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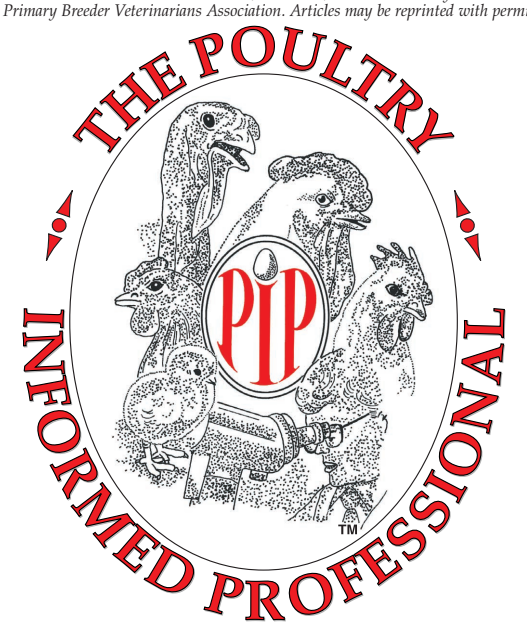

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Gut Microflora and Intestinal Health, Right Back Where We Started

Margie D. Lee DVM, PhD Dept Population Health Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center

Consumer concerns, regulatory issues, and profit analysis have encouraged poultry producers to reduce usage of antibiotics. And unfortunately, there has also been a resultant rebound in intestinal diseases that were rarely seen in the antibiotic age. Producers are now faced with the new challenge of developing an antibiotic-free production system while maintaining cost-effective growth rates. This may not be an easy task.

Antibiotics are effective in preventing and treating necrotic enteritis, a disease caused by a toxin producing *Clostridium perfringens*. This is a simple concept — the antibiotic prevents the growth of the bacterial pathogen in the intestine and the symptoms resolve. However, intestinal diseases resulting from microflora imbalance, such as dysbacteriosis (remember the night you had diarrhea after a rich meal?),

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Broiler Performance Data (Region)
Live Production Cost

	SW	Midwest	Southeast	Mid-Atlantic	S-Central
Feed cost/ton w/o color ($)	151.11	150.03	152.23	137.22	150.80
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	14.06	14.39	14.30	12.57	14.51
Days to 4.6 lbs	42	40	44	40	42
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.18	3.36	4.23	4.50	3.59
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.07	0.07	0.15	0.05	0.06
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.12	0.16	0.21	0.20	0.21
% mortality	5.14	4.59	6.36	5.77	5.43
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.81	0.86	0.77	0.82	0.84
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	6.80	7.80	7.10	6.46	7.39
Down time (days)	13	17	15	12	11

Data for week ending March 17, 2006

Contents

illustrates that the interaction between intestinal bacteria and intestinal health is still a black box. The fact that antibiotics were effective in preventing microflora imbalances suggests that the antibiotic was inhibiting bacterial pathogens. But there are many cases of antibiotics causing microflora imbalance such as antibiotic-associated colitis and the diarrhea that results in some individuals administered therapeutic antibiotics for urinary tract or respiratory infections. A healthy balance of different types of bacteria appears to be important for gut health.

What bacteria are important? This question has been asked for over 100 years. In 1903, Metchnikoff, in a book entitled "Prolongation of Life" suggested that consumption of lactobacilli would have favorable effects on health. Since that time, many studies have evaluated the effects of probiotics containing *Lactobacillus* fermented products such as sweet Acidophilus milk and yoghurts, and the consumption of lactobacilli on intestinal health and resistance to pathogens. These studies have produced conflicting results. Even the most encouraging findings have not been consistently reproducible when applied to poultry production (reviewed by Patterson and Burkholder in Poultry Science).

But normal flora bacteria are believed to improve intestinal health by several mechanisms. They may competitively prevent pathogenic organisms from multiplying to large numbers in the intestine. The concept of "competitive exclusion" involves many factors. For example, the large intestinal microflora is believed to consist of hundreds of different species of bacteria. Which one(s) are important for inhibiting *Salmonella?* Can the same one(s) inhibit *Campylobacter* or *Clostridium perfringens*? What if these pathogens live in different intestinal "neighborhoods" in the intestine? What if the neighborhood changes as a broiler chicken grows or as the feed composition changes? Will one competitive exclusion product work in different production systems with different genetic lines of birds? Considering the complexity of the intestinal bacterial community, it isn't surprising that the commercially available competitive exclusion products have not performed as well as we would like.

Another way that normal flora bacteria promote intestinal health is by stimulating the immune response against pathogens. Germ-free animals, raised in sterile conditions, do not respond as well as conventionally raised animals when challenged with pathogens. The presence of normal flora bacteria stimulates the development of immune tissue especially the gut-associated lymphoid tissue (GALT). A well developed GALT constantly samples the intestine for the presence of pathogens and notifies the immune cells whose job is to annihilate the bad bugs.

But while this effect is certainly desirable, a little known and unappreciated effect of the normal flora is also to stimulate development of the intestinal tract (recently reviewed by Xu and Gordon for PNAS). It is known that anaerobic bacteria in the large intestine produce volatile fatty acids that inhibit some pathogenic bacteria. Some of the volatile fatty acids, such as butyrate, act as energy sources for intestinal cells. Butyrate also stimulates the intestinal cells to increase absorption of nutrients. These findings indicate that some normal flora bacteria may be needed for the intestine to develop maximal absorptive capacity. And indeed studies have shown that germ-free animals require more feed intake than conventional animals in order to gain the same amount of weight. rapid development of the gastrointestinal tract must be considered when attempting to design and implement an antibiotic-free production system.

Therefore the composition of the intestinal community, what bacteria are present, their density and growth state, may be important in elucidating how the microflora benefits the intestine. Many studies have addressed this question by culturing and identifying the bacteria present within the intestine. However, DNA analysis of intestinal contents and feces has revealed that culture-based methods failed to detect many predominant organisms in the gut. Using DNA-based methods, the composition of the intestinal community has been evaluated for many animals with very surprising results (reviewed by Tannock). Commonly cultured organisms, such as *E. coli*, have been found to be a minor component of the intestine and novel uncultured organisms have been found to be predominant. For

Continued on Page 3

example, in an unpublished study, we cultured small intestine (ileum) samples from broiler chickens and found mostly lactobacilli. However, DNA methods revealed that there was a dominant population of clostridia that were not detected in our culture. Several studies have used similar DNA-based methods to characterize the intestinal community of broiler chickens (Gong 2002, Lan 2002, Lu 2003, Zhu 2002). While lactobacilli are frequently in the small intestine, atypical clostridia are common throughout the intestinal tract of healthy chickens. These normal flora clostridia do not appear to be closely related to pathogenic *Clostridium* (such as *perfringens*) and they do not appear to be pathogenic themselves. But some of them may be important players in competing with pathogenic species that cause disease. Several studies have shown that probiotics or direct-fed microbials can reduce intestinal disease in humans and animals. One study in particular (Hofacre 1998) showed that an undefined probiotic could reduce susceptibility to necrotic enteritis. In an unpublished study, we used DNA-based methodology to evaluate the composition of the probiotic and found that it was primarily composed of normal flora clostridia. These previously unknown bacteria may prove to be effective components of defined products for poultry production.

New technologies, ensuing from resources devoted to the human genome project, have illuminated some ways that normal flora bacteria affect development of the animal intestine. Successful antibiotic-free production strategies may require a two-pronged approach: 1) use probiotics in hatchlings/neonates to establish a microflora conducive to rapid development of the gut, then 2) use direct-fed microbials to stimulate a microflora that enhances disease-resistance and weight-gain. Therefore monitoring the composition of bacterial communities in the intestine may be important for early detection of enteritis. Novel strategies to enhance microflora balance may be crucial to maintaining gut health.

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Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Region)

	SW	Mid-West	S. East	Mid-Atlantic	S. Central
% Septox	0.130	0.196	0.233	0.260	0.196
% Airsac	0.059	0.072	0.088	0.074	0.101
% I.P.	0.012	0.013	0.013	0.010	0.090
% Leukosis	0.001	0.026	0.002	0.000	0.000
% Bruise	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.004
% Other	0.012	0.005	0.034	0.007	0.015
% Total	0.217	0.316	0.372	0.362	0.046
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.246	0.343	0.452	0.624	0.406

Data for week ending March 17, 2006

Broiler Performance Data (Company)
Live Production Cost

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
Feed cost/ton w/o color ($)	150.77	148.40	145.61
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	14.17	12.87	12.58
Days to 4.6 lbs	42	43	44
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.06	5.41	5.56
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.09	0.05	0.05
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.18	0.14	0.39
% mortality	5.47	4.72	4.56
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.81	0.71	0.71
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	7.03	5.71	5.76
Down time (days)	13	13	13

Data for week ending March 17, 2006

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Company)

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
% Septox	0.191	0.122	0.211
% Airsac	0.077	0.081	0.099
% I.P.	0.030	0.019	0.018
% Leukosis	0.004	0.001	0.001
% Bruise	0.003	0.003	0.001
% Other	0.017	0.008	0.007
% Total	0.321	0.234	0.338
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.399	0.310	0.525

Data for week ending March 17, 2006

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 Up 1 Percent

According to the latest National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports, commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 217 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 11, 2006. This was up1 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 Down 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 175 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 11, 2006. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2006 through March 11, 2006 were 1.74 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.

January Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.72 billion during January 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.62 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The number of layers during January 2006 averaged 349 million, up slightly from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,211 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2006, totaled 349 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2006, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from February 1, 2005.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 7 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2006 totaled 35.4 million, down 7 percent from January 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.5 million on February 1, 2006 down 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 188,000 during January 2006, up 20 percent from January 2005.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2006 totaled 804 million, up1 percent from January 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 661 million on February 1, 2006, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.83 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2006, up 6 percent from January 2005.

Turkey Eggs in Incubators on March 1 Up 7 Percent

Turkey eggs in incubators on March 1, 2006, in the United States totaled 29.9 million, up 7 percent from March 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 1 percent below the February 1, 2006 total of 30.1 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 3 percent, West North Central up 5 percent, North and South Atlantic up 21 percent, and South Central and West combined, down 10 percent.

Poults Placed During February Up 9 Percent From Last Year

The 23.3 million poults placed during February 2006 in the United States were up 9 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were down 4 percent from January 2006. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 5 percent, West North Central up 9 percent, North and South Atlantic up 23 percent, South Central and West were down 10 percent from last year.

Broiler Production Higher in January, Production Expected Higher in 2006

According to the latest Economic Research Service (ERS) reports, Broiler meat production for January 2006 was reported at 3.0 billion pounds, up 5.7 percent from last year. The increase in meat production was a result of both a higher number of broilers being slaughtered (up 3.4 percent) and higher average weights (up 2.4 percent to 5.5 pounds). With the production increase in January and an expected comparable increase in February, the estimated meat production for first-quarter 2006 was increased to 8.9 million pounds, a 3.6-percent increase from a year earlier.

However, weekly chick placements for growout over the

USDA Reports continued from page 5

last 5 weeks (February 4 to March 4) averaged 174 million birds, fractionally below same period in 2005, indicating that producers have begun to slow production growth in response to lower prices. Even with slightly lower bird numbers, meat production is expected to increase in the second quarter due to higher average weights at slaughter. The overall broiler meat production estimate for 2006 is now 36.2 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from 2005.

Revisions in the 2005 broiler meat production estimates contained in the Poultry Slaughter 2005 Annual Summary produced small changes in the quarterly estimates and raised total 2005 production to 35.4 billion pounds. For 2005, the higher production (up 3.8 percent from 2004) was due to a 1.9-percent increase in the average weight at slaughter and a 1.2-percent increase in the total number of broilers slaughtered.

Over the first 2 months of 2006, the 12–city whole broiler price averaged 63.2 cents per pound, down 11.5 percent from the same period in 2005. Prices for most broiler products have continued to fall compared with fourth quarter 2005 and are considerably lower than in the first 2 months of 2005. Boneless-skinless breast meat prices in the Northeast market averaged $1.01 per pound during January and February, down 31 percent from last year. Prices for rib-on breasts averaged 63 cents per pound, a decline of 29 percent from same time in 2005. Prices for other broiler products also declined heavily compared with a year earlier. Broiler prices have trended downward over the last several months due to a combination of production increases (up 4.3 percent in fourth quarter 2005) and weaker export demand. These circumstances have pushed prices down and caused cold storage stocks to increase. Leg quarter prices, which fell sharply in fourth-quarter 2005, averaged 23.5 cents per pound during the first 2 months of 2006, down 22 percent from the same period in 2005. Even with broiler meat production increases expected to slow after the first quarter, broiler prices are not expected to strengthen substantially in the first half of 2006, due to high stock levels and an uncertain export situation.

Turkey Production Forecast Up in 2006

Turkey meat production in 2006 is forecast at 5.58 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2005, but still lower than in 2002 or 2003. The increase in meat production in 2006 is expected to come from a combination of a higher number of birds slaughtered and higher weights, although weights in the first quarter of 2006 are not expected to be significantly higher than in the first quarter of 2005. During 2005, placements of turkey poults for growout totaled 276 million, slightly below 2004. However, in December 2005 and January 2006 placements were up significantly. In January 2006, turkey meat production was 447 million pounds, down 1.8 percent from a year earlier as a 2-percent gain in average slaughter weight was offset by a 3.6-percent decline in the number of birds being slaughtered.

With little growth in meat production and relatively strong export demand, cold storage holdings of both whole birds and turkey parts were lower through most of 2005. Turkey stocks at the end of 2005 were revised up slightly to 206 million pounds, which is 28 percent lower than at the end of 2004. Lower turkey stocks are expected to continue during most of 2006, although ending stocks for 2006 are expected to be slightly higher than in 2005. With lower stock levels and only a small increase in meat production forecast, prices for whole birds are expected to remain above their year-earlier levels, especially in the first half of the year. However, prices for turkey parts and processed turkey products will be pressured by low prices for almost all broiler products.

Meetings, Seminars and Conventions

2006 April

April 3-6: ***6th International Symposium on Avian Influenza,*** St. John's College, Cambridge, UK. Contact: Dr. I. Capua. Fax: +39 49 8084360; Email: icapua@izsvenezie.it or Dr. D. Swayne. Fax: +1 706 5463161; Email: dswayne@sepri.usda.gov

April 4-5: ***HACCP for Meat & Poultry,*** Athens, GA. Contact: UGA Food Science Extension Outreach Program, Department of Food Science & Technology, University of Georgia, 240 Food Science Building, Athens, GA 30602-7610. Phone: 706-542-2574; http://www.efsonline.uga.edu.

April 11-12: ***VA. Poultry Health & Management Seminar,*** Roanoke, VA. Cotact: Virginia Poultry Federation, 333 Neff Ave., Suite C, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Phone: 540-433-2451; hobey@vapoultry.com; http://www.vapoultry.com

April 22-25: ***Southwest Grain & Feed Conference,*** Omni Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Contact: Texas Grain & Feed Association, 2630 W. Freeway, Suite 100A, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Phone: 817-2336-7850; info@tgfa.com

April 24-27: ***Middle East Poultry Show 2006,*** Dubai World Trade Cente, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Contact: Mediac Communication & Exhibitions LLC, PO Box 5196, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Phone: +971 4 2692004; Fax: +971 4 2691296; Email: mediac@emirates.net.ae; Website: www.mediaccom.com

April 25: ***DPA Poultry Booster Banquet,*** Wicomico Youth and Civic Centr, Salisbury, MD. Contact: Karen Adams, Delmarva Poultry Industry, 16886 County Seat Hwy., Georgetown, DE 19947-4881. Phone: 302-856-9037; adams@dpichicken.com

April 28-29: ***FPF Poultry Days,*** Beach & Yacht Club at Disney, Orlando, FL. Contact: Florida Poultry Federation, 4508 Oak Fair Blvd., No. 290, Tampa, FL 33610. Phone: 813-628-4551; fpf290@aol.com

2006 May

May 4-5: ***National Breeders Roundtable,*** St. Louis, MO. Contact: U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084-7303. Phone: 770-493-9401; seminar@poultryegg.org; http://www.poultryegg.org.

May 4-7: ***GPF Annual Meeting,*** Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA. Contact: Georgia Poultry Federation, P.O. Box 763, Gainesville, GA 30503. Phone: 770-532-0473

May 8-9: ***GPF Broiler Health Management School,*** Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Jeff Workman, Conference Coordinator. Phone: 614-292-9453; workman.45@osu.edu

May 9-10: ***British Pig & Poultry Fair 2006,*** Warwickshire, United Kingdom. Contact: Haymarket Land Events, Royal Agricultural Society of England, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ England. Phone: +44 24 76 696969; Fax: +44 24 76 696900; Email: alice.bell@haynet.com; Website: www.pigandpoultryfair.org.uk

May 15: ***Respiratory Diseases 2006,*** NH Utrecht Hotel, Utrecht, Holland. Phone: +44 1377 256316; Fax: +44 1377 253640; Email: conf@positiveaction.co.uk; Website: www.positiveaction.co.uk

May 16-18: ***VIV Europe,*** (Postponed from November 2-4, 2005), Jaarbeurs, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Contact: VNU Exhibitions Europe BV, PO Box 8800, 3503 RV Utrecht, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 30 295 2788; Fax: +31 30 295 2809; Email: viv.europe@vnuexhibitions.com; Website: sites.vnuexhibitions.com/sites/viv

May 20: ***GPF Night of Knights,*** Cobb Galleria Center, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Georgia Poultry Federation, P.O. Box 763, Gainesville, GA 30503. Phone: 770-532-0473.

May 22-26: ***International Seminar in Poultry Pathology and Production,*** organized by The University of Georgia and the Colombian Poultry Veterinary Association (AMEVEA), at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Contact: Sem2006@uga.edu

May 24-26: ***VIV Russia 2006,*** Moscow, Russia. Contact: Website: sites.vnuexhibitions.com/sites/viv

2006 June

June 8-10: ***PT Poultry Festival,*** Little Rock, AR. Contact: Judith Kimbrell, The Poultry Federation, 321 S. Victory St., Little Rock, AR 72201. Phone: 501-375-8131; jud@alltel.net; http://www.thepoultryfederation.com

June 16-17: ***Delmarva Chicken Festival,*** Snow Hill, MD. Contact: Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc., 16686 County Seat Hwy., Georgetown, Del. 19947. Phone: 302-858-9037; dpi@dpichicken.com: http://www.dpichicken.org

2006 July

July 15-19 : ***AVMA/AAAP Convention,*** Honolulu, Hawaii, Pa. Contact: American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, Ill. 60173. Phone: 847-925-8070; avmainfo@avma.org.

July 13-16 : ***SCPF Annual Conference,*** Crowne Plaza Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C. Contact: South Carolina Poultry Federation, 1921-A Pickens St., Columbia, S.c. 29201. Phone: 803-779-4700; martyg@scpoultry.com

July 16-19 : ***Poultry Science Association (PSA) Annual Meeting 2006,*** Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Mary Swenson, Poultry Science Association, Inc., 1111 N. Dunlap Avenue, Savoy, Illinois 61874 USA. Phone: +217 356 5285; Fax: +1 217 398 4119; Email: marys@assochq.org; Website: www.fass.org or www.poultryscience.org

July 20-22 : ***TPF Annual Convention,*** San Antonio, TX. Contact: Texas Poultry Federation, 595 Round Rock W. Drive, Suite 305, Round Rock, Texas 78681. Phone: 512-248-0600; tpf@texaspoultry.org; http://www.texaspoultry.org.

2006 August

Aug 4-5: ***TEPA Summer Getaway,*** Nashville, TN. Contact: Tennessee Egg & Poultry Association, P.O. Box 1272, Brentwood, Tennessee 37024-1272. Phone: 615-370-0001; annccox@aol.com; http://www.tnpoultry.org

2006 September

Sept. 10-14: ***12th European Poultry Conference,*** Veronafiere Congress Centre, Verona, Italy. Contact: Secretariat XII WPSA European Conference, Department of Food Science, Via San Giacoma 9, 40126 Bologna, Italy. Phone: +39 051 209 4221; Fax: +39 051 251 936; Email: wpsa@alma.unibo.it; Website: www.epc2006.veronafiere.it

Sept. 27-29 : ***VIV China 2006,*** (Postponed from June 2006-dates not yet specified), Beijing, P.R. China. Contact: VNU Exhibitions Europe B.V., PO Box 8800, 3503 RV Utrecht, The Netherlands. Phone: +31 30 295 2772; Fax: +31 30 295 2809; Email: viv.china@vnuexhibitions.com; Website: sites.vnuexhibitions.com/sites/viv or Mr. Ruifent Xu, CNAVS Trade Fair Office. Phone +86 10 649 50 373; Fax: +86 10 649 50 374; Email: rfxu@china-av.net

Meetings, Seminars and Conventions

2006 October

October 10-14: ***World Poultry Science Association (WPSA) European Poultry Conference 2006,*** Verona, Italy. Contact: Secretariat - XII WPSA European Converence, Department of Food Science, University of Bologna, Via San Giacomo 9, 40126 Bologna, Italy. Phone: +39 041 209 4221; Fax: +39 051 251 936; Email: epc2006@wpsa.it; Website: www.epc2006.veronafiere.it

2006 November

November 14-17: ***EuroTier 2006,*** Hanover, Germany. Contact: DLG (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft e.V.), Eschborner-Landstrasse 122, 60489 Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany. Phone: +49 69 24788 265; Fax: +49 69 24788 113; Email: eurotier@DLG-Frankfurt.de; Website: www.eurotier.de

2007 January

Jan. 24-26: ***2007 International Poultry Exposition,*** Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Contact: US Poultry & Egg Association, 1530 Cooledge Road, Tucker, Georgia 30084 USA. Phone: +1 770 493 9401; Fax: +1 770 493 9257; Website: www.poultryegg.org

2007 March

March 20-22: ***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

2008 August

August 10-15: ***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.wpsa.info

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 ($)	151.09	150.86	151.34	137.85	151.06
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	13.99	14.42	14.20	12.67	14.52
Days to 4.6 lbs	42	41	43	41	41
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.25	3.47	4.11	4.40	3.62
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.08	0.15	0.12	0.05	0.04
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.13	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.23
% mortality	5.02	4.94	6.02	5.25	5.35
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.80	0.82	0.77	0.82	0.83
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	6.66	7.72	7.11	6.43	7.45
Down time (days)	13	17	14	14	10

Data for week ending February 25, 2006

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Region)

	SW	Mid-West	S. East	Mid-Atlantic	S. Central
% Septox	0.168	0.258	0.253	0.260	0.323
% Airsac	0.078	0.111	0.106	0.075	0.086
% I.P.	0.012	0.054	0.012	0.010	0.041
% Leukosis	0.001	0.014	0.001	0.000	0.000
% Bruise	0.004	0.005	0.002	0.001	0.006
% Other	0.014	0.008	0.019	0.007	0.029
% Total	0.277	0.449	0.394	0.363	0.486
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.226	0.336	0.398	0.663	0.338

Data for week ending February 25, 2006

Broiler Performance Data (Company)
Live Production Cost

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
Feed cost/ton w/o color ($)	150.38	149.80	150.77
Feed cost/lb meat (¢)	14.13	13.15	13.23
Days to 4.6 lbs	42	44	45
Chick cost/lb (¢)	4.03	5.24	5.31
Vac-Med cost/lb (¢)	0.11	0.13	0.10
WB & 1/2 parts condemn. cost/lb	0.20	0.16	0.21
% mortality	5.41	4.69	4.68
Sq. Ft. @ placement	0.81	0.72	0.70
Lbs./Sq. Ft.	7.00	5.62	5.73
Down time (days)	13	12	13

Data for week ending February 25, 2006

Broiler Whole Bird Condemnation (Company)

	Average Co.	Top 25%	Top 5 Co.'s
% Septox	0.257	0.169	00.296
% Airsac	0.099	0.113	0.160
% I.P.	0.033	0.042	0.016
% Leukosis	0.003	0.001	0.002
% Bruise	0.004	0.004	0.002
% Other	0.016	0.006	0.011
% Total	0.412	0.335	0.486
% 1/2 parts condemnations	0.376	0.257	0.283

Data for week ending February 25, 2006

COBB-VANTRESS

Aviagen

Hubbard

Primary Breeders Veterinary Association

HERITAGE

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