Hotel Reservation forms are available on our website: www.aaap.info. For more information email: AAAP@uga.edu

July 23-25: Biology of Breeding Poultry, 29th Poultry Science Symposium organised by the UK Branch of the WPSA. Surgeons Hall, Edinburgh, UK. Contact: Dr. Paul Hocking, Roslin Institute, Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS, Scotland. Phone: +44 131 527 4251; Fax: +44 131 440 0434; Email: paul.hocking@bbsrc.ac.uk; Website: www.wpsa.com

Meetings, Seminars and Conventions

2007 August

August 26-30: 16th European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition, Strasbourg, France. Contact: Groupe Francais de la WPSA, BP 5, 37380 Nouzilly, France; Fax: +33 2 47 56 11 39; Email: WPSAFrance2aol.com; Website: www.wpsa.fr

2007 September

September 2-5: 18th European Symposium on the Quality of Poultry Meat and 12th European Symposium on the Quality of Eggs and Egg Products 2007, Prague Congress Centre, Czech Republic. Contact: Guarant International spol.s.t.o., Opletalova 22, 110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic; Phone: +420 284 001 444; Fax: +420 284 001 448; Email: egmeat2007@guarant.cz; Website: www.egmeat2007.cz

September 12-15: 15th Congress of the World Veterinary Poultry Association, Jiuhua Grand Hotel, Beijing, P.R. China. Contact: Scientific issues: Dr. Xiaoling Chen. The Poultry Health Branch of the Chinese Association of Animal Science & Veterinary Medicine (CAAV), PO Box 2449-21, Beijing 1000089, P.R. China; Phone: +86 10 6217 4126; Email: llwang@wvpc2007.org; Website: www.wvpc2007.org

September 25-28: 20th Latin American Poultry Congress, FIERGS Events Centre, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Contact: Website: www.avicultura2007.com.br

September 26-28: 5th European Poultry Genetic Symposium 2007, Braedstrup-Horsens, Denmark. Contact: Dr. Poul Sorensen, Email: poul.sorensen@agrsci.dk; Website: www.epgs2007.agrsci.dk

2007 October

October 8-10: 2007 National Meeting on Poultry Health Processing, Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland. Contact: Karen Adams, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., 16686 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, Delaware 19947-4881. Phone: 302-856 9037; Fax: 302-856-1845. For information about meeting rooms and food accommodations at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel, contact Kay Windsor, Phone: 800-638-2100.

2008 January

January 23-25: International Poultry Expo 2008, Georgia World Congress Centre, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact: UD Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Coolege Road, Tucker, Georgia 30084-7804. Phone: 1-770-493-9401; Fax: 1-770-493-9257; Email: expogeneralinfo@poultryegg.org; Website: www.poultryegg.org or www.ipe08.org

2008 March

March 5-6: Nebraska Poultry Industries Annual Convention, New World Inn & Conference Center, Columbus, Nebraska. Contact: Nebraska Poultry Industries, Inc. University of Nebraska, A103 Animal Sciences, PO Box 830908, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0908; Phone: 1-402-472-2051.

March 5-7: Victam Asia 2008, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact: Henk van de Bunt, Victam International B.V., P.O. Box 197, 3860 AD Nijkerk, The Netherlands, Phone: +31 33 246 4404, Fax: +31 33 246 4706, Email: expo@victam.com; Website: www.victam.com or Contact: Mr. Phusit Sasitaranondha, Thailand, Phone: +66 2 640 8013; Fax: +66 2 664 2076; Email: phusit@expolink.net

2008 June

June 29-July 4: XXIII World's Poultry Congress, Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia. Contact: WPC 2008 Congress, Intermedia Convention & Event Management, PO Box 1280, Milton, Queensland 4064, Australia, Phone: +61 7 3858 5594; Fax: +61 7 3858 5510; Email: wpc2008@im.com.au; Website: www.wpc2008.com

2008 July

July 8-12: Poultry Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Website: www.poultryscience.org

2008 August

August 17-21: 8th International Marek's Disease Symposium, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. Contact: Dr. G. Burgess, School of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811, Australia. Phone: +61 7 4781 5472; Fax: +61 7 4781 6833; Email: graham.burgess@jcu.edu.au

August 26-30: 16th European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition, Strasbourg, France. Contact: Groupe Francais de la WPSA, BP 5, 37380 Nouzilly, France. Fax: +33 2 47 56 11 39; Email: WPSAFrance@aol.com; Website: www.wpsa.fr

2009 January

January 28-30: International Poultry Expo 2009, Georgia World Congress Centre, Atlanta, Georgia. Contact: US Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Coolege Road, Tucker, Georgia 30084-7804. Phone: +1 770 493 9401; Fax: +1 770 493 9257; Email: expogeneralinfo@poultryegg.org; Website: www.poultryegg.org

2010 April

April 20-23: VIV Europe 2010, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Contact: XNU Exhibitions Europe B.V., P.O. Box 8800, 3503 RV Utrecht, The Netherlands, Fax: +31 30 295 2809; Website: www.viv.net

REMINDER

All previous issues of the Poultry Informed Professional are archived on our website www.avian.uga.edu under the Online Documents and The Poultry Informed Professional links.

Broiler Performance Data (Region) Live Production Cost					
	SW	Midwest	Southeast	Mid-Atlantic	S-Central
Feed cost/ton w/o color (\$)	179.36	171.26	181.79	167.57	177.78
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	16.75	16.50	16.72	14.95	17.03
Days to 4.6 lbs	41	41	42	40	41
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.31	3.57	4.04	4.51	3.92
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.06	0.11	0.08	0.06	0.06
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.13	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.17
% mortality	4.46	3.49	4.41	3.67	3.98
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.81	0.82	0.77	0.78	0.82
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	6.96	7.90	7.45	6.66	7.56
Down time (days)	18	20	17	14	15

Data for week ending November 25, 2006

**Broiler Performance Data (Company)
Live Production Cost**

	Average Co.
Feed cost/ton w/o color (\$)	177.47
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	16.59
Days to 4.6 lbs	41
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.15
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.08
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.18
% mortality	4.12
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.80
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	7.24
Down time (days)	17

Data for week ending December 22, 2006

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Region)

	SW	Mid-West	S. East	Mid-Atlantic	S. Central
% Septox	0.132	0.173	0.215	0.231	0.161
% Airsac	0.062	0.045	0.036	0.037	0.038
% I.P.	0.006	0.032	0.008	0.009	0.065
% Leukosis	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.000
% Bruise	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.004
% Other	0.013	0.009	0.022	0.006	0.013
% Total	0.206	0.264	0.284	0.283	0.281
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.234	0.319	0.340	0.556	0.332

Data for week ending December 22, 2006

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Company)

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
% Septox	0.190	0.113	0.200
% Airsac	0.047	0.068	0.025
% I.P.	0.028	0.056	0.009
% Leukosis	0.001	0.001	0.001
% Bruise	0.003	0.004	0.002
% Other	0.013	0.011	0.004
% Total	0.282	0.242	0.240
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.344	0.276	0.191

Data for week ending December 22, 2006



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The Poultry Informed Professional Newsletter is published with support from The Primary Breeders Veterinary Association.