

Wrong Practices in Broilers Industry in the Middle East

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Dear readers

My name is Akram, And I am a veterinary doctor from Egypt

I work in between Egypt and Sudan as veterinary profession in the broilers industry for 15 years

I received a kind invitation to write a scientific article about my profession

So I want to mention some strange or even funny practices which applied in Egypt poultry industry and may be unknown or wrong in other countries - Those ideas originated to adapt lack of money or even due to ignorance. It is common in many aspects of industry but I will enumerate some examples in the diet formulation and medications of viral disease

Wrong practices in broilers industry in the middle east

Misuse of cheap alternatives for the imported and expensive yellow corn and soybean.... for example:

- Using of D D G s or distillated dried grains (which is the byproduct of alcoholic production from the corn) by high percent may reach 10% this percentage is triple the allowed percent which leads to dark color in diet causing decrease in the feed intake and elevate the feed conversion rate and also increase the possibility of mycotoxicosis which decrease the immunity and performance (DDG contains double or triple amount of the mycotoxins in corn)
- Using of slaughter house remnants powder although Egypt is endemic country with most virulent poultry diseases such as salmonella, Newcastle, avian influenza...etc
- This substance should be condemned but many feed mills consider dryness of powder adequate to kill the pathogen
- Animal byproducts may be not affect the performance of broilers but affect the taste to the consumers
- Using of sunflower seed cake to decrease the amount of soybean. but usage of sunflower cake with percent more than 4% which leads to an increase in the total percentage of fibers causing rapid satiety and also dark color in the feed, which reduces the appetite of birds as well
- Using of sorghum and horse bean cake in Sudan instead of yellow corn and soybean respectively . Both are rich in protein (sorghum contains 11% protein versus 8% in yellow corn- horse bean cake contains 50% protein versus 44 or 46% soybeans), but sorghum contains tannic acid which affect the growth and horse bean meal commonly exposed to rapid rancidity due to the oil extraction of the beans is being done mechanically not accurate like methods which done with a solvent, so mechanical way, leaving a large amount of oil and becomes quickly rancid especially in the hot climate.

About treatment of viral diseases

- Using of peppermint oil (menthol) as a treatment of infectious bronchitis in the drinking water according to belief that this substance can dilatate the bronchi of the infected bird and so the bird can tolerate the disease. Poultry men may prefer to spray menthol in the air to make the breathing of infected birds better... of course usage of menthol by both ways is totally wrong
- Using of corn instead of pelleted feed during the infectious bronchitis disease course according to the Poultry men concept that the decrease of protein percent in diet (from 21% in grower to 7.5% in corn) will improve the case and remove the most of protein burden on kidney which affected already in IB cases. The real result of this practice is decrease the feed intake which is affected already with IB due to change from pellet to mash and so adding other stress on the bird.
- Using of disinfectants in drinking water of the birds as a prevention to viral infections or even in the start of viral disease... peroxy acetic acid or betadine are commonly used by different doses. of course this substances not prohibit the infection and rapidly changed in prescence of organic matters to inactive substances . also the vehicle of the disinfectant may be harmful to the intestine or liver of bird especially with overdoses.
- Using of antibiotic by injection in the viral infection. This practice to face the mycoplasma and Ecoli which are very common in Egypt and already presents in most farms but injection of antibiotic make many problems especially in the first phase of infection such as neglecting of withdrawal time of drugs "streptomycin which is common may exceed 30 days in a fattening cycle that does not exceed 35 days" also handling of birds and injection process cause severe stress sharing in elevate the mortality .injection process causing rapid spread of infection from infected to healthy bird
- Using of anti-mycotoxins that rely in their idea on organic acids such as acetic acid in case of viral infection according to the relation between the mycotoxins and immune suppression .but the bird intestine has an ability to neutralize acids to allow digestive enzymes work effectively so this practice is not add value.
- Using of Newcastle emergency vaccination in case of Newcastle suspected infection before making confirmation tests to ensure that the infection is Newcastle only and not complicated with other endemic diseases such as avian influenza H5N1 or H9N2, infectious bursal disease...etc . if the case is complicated- the mortality will severely increase instead of decrease due to the vaccination stress during the infection stress.
- Burning of chili powder in between two production cycles to make disinfection for poultry house. The smell of this burning is unbearable and very irritant to human but of course don't make sense for micro-organisms!

In conclusion, I would like to thank you ...

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