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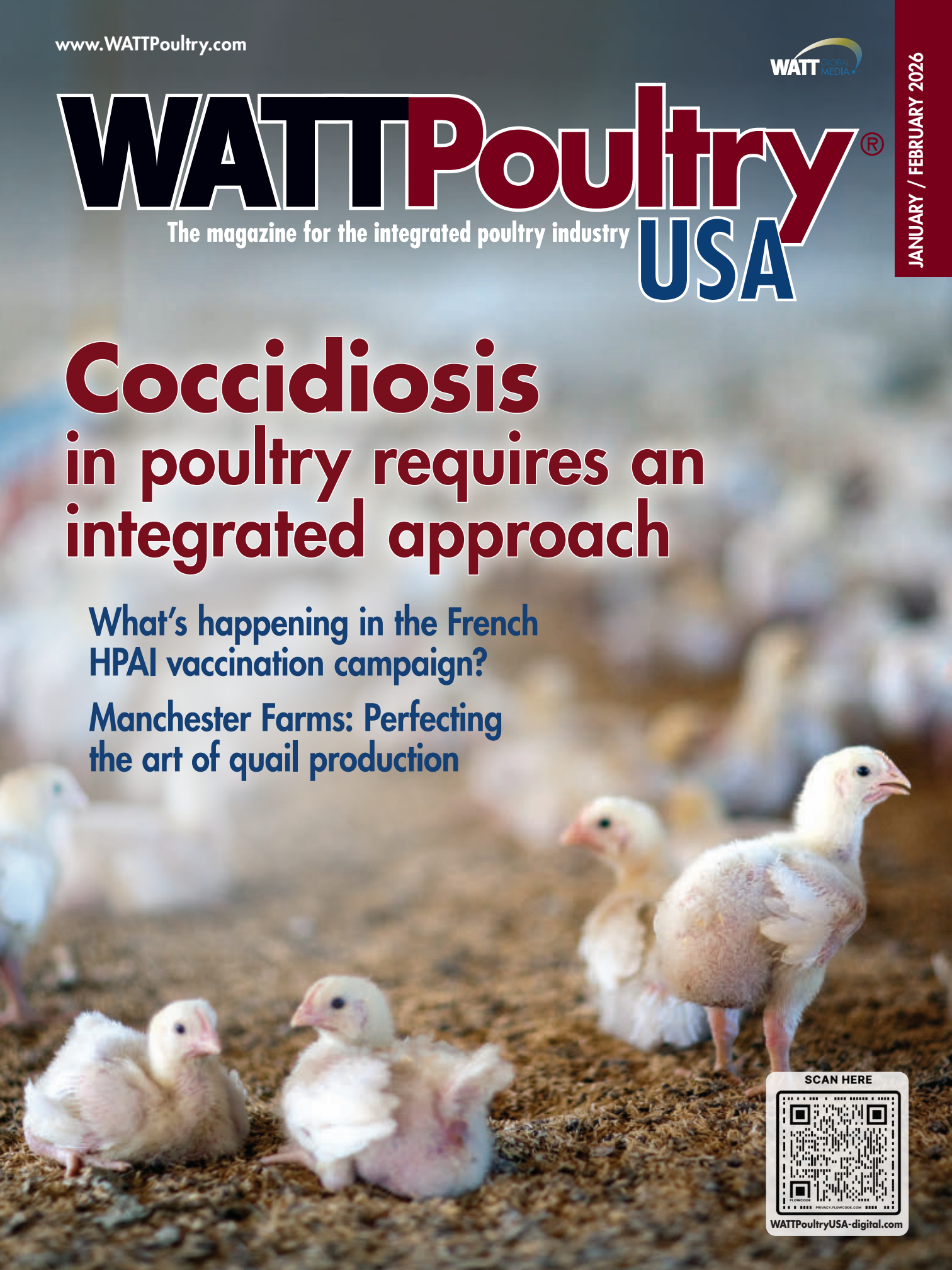
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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

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WATTPoultry USA

The magazine for the integrated poultry industry

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

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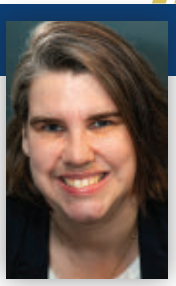
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NEXT ON THE PLATE



Editor's Comment

BY ELIZABETH DOUGHMAN

HPAI negatively impacts the poultry workforce too

When we talk about the devastating effects of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the conversation typically centers on flock losses, market disruptions and biosecurity protocols. We measure the impact in birds depopulated, farms affected and economic losses sustained.

But there's another casualty of HPAI outbreaks that we've been slower to acknowledge: the people who carry out the depopulation work and live with its aftermath. The psychological impact of HPAI outbreaks extends far beyond the barn, affecting producers, farm workers, veterinarians and entire rural communities.

Recent research shows that 51% of responders to animal depopulation events report behavioral health issues during and up to six months after the disaster, including loss of sleep, anxiety and persistent intrusive thoughts. These aren't minor stress reactions — they're clinical symptoms that interfere with daily functioning and quality of life.

Farm workers face a unique constellation of stressors during HPAI outbreaks. Beyond the physical demands of depopulation work, they confront job uncertainty, potential income loss, fears about personal infection risk, concerns about personal protective equipment and grueling work hours that compound mental fatigue.

Think about what drew most people to poultry work: an interest in animal agriculture, pride in producing safe food, satisfaction in raising healthy flocks. The daily work revolves around promoting life and health. Then HPAI hits, and suddenly those same workers must participate in mass depopulation.

Mental health needs to be a priority

We cannot continue treating workforce mental health as an afterthought in HPAI response. Workers receiving appropriate mental health support demonstrate faster recovery, maintain better job performance during crises and experience significantly reduced rates of long-term disorders.

For poultry operations, addressing mental health isn't separate from biosecurity, food safety, or worker protection — it's an integral component of comprehensive emergency response. Workers who receive appropriate mental health support recover faster, maintain better job performance, and experience fewer long-term psychological effects. ■

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The framework is intended to combine technology and data streams across the poultry supply chain.

www.WATTAgNet.com/15771033



Paul Ward | WATT Global Media



Courtesy University of Arkansas

Former Tyson CEO: 'Peach tree' leadership drives profitability

Flipping traditional management styles on its head boosts poultry productivity, said Donnie Smith, former CEO for both Tyson Foods and Foster Farms.

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14 chicken consumption trends to plan for in 2026

With modern consumers becoming increasingly digital-forward and changing perceptions of health and nutrition, the broiler industry is adapting to meet demand.

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NEXT ON THE PLATE

Poultry Market Prospects BY MARK JORDAN



When it comes to bird weights, bigger is still better

Young chicken weights appear to rise inexorably, while turkey weights plateau.

Between improving feed conversion rates and other operational efficiencies, not to mention the demand growth for parts and pieces from heavier birds that are preferred for deboning and further processing, young chicken liveweights have been trending higher for as long as records are available.

This observation applies similarly to young turkeys; however, there is growing evidence of a plateau in weights in that industry. Young chickens averaged a record 6.57 pounds at slaughter in 2024 and should add at least 1% to that in 2025 when the final numbers are tallied. While young turkeys were also record large at slaughter last year at an average of 32.58 pounds, weights in that category took a noticeable step back in 2025.



Weight trends for chickens and turkeys are expected to persist for the next few years. *USDA | Flickr*

High targets for young chickens

It took from 1981 to 2000 for the average young chicken liveweight at slaughter to increase from just more than 4 pounds to 5 pounds. The average topped 6 pounds in 2014, and based on the current trajectory, it is reasonable to expect the 7-pound mark to be breached on an industrywide basis by 2030. Of course, several processing plants in the U.S. already handle young chickens at an average liveweight in excess of 9 pounds at slaughter.

Markets will continue to exist for both small- and medium-sized chickens for the foreseeable future, but it seems reasonable to assume that a sizable share of the industry will keep gravitating toward those heavier sizes. It's difficult to say when and where young chicken weights might plateau, but it should be many years from now and at

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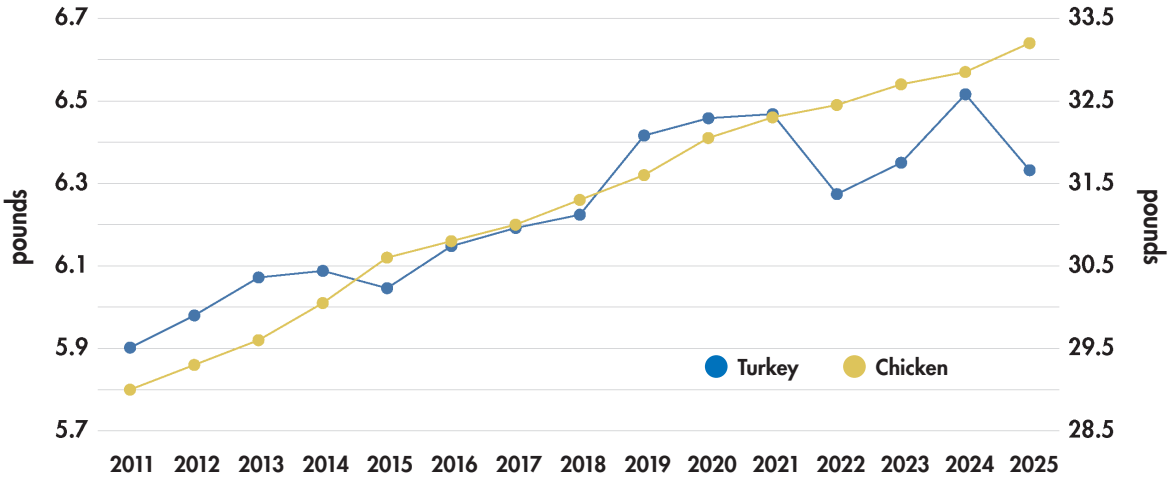
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Average annual liveweight at slaughter for young chickens and young turkeys in the U.S.



The projected average young chicken liveweight at slaughter in 2025 of 6.64 pounds would be 24% heavier than the 2005 average (5.38 pounds). *Sources: USDA, LEAP Market Analytics (2025 forecast)*

an industrywide average that is comfortably above 7 pounds.

Turkey weights stall, perhaps disease related

Young turkey liveweights at slaughter increased fewer than 2 pounds between 1980 and 1992, from an industrywide average of 20.06 pounds to 21.73 pounds, respectively.

With deboned turkeys an increasingly prominent fixture beyond that point, the average increased at a much faster pace. The industrywide average exceeded 25 pounds for the first time by the turn of the century and cleared the 30-pound mark for the first time in 2013. Following a brief period of stagnation, young turkey weights were ascendant again by the late 2010s and reached an all-time high (at the time) of 32.34 pounds in 2021.

It has been a roller-coaster ride since that point, with a new record set in 2024 followed by yet another setback in 2025. Confirming this is difficult, but disease-related challenges — highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) primarily but possibly other viruses as well — have likely had a strong hand in this erratic, sideways turn in average young turkey liveweights.

Weight trends likely to persist

The conditions that have favored an increase in average young chicken weights over the past few decades remain firmly in place, so it's reasonable to assume the trend continues for a little while longer, at least.

As discussed, disease has been the wild card seemingly restraining weight increases in the turkey space recently, but if industry stakeholders can ever get a handle on that problem, another boost to weights should soon follow. ■



Machine learning could automate poultry weight forecasting: www.WATTAgNet.com/15661635



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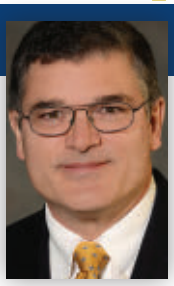
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»NEXT ON THE PLATE

Food Safety & Processing Perspective BY TERRENCE O'KEEFE



Poultry Tech innovations are more impressive than ever

An increasing and amazing array of solutions for pressing poultry industry problems are being developed and brought to market.

When the last presentation had been made at the 2025 Poultry Tech Summit, my initial reaction to the innovations and technologies presented was just to say, "Wow." The summit featured 25 presentations on innovative ideas and technologies in various stages of development ranging from "works in the lab" all the way to "ready for installation" on poultry farms or in processing plants.

The purpose of the summit is to increase collaboration between researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and poultry industry technical experts to accelerate the development and adoption of innovative solutions to industry challenges. The in-person gathering in Atlanta, November 3-5, 2025, provided immediate feedback on opportunities for field trials and collaborations to help advance these ideas and turn them into functional solutions.

While we are extremely pleased with how the in-person event helps to accelerate development of these technologies, we think we can do more. For past summits we have provided written coverage of each of the presentations. This year, we also videotaped the presentations and panel discussions and are making them available to be viewed for free; you just have to log in or register on WATTPoultry.com to view the videos.



Poultry industry professionals, entrepreneurs, researchers and technology experts shared ideas and progress on dozens of projects aiming to solve industry problems at the 2025 Poultry Tech Summit. *Paul Ward | WATT Global Media*

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We are still providing written coverage of the presentations, so you can quickly determine if that presentation addresses a challenge of interest to you. Presentation videos are 15 to 20 minutes in length. A sample of the articles published at time of press is listed below.

For the hatchery:

- MRI unit performs in-ovo sexing, fertility test, phenotyping
- Longer incubation times could optimize chick quality

For the processing plant:

- Microdroplets could reduce chemicals in poultry processing
- Cold plasma could reduce pathogens on raw chicken
- Poultry framework could help integrate data, technology

For the poultry farm:

- Monitoring poultry farm microbiome could reduce downtime
- Artificial intelligence is already shaping poultry's future
- Digital feed bins could aid poultry production efficiency
- Drinking behavior changes could predict poultry disease
- New take on water data could boost poultry disease detection

Breeding and genetics:

- Genetic platform can enable female-only layer production
- AI-driven genetic changes drive poultry's future

We will be posting more articles and videos in the coming weeks. If you have interest in learning more about any of the innovations or products presented, please reach out directly to the presenters or to us at: **www.wattglobalmedia.com/contact/** ■

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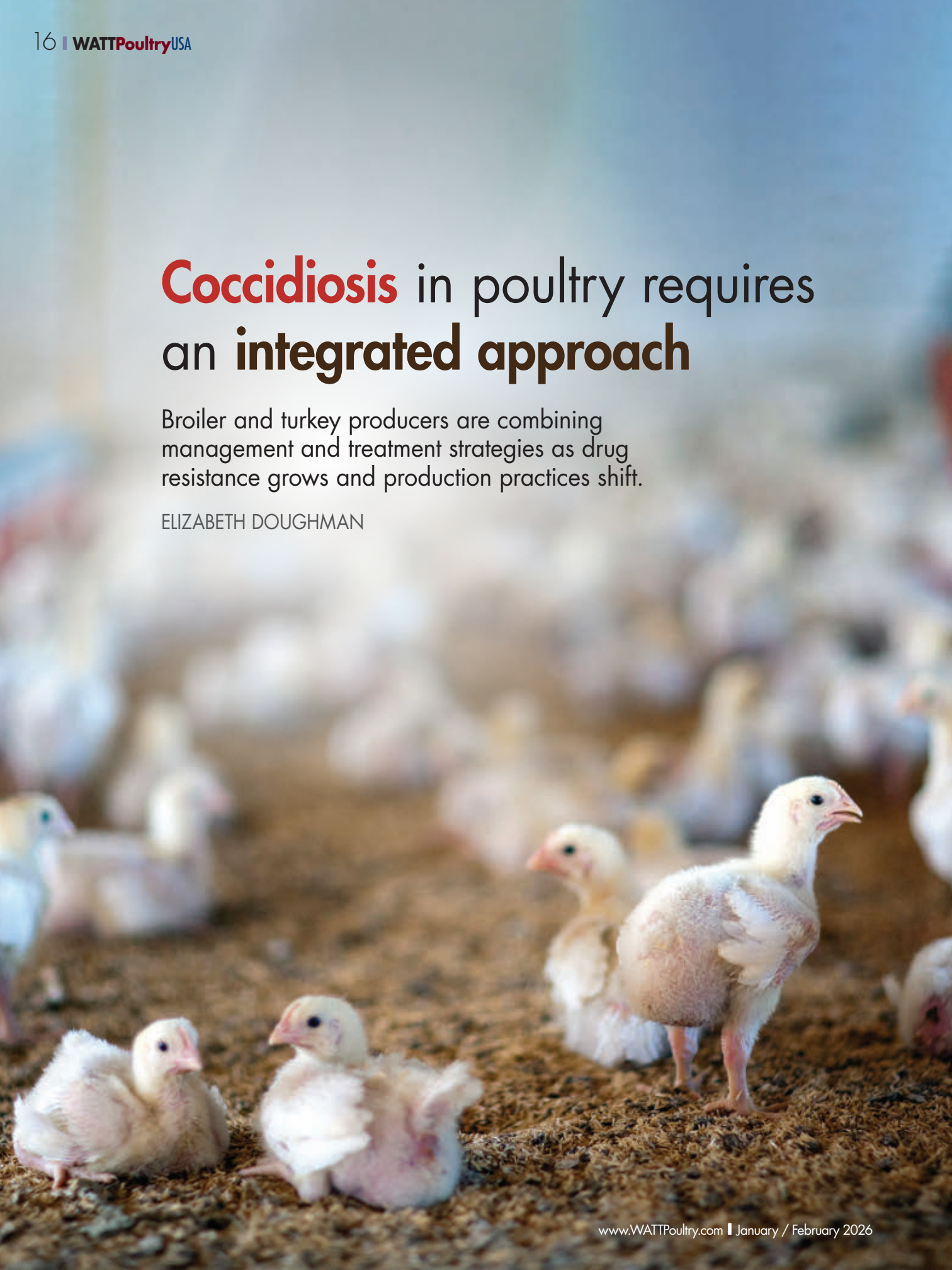
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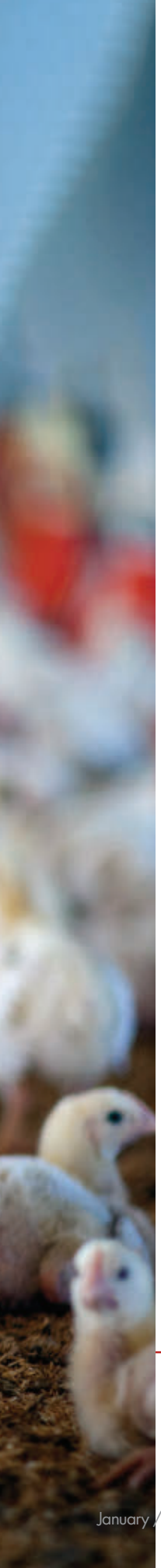
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Coccidiosis in poultry requires an integrated approach

Broiler and turkey producers are combining management and treatment strategies as drug resistance grows and production practices shift.

ELIZABETH DOUGHMAN





Coccidiosis is caused by protozoan parasites called coccidia that belong to the *Eimeria* genus, which are species-specific. Chicken coccidia do not infect turkeys and *vice versa*.

Several *Eimeria* species vary widely in disease severity, from subclinical to fatal infections. The challenge is compounded in turkeys, where gross lesions are more difficult to observe than in chickens, requiring microscopic detection methods.

Coccidiosis is endemic in almost all poultry operations, although it can remain in the dormant form in the environment for quite a while before it begins to spread throughout poultry flocks. Because of this, the challenge for poultry farmers is managing the spread as opposed to preventing the disease.

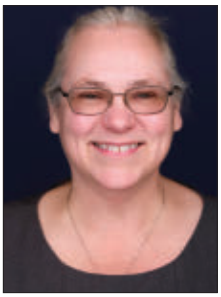
There are a variety of treatment approaches, including ionophores and chemical coccidiostats, as well as newer feed additives, in place to help poultry producers control coccidiosis. In addition, environmental management is critical to minimizing the chance of infection.

Three classes of in-feed control

Current coccidiosis control strategies for broilers and turkeys rely on three main classes of in-feed products.

The first is ionophores, which have been available for 60 years and remain the foundation of many programs despite being classified as antibiotics in the U.S. market.

The U.S. market's antimicrobial debate has created two distinct production approaches: no antibiotics ever (NAE) versus no antibiotics important to human medicine (NAIHM). The classification affects available tools, as fermented products like ionophores are classified as antibiotics in the U.S., though not internationally. This means that only NAIHM production allows the use of ionophores.



Francene Van Sambeek
Courtesy Elanco

"They work by not necessarily killing all of the *Eimeria*, they just damage it, so it doesn't replicate very well," said Francene Van Sambeek, DVM, poultry technical consultant at Elanco.

"It gives the bird's immune system a chance to respond to that foreign agent and actually the birds build immunity toward that *Eimeria* protozoa. And that's one reason why ionophores have been around for 60 years and not built a bunch of resistance because there's just enough leakage that they can replicate themselves and keep going, but not really overwhelm the bird."

Strong chemicals represent the second class, offering powerful but short-lived control.

"They usually work great for approximately one production cycle, and then you get a lot of resistance built up in the coccidia, and then they don't work very well at all," Van Sambeek said. "It's like a one and done kind of situation. You use it, and then you got to put it on a shelf."

Weak chemicals act similarly to ionophores by allowing some leakage while building immunity, though Van Sambeek noted they lack dosing flexibility.

A third category combines ionophores with weak chemicals, which, according to Van Sambeek, offers the "advantages of both ionophores and the chemical world."

Because coccidiosis is endemic in almost all poultry operations, the challenge for farmers is managing the spread as opposed to preventing the disease. *Felipe Rodriguez | iStock.com*

For integrators developing coccidiosis control programs, Van Sambeek stressed comprehensive planning.

"Sit down with whichever provider you want to go with and actually write out your program for the next two to three years. Actually sit down, pencil it out," she advised.

Boosting natural immune support through gut health

Producers must look across all production areas — housing, husbandry, genetics and nutrition — for solutions for coccidiosis control.



Lloyd Keck
Courtesy dsm-firmenich

"The leading work now seems to be focused on natural products and enhanced immune support," noted Lloyd Keck, Ph.D., a consultant with dsm-firmenich and principal of Keck & Associates.

For poultry integrators developing control programs in 2025, Keck emphasized that coccidial control requires long-term planning.

"Rotating vaccine and anticoccidial products based on careful observation is essential. Researching and testing newly developed products and supplementing with these is important," he warned.

Certain coccidiosis species can damage intestinal tissue, creating conditions for secondary necrotic enteritis caused by *Clostridium* bacteria. As the parasite goes through its normal lifecycle, it infects and infiltrates cells in the gastrointestinal tract of the host. The parasite causes a weakened immune system, looser droppings, poor nutrient absorption, reduced performance and sometimes death.

Early gut development plays a critical role in disease resistance for broilers and turkeys.

"Establishing the proper intestinal microorganisms early can not only help prevent coccidiosis but can have a 'blocking' effect on many disease organisms," Keck explained. "The correct microbiota also has a significant impact on enhancing the bird's immune system."

Looking ahead, newer genetic engineering technologies may yield more effective vaccines within three to five years, offering additional tools for an industry grappling with this persistent challenge.

No silver bullet for coccidiosis control



Vanessa Iseri
Courtesy Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health – North America

Drug resistance has accelerated the industry's search for antibiotic alternatives to control coccidiosis in broilers and turkeys. Current strategies incorporate organic acids, probiotics, enzymes, phytogenics and essential oils as part of comprehensive programs.

"Organic acids work by lowering gut pH, which inhibits the growth of harmful pathogens and improves digestion, ultimately enhancing growth and gut health," Vanessa Iseri, business development manager at Kemin, noted. "Probiotics promote the development of beneficial gut flora as well as reducing pathogenic bacteria, supporting the immune system and improving gut integrity."

Phytogenics and essential oils offer additional protection mechanisms.

"Phytogenics offer anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and antioxidant properties that affect the intestinal microbial and intestinal environment," she said. "Essential oils disrupt microbial membranes and modulate immunity, providing broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity."

For integrators developing control programs, Iseri emphasized the importance of comprehensive planning.

"Coccidiosis control strategies in poultry production are most effective when approached as a holistic, integrated system rather than relying on a single intervention," she said. "This integrated approach not only helps reduce the risk of coccidiosis but also supports overall flock welfare and long-term sustainability."

The shift represents a fundamental change in disease management philosophy, moving from reactive, single-product solutions toward proactive, multifaceted programs designed to build resilience throughout the production cycle.

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Environmental management is key

Litter moisture control and ventilation management have emerged as the most critical factors in preventing coccidiosis outbreaks.

"The two most important environmental conditions that increase the risk of a coccidiosis outbreak are increased litter moisture and inadequate ventilation," emphasized Maggie Thompson, DVM, MAM, DACPV, technical services veterinarian, Zoetis.

"Focusing on drinker management, including prompt repair of leaks and ensuring appropriate height for the age of the bird, is critical for controlling litter moisture," while "ventilation should always be managed based not only on ambient temperature, but also on humidity and moisture levels," she added.

Litter management is one of the easiest ways to control coccidiosis, but requires careful balance, as both extremes create problems.



Maggie Thompson
Courtesy Zoetis

"It's like the domino effect; one wrong move can negatively impact the entire process," Thompson noted, adding that "overly dry, dusty litter delays sporulation until later in the production cycle, when enough fecal material is present to increase litter moisture to the appropriate level."

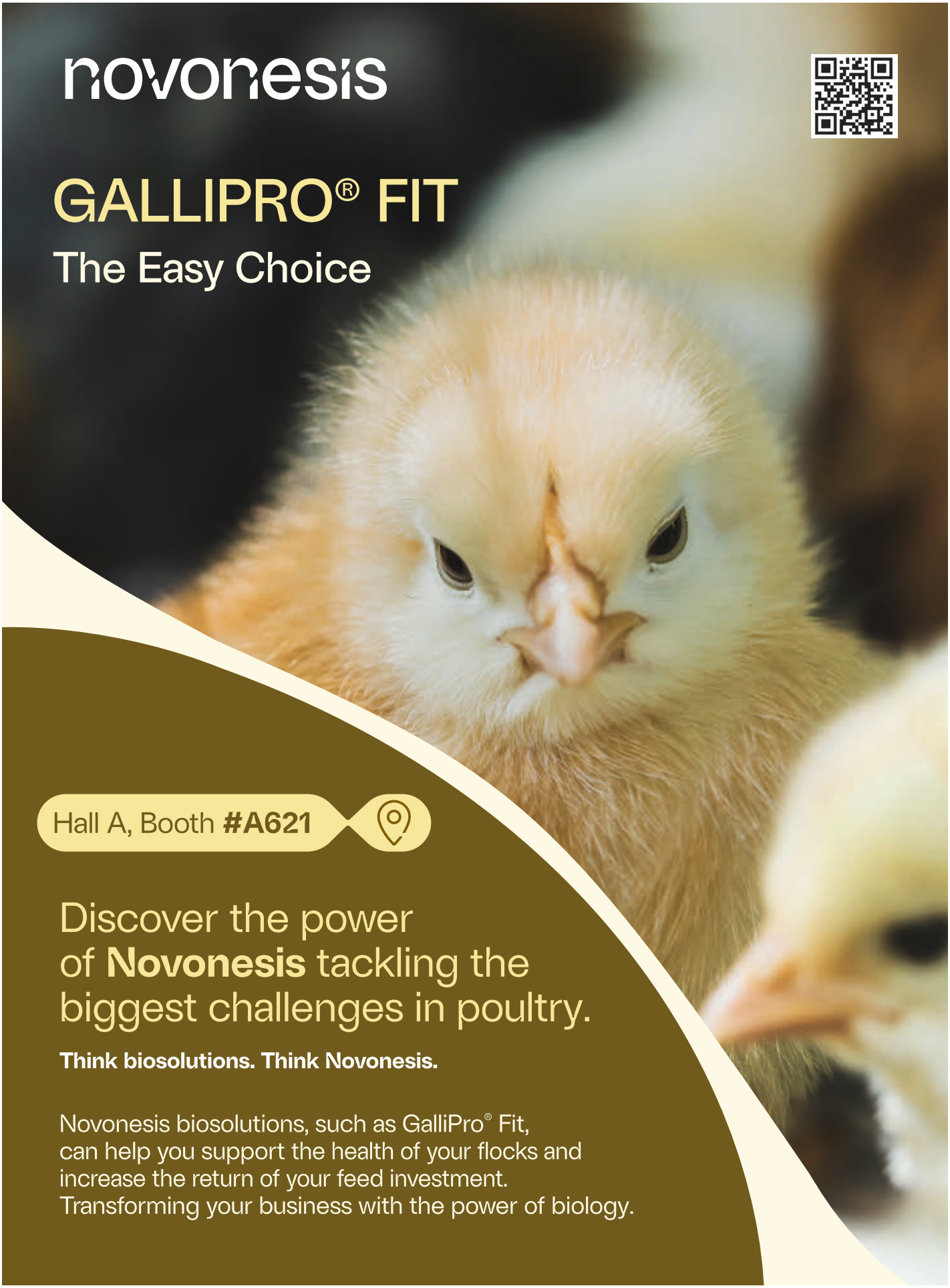
"This means birds will likely undergo a late cocci challenge when there is less time for compensatory growth," she continued.

Excessive moisture presents even greater risks.

"Increased litter moisture leads to increased sporulation, which means more infective oocysts are present in the litter to be consumed by a bird," Thompson said.

Differences in management practices between




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COCCIDIOSIS IN POULTRY REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

broilers and turkeys can make coccidiosis control even more challenging.

"Turkeys are longer lived and generally are shedding lower numbers of oocysts by the end of their growout period," Tim Cummings, DVM, DACPV, senior technical services veterinarian, Zoetis, explained.



Tim Cummings
Courtesy Zoetis

"This in turn translates into a lower cocci load for the next flock on well-managed built-up litter, which helps lower overall pathogen load."

Conversely, for broilers, downtime between flocks varies based on management capabilities.

"There really is no predefined downtime that magically reduces coccidial load — rather, it is all about litter management during and between flocks," Thompson said. She recommends decaking followed by heating litter to temperatures more than 105 F for three to five days to weaken oocyst cell walls.

Cummings cautioned that program changes require patience.

"What comes out of the back end of the birds is what the next flock is going to get exposed to in the litter," Cummings said. "Some program changes need to look at two to three cycles to fully assess, as it takes time to fully change the microbiome of the litter." ■



Novel coccidiosis protozoan detected in Iranian poultry: www.WATTAgNet.com/15770383



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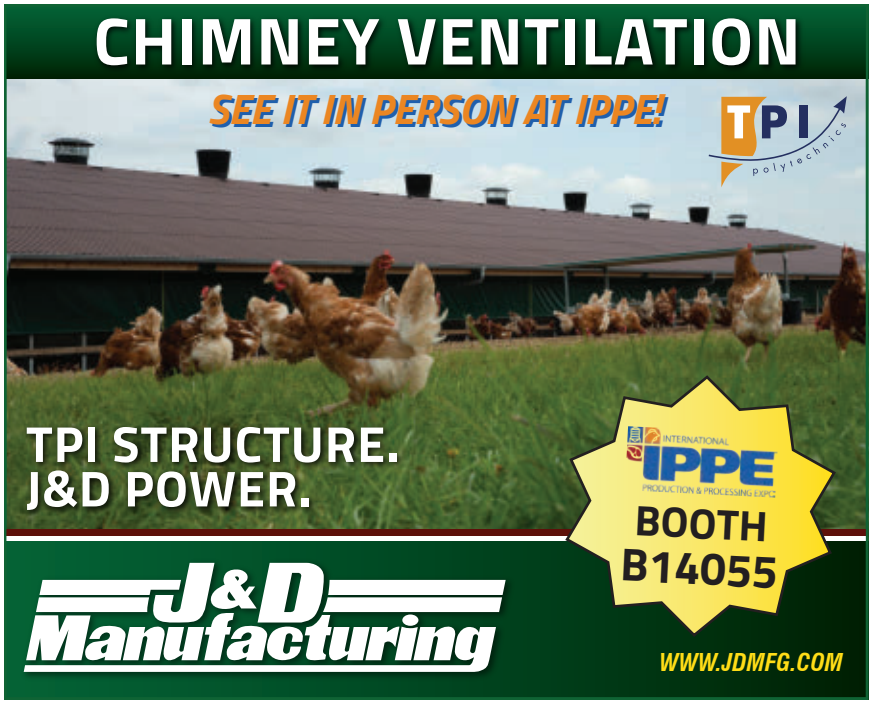
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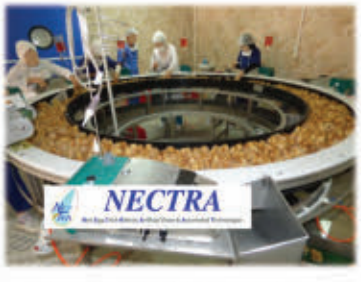
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Poultry processing shifts to chemical-free cleaning



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Advanced disinfection technologies show promise to meet stricter food safety regulations while improving sustainability.

MEREDITH DAWSON

Poultry processors are facing increasingly strict contamination and food safety standards. However, new technologies are helping producers meet those requirements while reducing water consumption and chemical usage.

Poultry processors seeking to reduce chemical interventions and water consumption while meeting food safety standards may find solutions in three technologies presented at the 2025 Poultry Tech Summit in Atlanta.

The technologies — high-velocity microdroplet cleaning, cold plasma treatment and electrostatic spray systems — address pressure that processors face from regulators enforcing policies, while helping companies manage rising operational costs and environmental compliance requirements.

Each system addresses specific processing challenges while contributing to the poultry industry's broader goals of sustainability and food safety improvement.

Electrostatic technology features unique 'wrap-around' method

An electrostatic spraying system that converts single water droplets into numerous smaller droplets with an applied charge could help poultry processors reduce the presence of pathogens on poultry products.

The technology gives charged water droplets the ability to "wrap around" and cover the whole product, according to Bruce Whiting, owner and chairman of Electrostatic Spraying Systems Inc.



Bruce Whiting
Courtesy Electrostatic Spraying Systems Inc.

The system uses electrical attraction combined with antimicrobial chemicals for pathogen control and helps enhance chemical distribution. The charged droplets adhere to grounded surfaces such as chicken carcasses and can access crevices where pathogens typically survive to act as a disinfectant for poultry pathogens.

The technology allows processors to apply traditional antimicrobials such as peracetic acid more efficiently while making newer interventions such as bacteriophages economically viable.

Additionally, processing plants experiencing water availability issues or facing municipal restrictions have adopted the technology, as certain areas limit industrial water consumption, Whiting explained.

Microdroplets could eliminate chemicals



Twan Koenen
Courtesy Innovative Water Concepts

High-velocity microdroplet technology using only potable water could help processors address U.S. industry challenges and meet European Union processing standards, explained Twan Koenen, processing and hygiene technologist at Innovative Water Concepts.

The system combines compressed air and water to create droplets approximately five times the size of Salmonella bacteria, accelerating them to speeds of 20 to 140 miles per hour. These microdroplets deliver 50 to 60 times more kinetic energy per gallon than conventional spray systems, penetrating skin pores and feather follicles.

The microdroplet technology relies on physical kinetic energy from high-velocity water droplets to mechanically remove pathogens and biofilms and aims to replace chemicals entirely through mechanical action.

The technology could help processors target critical contamination windows, in which Salmonella attaches to poultry skin, and remove potential contaminants from evisceration before quality issues occur, Koenen explained.

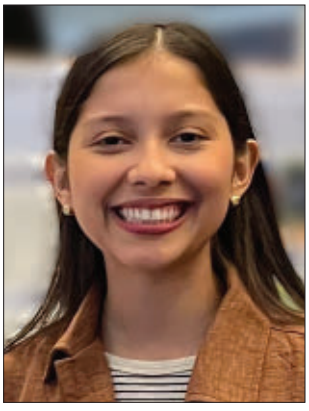
The system may be especially useful to processors that are looking to reduce chemical usage, such as peracetic acid and chlorine, he added.

Cold plasma targets high microbial loads

Cold plasma technology could decrease bacterial contamination on raw chicken parts, according to

research conducted by Auburn University.

The technology applies electrical currents to gases such as oxygen or nitrogen, creating plasma that can damage the bacterial cell wall and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of poultry pathogens, said Katherine Sofia Sierra Melendrez, graduate student at Auburn University.



Katherine Sofia Sierra Melendrez
Courtesy Auburn University

Auburn's laboratory testing using handheld plasma devices showed shifts in bacterial populations, with species such as *Pseudomonas* showing decreased presence. The findings could potentially help processors extend shelf life, lower costs and reduce food waste, she added.

Current limitations of the technology include treatment duration, because applications can take 5 minutes to be effective.

However, Melendrez said companies are developing systems capable of activating several gallons of plasma per minute, creating an opportunity for the technology to be integrated into existing chiller systems or antimicrobial spray stations. Additionally, Auburn's research team is continuing to perform sensory testing to determine the impacts on product quality and consumer acceptance.

Limiting chemical, water usage growing in importance

The three technologies collectively signal a transition in poultry processing toward reduced chemical dependency.

Poultry processors are under pressure to reduce

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chemical and water usage and explore alternative pathogen control methods due to not only rising operational costs and stricter regulations, but also a growing demand for cleaner processing methods.

Consumer demand for "cleaner" or more sustainable food production is accelerating this transition. Today's consumers increasingly scrutinize food labels and processing methods, which creates market pressure for processors to adopt technologies that can maintain food safety yet improve sustainability.

According to a March 2025 report by analyst company Innova Market Insights, consumers are opting for clean label food as they prioritize transparency and sustainability worldwide. Additionally, Innova found that 30% of global food and beverage companies launched a clean label claim in the past year.

The European Union's potable water-only processing rule sets a precedent that could influence U.S. regulations in the future. If processors adopt a technology that may help reduce chemical usage now, they could potentially position themselves to meet future standards without facing production issues.

Even though processors are not required to list processing aids as ingredients on product labels, implementing technologies that reduce water and chemical usage gives poultry producers the opportunity to market themselves appropriately and communicate their sustainability story to consumers. ■



AI tools could optimize poultry processing management: www.WATTAgNet.com/15769690



What's happening in the **French HPAI vaccination campaign**?

Now in its third year, France's avian influenza vaccination campaign has seen a sharp decline in disease outbreaks, but financing has become a bone of contention.

MARK CLEMENTS

France began its third highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) vaccination campaign in October 2025.

The campaign, which began in October 2023 following a series of trials, is conducted across the whole country, with the exception of Corsica, and with a particular focus in high-risk areas.

Vaccines are administered only to ducks, given the role that these birds play in HPAI epidemiology — their susceptibility to field virus and the viral shedding that occurs for a longer period once a flock is infected. Vaccination is mandatory in all table ducks and those raised for foie gras in flocks of 250 head or more.

Ducklings receive a first and follow-up vaccine dose. Two different vaccines are being used. One is administered at 10-21 days with a three-week follow-up, the other can be applied from one day of age with a second dose applied at 28 days. On-farm vaccination is overseen by a veterinarian.

Alongside the mandatory campaign there is also a voluntary program and, while both are restricted to ducks, the



The French state is gradually reducing financial support it is offering to the industry, citing budgetary pressures, but some argue that this could put achievements to date at risk.

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The crucial role of spore outgrowth in probiotic performance and poultry gut health

Henrique Brand, Evonik do Brasil, and Victor Naranjo, Evonik Guatemala

Introduction

Spore-forming probiotics have emerged as a powerful tool in animal nutrition, offering stability during feed processing and targeted support within the gastrointestinal tract (GIT). However, their effectiveness hinges on a critical biological process: spore outgrowth. This transformation—from dormant spores to active vegetative cells—is what enables Bacillus probiotics to interact with the host and produce beneficial metabolites. The speed and consistency of outgrowth are especially vital in poultry, where rapid feed transit and variable gut conditions demand fast-acting, reliable solutions. This article explores why outgrowth matters, how it influences probiotic efficacy, and how a new breakthrough in the development of spore-forming probiotics sets a new benchmark for poultry performance.

Understanding Spore Outgrowth

Bacillus-based probiotics start in a dormant state, as spores. Their tough outer shell allows them to survive heat, pressure, and mechanical stress during feed production. However, once ingested, these spores must undergo a biological transformation—known as outgrowth—to become metabolically active vegetative cells. Only in this active state can they interact with the host's gut environment and produce beneficial metabolites.

Outgrowth is triggered by specific environmental cues in the GIT, such as temperature, pH, and the presence of nutrients like amino acids and sugars.

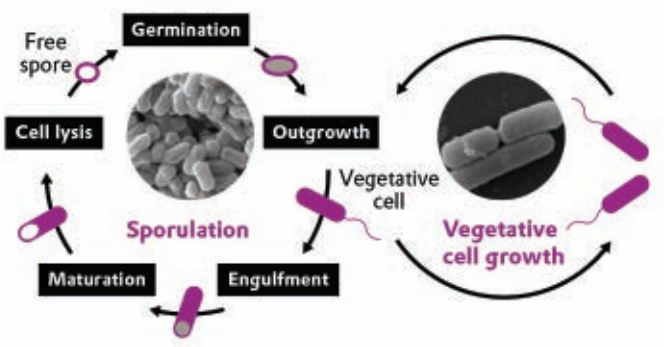


FIGURE 1: *Spore outgrowth*

The speed and consistency of this transition are critical. If spores germinate too slowly, they may pass through the gut without activating, missing the opportunity to influence gut health when it matters most.

Why Timing Is Critical in Poultry

In broilers, for instance, the feed transit time through the digestive system is short, especially when it is not fully developed. This creates a narrow window for spore-based probiotics to outgrow into vegetative cells and exert their effects.

Fast-acting probiotics, on the other hand, can stabilize the gut microbiota already at the upper part of the intestine, support immune modulation, and improve feed conversion. Activation in the upper intestine—particularly the duodenum and jejunum—is key to timely metabolic support.

The Need for Consistency Across Conditions

Speed alone isn't enough. In commercial settings, feed formulations vary widely across regions and production systems. A reliable probiotic must perform consistently across these variables. This means activating at the right time, regardless of feed composition and dietary nutrient levels.

Consistency in different feed formulations in outgrowth ensures that the probiotic delivers predictable results—batch after batch, farm after farm. It also reduces the risk of performance variability, giving producers greater confidence in their feeding strategies.

Ecobiol®: Redefining Outgrowth Performance

Evonik's Ecobiol® sets a new standard for probiotic quality. Based on the *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* CECT 5940 strain, Ecobiol® now features an optimized outgrowth profile thanks to advances in fermentation technology and process control.

Recent *in vitro* studies show that Ecobiol® spores begin outgrowth rapidly and transition into active cells faster than competitor products, as shown in Figure 2 to the right. In fact, Ecobiol® demonstrates 46% faster outgrowth on average compared to competitor probiotics. This speed translates into real impact — Ecobiol® enables earlier colonization in the jejunum and stronger probiotic effects.

Validated Across Feed Types and Regions

To test consistency, Ecobiol® was benchmarked across starter and finisher feed formulations from

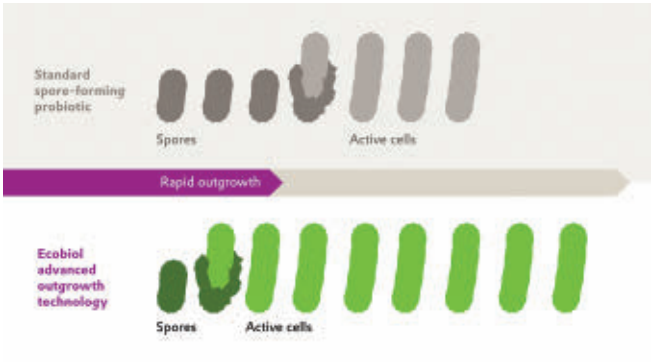


FIGURE 2: *Standard spore-forming probiotic versus Ecobiol®*

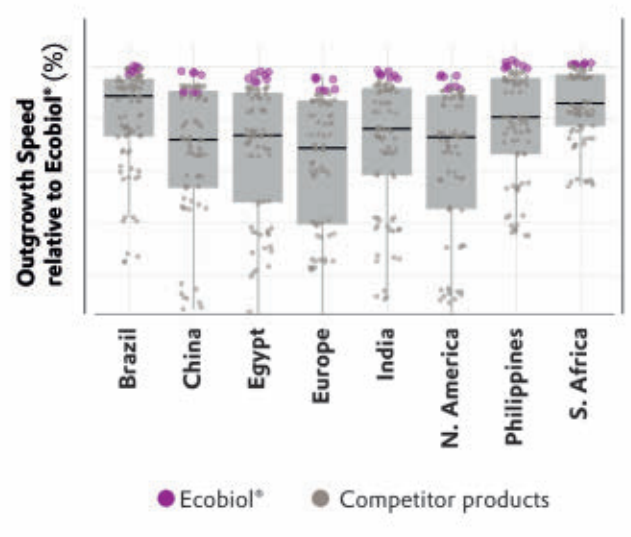


FIGURE 3: *Outgrowth speed from eight global regions by origin of feed*

eight geographic regions. Despite differences in nutrient profiles, Ecobiol® maintained rapid and uniform outgrowth, adapting effectively to varying levels of sugars, amino acids, and other germinants. This robustness makes Ecobiol® ideal for poultry operations globally.

Benefits for Producers

With its enhanced outgrowth profile, Ecobiol® offers several key advantages:

- Microbiota stabilization already in the small intestine
- Improved survivability and feed efficiency
- Consistent performance across production systems

Ecobiol® also remains stable during feed pelleting (up to 90°C) and high-temperature expansion (up to 115°C), ensuring viability throughout feed processing and storage.

Continuous Feeding for Sustained Impact

An internal study assessed the resilience of Ecobiol® spores in broiler chickens after supplementation ended. Results showed that spores remained detectable for up to three days, after which levels dropped below the detection threshold. This highlights the importance of continuous feeding to maintain probiotic activity and ensure consistent gut support.

Conclusion

As the probiotic market grows, producers face numerous options—many of which emphasize strain identity. But the real differentiator lies in outgrowth speed and consistency. These parameters determine how quickly and reliably a probiotic becomes active in the gut—and how effectively it supports animal health and wellbeing.

The full potential of spore-forming probiotics is still unfolding. Thanks to Evonik's breakthrough in fermentation technology and process optimization, Ecobiol® is at the forefront of this approach with a scientifically validated, fast-acting approach that delivers measurable benefits in poultry production. For producers seeking reliable performance in AGP-free systems, Ecobiol® offers a proven solution built on speed, science, and consistency.

Relavant publications:

Cartman et al. 2008, Bacillus subtilis spores germinate in the chicken gastrointestinal tract.

Christie & Setlow 2020, Bacillus spore germination: Knowns, unknowns and what we need to learn.

Hong et al. 2005, The use of bacterial spore formers as probiotics.

Setlow 2014, Spore resistance properties.

Tam et al. 2006, The intestinal life cycle of Bacillus subtilis and close relatives.

Tan & Ramamurthi 2014, Spore formation in Bacillus subtilis.

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Quick outgrowth of spores to active cells for enhanced gut health

Ecobiol®, a spore-forming probiotic *Bacillus CECT 5940*, quickly transforms from resistant spores to active vegetative cells, enhancing the digestive function of livestock and increasing the number of beneficial microorganisms in the gut. In doing so, Ecobiol® supports better feed conversion and overall animal well-being.

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effects have been felt across the wider industry.

As part of the campaign, thorough active and passive surveillance is carried out, which is essential to gauge the campaign's success and to reassure trade partners.

Is the program working?

That France has persevered with vaccination for three years could be taken as evidence that the program is working; however, a number of studies have quantified the benefits.

In November 2024, the European Association of State Veterinary Officers highlighted the initiative's success. The association noted that 61 million ducks had been vaccinated up to that point, adding that only 10 HPAI outbreaks had been reported over the year, with only two occurring on vaccinated farms. France would, the association continued, likely have experienced approximately 487 outbreaks without vaccination.

The association also published information on costs. Over the first year of the campaign, total expenditure reached EUR105 million (US$122.3 million) and approximately 60 million ducks were vaccinated. This, the association points out, was significantly lower than the EUR1.4 billion losses incurred during the highly pathogenic avian influenza crisis of 2021-2022.

Who pays for what?

Funding has changed since the program was first introduced and, in 2025, this led to some tension between industry and government officials.

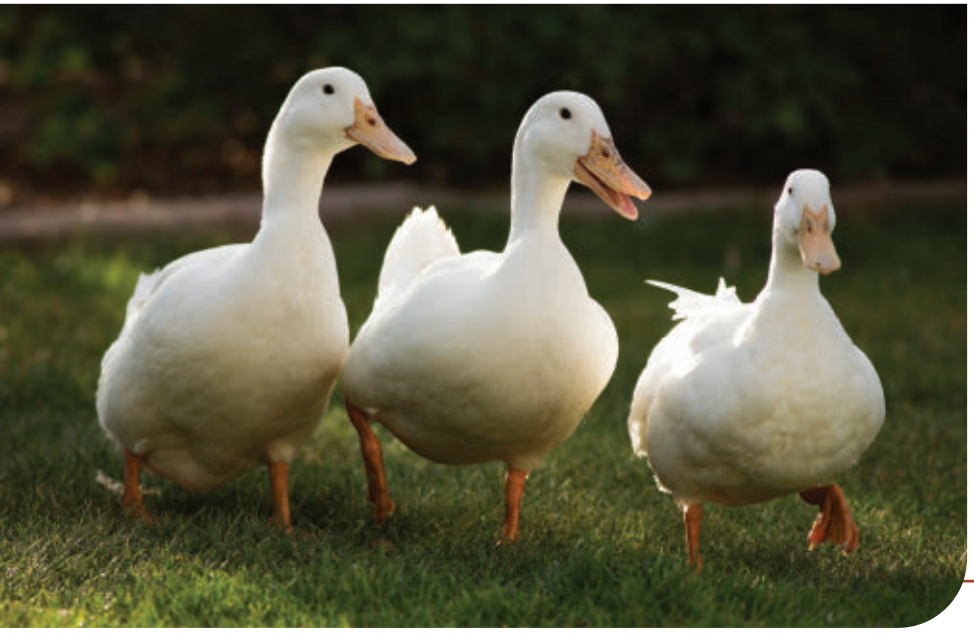
Costs are shared between the private sector and the government, but the latter has been gradually reducing its contribution.

In year one, the French state covered 85% of costs, with the industry covering the rest. In year two the state reduced its contribution to 70%.

In this current year, the state has reduced its contribution further still — to 40%, with Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Annie Genevard saying that, given the state of the national budget, it was essential that stakeholders became more involved to ensure long-term vaccination effectiveness.

The decision to cut the government's funding drew strong





Ducks, given that they can carry and shed large amounts of HPAI virus, often without severe symptoms, are the target of France's vaccination campaign.

Maria Jeffs | iStock.com

criticism from the industry with some commentators describing it as "a brutal disengagement by the state," and warnings that some producers would exit the campaign.

The Comité Interprofessionnel des Palmipèdes à Foie Gras — the interprofessional committee for foie gras waterfowl in France — noted that the new cost-sharing arrangements would reduce farmers' margins by 15%.

For the third vaccination round, the state is only covering what it describes as "official vaccination-related activities," which include veterinary supervision of vaccination operations, monthly post-vaccination active monitoring including clinical visits and virological sampling of vaccinated ducks and laboratory analysis of samples collected during active surveillance.

The private sector is now additionally responsible for the purchase, storage and transport of vaccines, in addition to those expenses it was already covering during the first two campaigns, such as contributions to labor costs and upholding biosecurity protocols.

Vaccines

To date, two different vaccines have been used during the campaigns, and both are DIVA, or Differentiate Infected from Vaccinated Animals, compliant. Both vaccines have facilitated surveillance, helping to demonstrate disease-free status for international trade.

These new generation vaccines are providing high levels of efficacy against circulating virus clades and, unlike with older vaccines, do not come with the associated risks.

There have been some outbreaks in vaccinated flocks, where challenge has been particularly high; however, a vaccinated flock that suffers an outbreak will have extremely low shedding compared with an unvaccinated flock.

Difficulties and trade disruption

When the HPAI vaccination campaign was first launched there were concerns that there may not have been sufficient personnel for



Avian influenza update- focus on vaccination [PODCAST]: www.WATTAgNet.com/15749097

its implementation, but these fears have now been overcome. There have been some outbreaks in vaccinated flocks, but to date the total has been low single figures.

Of greater concern for the French poultry industry has been the impact on trade.

Once France started to implement its campaign, the response from a number of countries was to ban imports from the country. In some cases, those bans were extended to other European countries, including members of the European Poultry Trade Region (EU members plus Northern Ireland), Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Little by little, however, trade restrictions have been reduced. In January 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced a reduction in the restrictions on imports from France and other European countries. Its evaluation of the vaccination program concluded that agricultural trade could be maintained with reduced restrictions on products from nonvaccinated flocks.

While shipments of poultry products to the U.S. are small, shipments of genetics have been more important for France.

Farmers appear satisfied with the vaccination program's outcome and recovery in production but deeply concerned about financial sustainability due to declining state support. As recently as the 2021-2022 HPAI season, France recorded 1,400 outbreaks of the disease, leading to the culling of more than 22 million birds. Since then, the number of outbreaks has plummeted. ■

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Manchester Farms: Perfecting the art of quail production



Second-generation owner Brittney Miller scales family operation to 80,000 birds weekly while maintaining precise biosecurity and quality standards.

ELIZABETH DOUGHMAN

What began as a hobby in Bill Odom's backyard has evolved into one of America's premier quail operations. Manchester Farms, now a second-generation family business led by Brittney Miller in Columbia, South Carolina, breeds, raises and processes pharaoh quail on more than 380 acres of farmland.

Founded in 1974, the operation started by distributing product to restaurants and chefs

Quails are smaller than broilers or turkeys, reaching only 13 ounces in weight at maturity. *Courtesy Forest Clonts*

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"WE HAVE TO CHANGE our programs every season with whatever is going on ..."

Brittney Miller



Brittney Miller
Courtesy Forest Clonts

via direct mail. In the 1980s, demand for Manchester quail grew above and beyond the farm's capabilities and it partnered with foodservice and retail distributors to expand the supply across the country.

Over the past few years, Manchester Farms expanded operations to include egg production in addition to quail meat. In 2024, the company sold nearly 35 million eggs and produced 80,000 meat birds per week.

The science of raising delicate birds

Quail production requires specialized knowledge accumulated over Manchester Farms' 55 years in business, Miller emphasized. The birds are "delicate, persnickety," requiring precise management of multiple variables that less experienced producers often overlook.

When it comes to light intensity, nutrition formulation, water temperature and bedding quality — all require careful attention when it comes to quail production, she added.

Manchester Farms raises pharaoh quail, known for their fast growth and high productivity in both meat and egg production. The quail breed has been domesticated for centuries and is docile in captivity. Quails are smaller than broilers or turkeys, reaching only 13 ounces in weight at maturity.

Environmental factors significantly impact production in ways that demand constant adjustment. South Carolina's weather extremes — from hurricanes and ice to 120 F temperatures with 90% humidity — affect hatch rates, hatching program parameters and overall bird health and wellness.

"We have to change our programs every season with whatever is going on," Miller explained, noting that broiler and turkey operations face similar seasonal challenges but that quail behavior differs due to their unique personalities.

The operation maintains near-antibiotic-free status with only one exception in its history when aflatoxin contamination from incoming feed necessitated treatment. An anti-parasitic is the only regular feed additive, necessary because birds are ground-raised and susceptible to parasites. The stringent health management approach relies on prevention through cleanliness rather than pharmaceutical intervention.

Unlike some quail operations that use open-air flight pens, Manchester Farms raises birds in barns, providing protection from the numerous predators that target quail — hawks, owls, snakes, bobcats, domestic cats and dogs.

Comprehensive biosecurity in the HPAI era

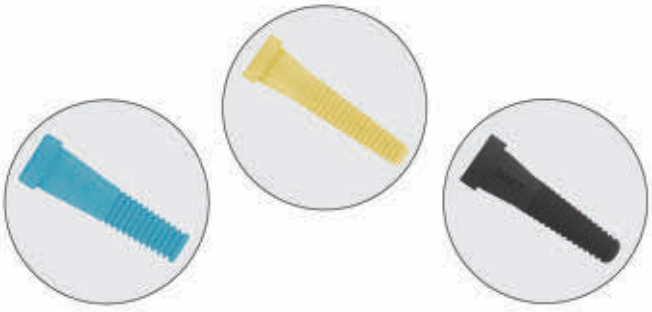
With the current outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza



There is increasing consumer interest in alternative proteins beyond chicken and turkey as quail and duck appear in more retail and foodservice outlets daily. *Courtesy Kevin Chelko*

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(HPAI) remaining a persistent threat to poultry operations nationwide, Manchester Farms has implemented comprehensive biosecurity protocols that leave nothing to chance.

"It's not to say that we won't ever get hit one day, but we are crazy about trying to make sure everything's safe," Miller said. "As soon as you let your guard down, it can happen."

All personnel must spray in and out of facilities, change clothing upon entry and exit and spray down vehicles. The operation even requires a vector spray inside vehicle cabs to eliminate any flies that might have traveled from other farms.

The farm's feed mill operates its own truck wash-down after each cycle, adding another layer of protection. Critically, the pest control team is dedicated exclusively to Manchester Farms and doesn't service other poultry operations, eliminating a potential cross-contamination vector that many operations overlook.

"You need just one weak link that didn't do what they were supposed to, and they bring it in on their shoes or tires or clothes," Miller explained, acknowledging the challenge of maintaining perfect compliance.

The farm's location provides additional natural protection. Manchester Farms sits nearly a half mile from the nearest river, with no standing water or ponds on any of its properties. Despite being in the East Coast flyover zone for migratory waterfowl, this geographic advantage reduces wild bird contact. In addition, the operation maintains tidy grounds with grass cut back to discourage vectors from congregating near barns.

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Hand processing: A strategic choice

One of the ways Manchester Farms differentiates itself from the rest of the poultry industry is through hand processing rather than automation — a labor-intensive choice that increases per-pound costs but ensures quality that automated systems can't match, Miller explained. The operation maintains its own security and sensory inspection team to check birds before they reach the plant, where they undergo triple-checking for perfection.

"We've done really well over the years with it," Miller said of the hand-processing approach. "We're very intrinsically hand performance versus automation. It puts us at a price more expensive for a pound as well. But that's just what we do."

Market growth

The six-week growout time for quail allows faster flock regeneration compared to broilers and turkeys, providing operational flexibility that's valuable in a specialty protein market. Miller sees increasing consumer interest in alternative proteins beyond chicken and turkey as quail and duck appear in more retail and foodservice outlets daily.

"We're closing in on more and more every day," she said of retail expansion. "It's exciting to see. And then when people get on them, they come up to me later and they're like, they changed my life. They made my life better." ■



Simple HPAI interventions could save producers millions: www.WATTAgNet.com/15768257



Sexing you **can bank on**



2025 marked a year of significant growth for the global poultry industry, with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reporting that sustained consumer demand was driven by the protein's affordability, production efficiency and adaptability. This trajectory is expected to continue throughout 2026, and innovation continues to play a central role – delivering returns in speed, scale, and welfare.



New technologies are transforming operational efficiency, enabling hatcheries to scale production in line with growing global demand. The shift towards automation has reduced the poultry sector's reliance on manual processes, proving valuable in regions facing ongoing labor challenges. Simultaneously, innovations are prioritizing welfare improvements for chicks, amid rising consumer expectations. The adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) has accelerated these changes, and its ongoing evolution is set to further reshape the industry, marking a new era in broiler production throughout 2026 and beyond.

TARGAN's automated technology, WingScan, gained powerful momentum in 2025, setting new standards for speed and accuracy in sexing. Now approaching two billion sexed birds, TARGAN leads the sector globally with the highest throughput worldwide. Powered by machine learning, and advanced vision and sorting technologies, WingScan now clocks over 30 million birds a week – at an average accuracy of 97%. In hatcheries with high chick quality and strict QC, accuracy climbs to 98–99%.

That's sexing you can bank on, with throughput that rivals the busiest trading floors.

TRADE UP WITH AUTOMATION AND AI

Once a manual hatchery task, chick sexing has been transformed by precision engineering and AI, reducing the inconsistencies of human error to levels once thought impossible. As technology continues to evolve, so do expectations of what can be achieved in poultry production.

Think hatchery meets high-frequency trading – as a leading example of AI applied at scale, WingScan combines efficiency, enhanced welfare, and operational resilience. The system has been installed in hatcheries that process anywhere from 250,000 chicks per week to others handling more than 3 million weekly, maintaining uptimes above 99% for the past two years – proof of a stable, mature platform built for scale. With reliability a cornerstone of AI-driven sexing, these results reflect how mature and dependable new technologies have become.

By the end of 2025, TARGAN had installed more than 50 systems globally, with additional placements scheduled through 2026. The company is active across the USA, Canada, and Europe – including Spain, Italy, and Poland – with further European rollouts planned for the coming year.

In May 2025, **TARGAN introduced WingScan** to Latin America, **marking the next phase of its global rollout.**



30M+ Birds Sexed Weekly

Placements are set to begin in Q2 2026, **with expansion underway across the region – including key markets such as** Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil. Expansion is also underway in Asia and Oceania, accelerating the company's global reach.

This expanding global presence highlights the universal shift towards AI-driven hatchery solutions that automate plant operations, maximize yield and unlock downstream value.

WELFARE HAS CLIMBED UP THE PRIORITY INDEX

Consumers are asking tougher questions, regulators are tightening standards, and hatcheries are responding with smarter systems that prioritize animal care. Automated chick sexing is one of the clearest examples of this shift.

By reducing manual handling and minimizing early-life stress, it is helping producers meet welfare expectations without compromising throughput. TARGAN's precision-engineered, AI-powered platform doesn't just streamline operations – it builds in welfare by design. Every scan, every sort, every second of uptime contributes to a system that's fast, precise, and more future proof.

WingScan demonstrates how precision engineering and AI can support both commercial growth and welfare improvements, with its expanding reach across multiple continents illustrating how ethical and technological priorities are converging.

WingScan's trajectory suggests that it will remain central to shaping a poultry sector that is more efficient, more resilient, and more responsive to global expectations around welfare and sustainability.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

2025 has proven that sexing technology is moving from a niche innovation to a cornerstone of modern poultry production. Hatcheries are now able to operate with greater precision and consistency, turning a formerly labor-intensive process into a streamlined system that delivers measurable results across the value chain.

With current installations sexing over 100 million birds each month and approaching 2 billion total by early 2026, the shift is well underway - and the numbers speak for themselves.

The drivers are clear: hatcheries need reliable systems that reduce labor dependency, improve welfare, and deliver measurable performance. Automated sexing addresses all three. It reduces early-life stress for chicks, improves sorting accuracy, and supports consistent throughput-even in facilities processing millions of birds per week.

Ethical considerations will continue to drive change across the sector, with regulatory pressure and consumer demand pushing for improved animal welfare standards. Efficiency and scalability remain essential to meeting global demand, and automated sexing demonstrates how innovation can deliver this growth responsibly.

For TARGAN, this is just the beginning. As an AgTech company, its focus extends beyond poultry, with automation, data, and precision engineering positioned to drive change across the broader food system.

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By IPPE 2026, TARGAN will have sexed close to 2 billion birds- by far the highest number globally. That's not just growth - it's a benchmark.

Visit booth B31059 in Building B – Red Hall to see the numbers in motion and experience chick sexing you can bank on.

For more information, go to www.targan.com or follow TARGAN on LinkedIn.

How to manage **hatchery chick holding rooms**

A number of simple checks and adjustments can help to ensure that the maximum number of chicks leave the hatchery holding room in good condition.

MARK CLEMENTS

Chicks should be transported from the hatchery to the farm as quickly as possible. Despite best efforts, however, this is not always the case, so careful consideration needs to be given to how they are kept in the holding room.

Chicks must be kept in their thermal comfort zone post-hatch if they are to perform well on farm. If they are too hot or too cold, they will use more energy and, additionally, if too hot, they may dehydrate. Welfare in the holding room may be compromised without proper management, and the number of dead-on-arrival chicks at the farm will increase.

Consider the following to achieve optimal holding conditions.

Ensure the right environment

The ideal chick holding room temperature may be influenced by various factors, including chick size,



physical condition, room humidity, chick box type and air speed around the chick boxes. Additionally, holding room temperatures may need to be adjusted according to season.

As a general rule, however:

- Stacks of boxes should be placed in unbroken rows.
- Ensure room temperature is in the region of 71.6-82.4 F, depending on the air speed around the boxes.
- Use a good ventilation system. A good ventilation system will remove hot and humid air from around the chick boxes without creating a draft directly onto them.
- Roof circulation fans should work upward.
- Use fans to create a steady flow of air between rows of stacked boxes. Ensure that air temperature at chick level inside the chick box is approximately 89-90 F with 60-70% relative humidity.
- Ensure that air is not stale. The holding room should receive 85 cubic meters per 1,000 chicks. The carbon dioxide level should not exceed 2,000 ppm.
- Run the room at slightly negative pressure.
- Relative humidity should be at 50-65%.
- Use a dim blue light because chicks will be calmer.

Monitor chick behavior

Chicks use behavior to help regulate body temperature. Careful observation will tell you if they are comfortable or not.

- Do not place chicks under air inlets or in direct airflow because this can lead to them being chilled.
- Chicks at the correct temperature will be evenly spread out.
- Chicks that are huddled together are too cold.
- Are their legs and feet cold to the touch?
- Are chicks panting? If so, they are too hot.
- Sample from near the top of the box stacks, the middle and the bottom. Pay particular attention where panting or huddling is observed.

Chicks should be dispatched as quickly as possible, minimizing the time spent in the holding room. *SushiSu | iStock*



If chicks are at a comfortable temperature they will be evenly spread out in the crate. *NNehring | iStock*

- The above issues may occur close to walls or doors — ensure they are properly maintained.

Vent temperature

Studies have found that vent temperature is a good indicator of chick comfort. A chick will feel comfortable when its vent temperature is in the region of 103-105 F.

- Identify sample chicks and measure vent temperature hourly.
- If temperature is too high, lower room temperature settings; if too low, increase them.
- Conduct measurement and sampling at various locations in the holding room to determine where any hot or cold spots may be.
- Use this information to improve chick trolley design, trolley placement in the holding room, air circulation in the room and room ventilation to ensure that all chicks are comfortable.
- Use a spreadsheet to help map problem areas.



Longer incubation times could optimize chick quality: www.WATTAgNet.com/15770945



Partnerships drive food production stewardship, sustainability

USPOULTRY names Perdue Farms's Lewiston, North Carolina, broiler processing facility as the 2025 full treatment category winner.

JOHN PIERSON

High-quality treated wastewater along with a dedication to conservation and sustainable practices make the full-treatment facility for Perdue Farms in Lewiston, North Carolina, shine. The operation exemplifies the company's accountability ethos for environmental goals including greenhouse gas emissions, water use, energy use, recycling and compliance.

The Lewiston facility, built in 1976, processes 347,000 birds per day and treats an average of 2.4 million gallons of wastewater daily. Within Perdue Farms, the Lewiston facility was recognized for the "Most Improved Environmental Results for FY25."

Perdue Farms' Lewiston, North Carolina, broiler processing facility was selected as the 2025 U.S. Poultry & Egg Association Clean Water Award full treatment category winner. High-quality treated wastewater along with a dedication to

Aerial view of the covered anaerobic lagoons that generate methane for conversion to renewable natural gas (RNG). Inset: Perdue associates volunteer in an annual Project Clean Stream roadside pickup event.

Courtesy Ashton Weller | Perdue Farms

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conservation and sustainable practices solidified top honors as the full-treatment facility for Perdue Farms, Lewiston.

Facilities eligible for the full treatment category discharge permitted, treated effluent similar to municipal water reclamation facilities. Qualified facilities must have at least two current years of no significant non-compliances or notices of violations. A team of wastewater treatment experts reviews all applications and then selects semi-finalists. Judging is based upon a variety of factors including training, unique processes utilized for treatment, community outreach, wildlife management, water conservation and general environmental stewardship.



Ribbon cutting for commissioning of the RNG facility at the Lewiston broiler processing facility. Marc Fetton, CEO & founder, GreenGas USA., Randy Day, former CEO of Perdue Farms and Drew Getty, senior vice president, Environmental Sustainability and Government Relations, Perdue Farms *Courtesy Ashton Weller | Perdue Farms*

Clean water, less energy

For Lewiston, clean water starts with reducing water and energy intensity. Reductions in energy per finished pound are also underway and approximately 29% ahead of the FY26 goal. For both water and energy, an annual 1% reduction goal keeps the team focused on improvements.

Ashton Weller, facility environmental manager, notes that daily discussions occur regarding the status of key performance indicators. She highlights that these talks help to ensure that metrics related to both the weekly environmental index and monthly environmental scorecard stay at the forefront of sustainability efforts.

Water usage as gallons per bird was reduced by 22% in FY25, exceeding the facility target by 1%. An in-progress water reuse project captures and filters offal area water to wash screens. Recurring water audits conducted throughout the facility continue to identify opportunities to conserve water and improve on usage.

Winning teams and partnerships

A unique aspect of the Perdue Farms Lewiston wastewater process is that it also treats the dissolved air flotation pre-treated effluent from the neighboring Darling Ingredients rendering plant.

Matt Haynes, the Darling Ingredients east coast environmental affairs manager, notes that the wastewater partnership is a collaborative effort that also contributes to the overall success of Darling's environmental program.

Wastewater upgrades in 1989 targeted ammonia-nitrogen, and an additional upgrade was completed in 2009 for total nitrogen. In 2022, the two anaerobic lagoons totaling 60 million gallons were covered to capture methane. Through a partnership with GreenGas USA, methane is processed for conversion to renewable natural gas.

In 2024, an onsite carbon dioxide plant was commissioned to convert the captured anaerobic lagoon carbon dioxide into a food grade product. The 2025 daily average

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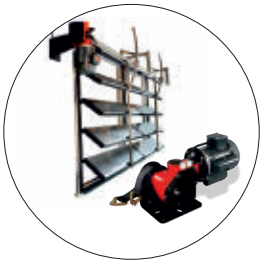
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production rates for renewable natural gas are 422 dT/day and 5,166 pounds/day for carbon dioxide, reducing the facility greenhouse gas emissions by 99%.

The combined waste stream is treated to levels 60% to 70% below the required compliance limits while also ensuring that water discharged to the Roanoke River meets whole effluent toxicity limits required for bioassay monitoring. The facility has a certified in-house laboratory that analyzes for 10 parameters, providing process control data and awareness of any conditions requiring attention by the staff wastewater operators.

Perdue Farms Lewiston solid waste reduction

Category of Solid Waste	Percentage of Total Diverted from Landfill
Total Waste Reused	8.1%
Total Waste Recycled	29.8%
Total Waste Used for Agriculture	14.7%
Total Waste Sent to Waste-to-Energy	47.5%

The table depicts the breakout of materials in percentage that were diverted for the duration of the Zero Waste to Landfill efforts, as of 2025.

Sustainability isn't easy, but worth the effort

In CY 2021, the Lewiston facility was GreenCircle Certified as "Zero Waste to Landfill." In 2022 and 2023, the site received GreenCircle certifications for 97% Landfill Diversion and 99% Landfill Diversion, respectively. However, in 2024, the incineration facility previously used was shut down, making landfilling the only option for solid waste.

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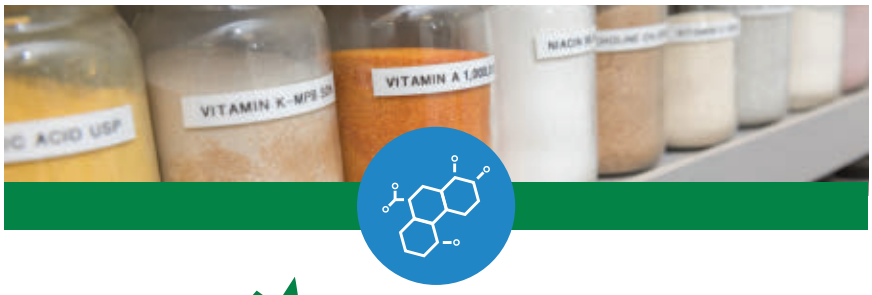
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The effort did divert a total of more than 7.5 million pounds from the landfill. The table depicts the breakout of materials in percentage that were diverted for the duration of the Zero Waste to Landfill efforts. As of 2025, Perdue Farms Lewiston continues to explore other options to divert from the landfill while minimizing solid waste generation.

Neal Powell, director of environmental compliance, points out that volunteer, off-the-clock, associate engagement projects and a facility sustainability project are essential scorecard elements where the Lewiston facility really shines.

Furthermore, the Lewiston facility team's steadfastness and how well it works together distinguished Lewiston as a worthy nominee for the Clean Water Award. For Powell, accomplishing all the complexities needed to successfully partner with Darling Ingredients and GreenGas USA exemplifies Perdue Farms Lewiston, North Carolina's, commitment to the Perdue Farms environmental stewardship pledge. ■

John Pierson, P.E., is an environmental engineer, a Clean Water Award judge, and a retired Principal Research Engineer from Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). Contact him at john@piersonpe.com.



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BASF is a leading global supplier of feed additives including vitamins (Lutavit), carotenoids (Lucantin), enzymes (Natuphos phytase, Natugrain TS NSP-degrading enzymes), organic acids (Luprosil, Amasil), omega-6s (Lutalin) and more. BASF's products meet highest safety standards and regulatory requirements worldwide. Traceability information is provided to BASF customers via GTNet, an internet-based platform, which is easily accessible at any time and anywhere.

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Big Dutchman develops and sells the world's leading poultry equipment for layers, broilers, breeders and turkeys. Progressive colony or true aviary housing for layers, well-proven feeding and egg handling systems, smart ventilation concepts as well as specialized feeding and nesting systems for breeders are only examples of Big Dutchman's many products and solutions for profitable poultry production.

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Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the world. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 180 affiliated companies in 47 countries and more than 52,000 employees. Our poultry vaccines like Vaxxitek offer a wide portfolio of solutions. We share our vision with our customers: Value through innovation.

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Since 1969, Diversified Agriculture has provided results-driven equipment and seamless technical support to maximize performance. Diversified offers a complete line of dependable solutions, including Rotem Controllers and Communication, Plasson Watering and Feeding, Diversified DuraDrive Curtain and Vent Machines, the Diversified Ventilation Series, Arad Water Meters, SRP Heaters, and Tefen Medicators.

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DPI Global
Booth A1536
www.dpiglobal.com

DPI Global is a leader in saponin-based technologies with over 55 years of dedicated research. Our proven lineup of innovative solutions focuses on improving the world's food supply by maximizing animal performance through optimized gut health and animal well-being while targeting odor mitigation and manure management. Our commitment to quality performance, customer satisfaction and global sustainability has allowed products such as Micro-Aid, Cocci-Guard and A-SAP to be the first choice in natural feed ingredients for progressive livestock, poultry and aquaculture producers across the world.

dsm-firmenich
Booth A1233
www.dsm-firmenich.com

At dsm-firmenich, our innovative feed additives help producers meet the challenges they face. Our solutions provide a wide range of benefits: they help improve production, productivity and welfare, reduce environmental impact and enhance product quality.

Dunlop Protective Footwear
Booth B40076
www.dunlopboots.com



Dunlop is the global leader in branded protective footwear recognized for performance in protection and comfort, offering market-inspired solutions and being a valuable partner.

EDGE Industrial Technologies
Booth B42036
www.edgeindtech.com

At TGW International, a proud EDGE Industrial Technologies brand, we've been dedicated to delivering the highest-quality industrial machine knives since 1908. Serving the packaging, food processing, converting and printing industries, we focus on providing superior products reinforced by personalized service and industry-leading technical expertise.

Empire Ag LLC
Booth A800
www.empireagllc.com

Empire Ag LLC was founded in 2018 with the determination and expertise to create a design-build general contracting company that has the ability to provide turnkey construction services for agricultural, biofuels, industrial and commercial industries. Our millwright crews are known for their dedication and ability to successfully complete construction projects in the seed, feed, flour, pet food and grain industries within the time constraints set forth by our customers. Empire Ag is your single-source design-build contractor. We are prepared to lead you through each phase of your project, whether it is a new or existing facility.

Evonik
Booth A1533
animal-nutrition.evonik.com

Evonik Animal Nutrition is a highly reliable, globally operating provider of science-driven products and services for sustainable and efficient meat, fish, eggs and milk production. The organization is marked by scientific excellence and sensitivity to the needs of our customers and society.

Fortiva
Booth A2227
www.fortivaimpact.com

Fortiva helps shape the future of animal resilience through impactful ingredients, serving large integrators and producers, veterinarians, independent nutritionists, feed manufacturers, co-ops and dealers throughout the United States. The company creates nonmedicated critical active ingredients that work with an animal's physiology to solve real-world challenges in livestock production. Fortiva is headquartered in Arden Hills, Minnesota.

Georgia Poultry Equipment Company
Booth B36033
www.hogslat.com

Georgia Poultry Equipment, a Hog Slat subsidiary, supplies innovative poultry and swine equipment and custom solutions for new builds or remodels. Supported by local service teams and a network of retail locations for quick access to essential parts, we're dedicated to enhancing productivity and efficiency for producers worldwide. Visit our website to discover industry-leading solutions.

Giordano Poultry Plast SPA
Booth B28007
www.poultryplast.com

Giordano Poultry Plast is devoted to the design and production of plastic equipment for the professional poultry industry. The largest offer presently available on the market, which covers every production stage: incubation, breeding, transport and slaughtering. Together there will be present GI-OVO the Dutch company of Giordano Holding specialized in the marketing of integrated solutions for the automated handling and transport of consumer and hatching eggs.

Hawkins
Booth BC39095
www.hawkinsinc.com

You need a reliable, domestic ingredient source you can trust. Hawkins has been serving customers for over 80 years and Hawkins Food Ingredients

is a leader in shelf-life science. Domestically produced liquid ingredients and antimicrobials. Also, Hawkins Water Treatment division provides chemicals, equipment and local service for poultry barn drinking water treatment, industrial process water treatment and wastewater treatment.

Heinen USA Corporation
Booth C36163
www.heinen.biz

The Heinen USA Corporation, based in Alpharetta, Georgia, is a 100% subsidiary of the successful German engineering company Heinen GmbH & Co. KG. It supplies customers in the U.S. and Canada with high-quality freezing, cooling and proofing systems. With nine product series, customized solutions and fast delivery, Heinen USA stands for German engineering, reliability and tailor-made service.

Henning Companies
Booth B29013
www.henningcompanies.com

As the leading general contractor specializing in poultry facilities nationwide, Henning crafts solutions that redefine the industry. For the past century Henning has been a cornerstone of strength, innovation and commitment in construction. From 500,000-square-foot laying operations to 5,000-square-foot tenant improvements, Henning is dedicated to delivering excellence through its client-first philosophy, showcasing a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction in every project.

Insta-Pro International
Booth A2133
www.insta-pro.com

Based in Grimes, Iowa, Insta-Pro International develops industry-leading equipment for producing chemical-free livestock and poultry feeds, vegetable oils and soy food products. We partner with universities and independent researchers to optimize nutritional value for ultimate animal performance and are committed to leading the industry around the world in continuously improving quality, output and efficiency.

International Nutrition
Booth A1925
www.ini-agworld.com

Manufacturer/distributor of quality feed additives, water dispersible premixes and specialty ingredients for livestock, poultry and aquaculture. Highly trained staff in newly constructed, modern premix facility can meet exacting requirements of all customers. Products include Pro-Pep, Sweet Iron, Spectralyte, Soluble Vitamix and IN-Stress. FDA approved, ISO 9001 and FSC 36 Safe Feed/Safe Food certified. Contract manufacturing service available.

Interstates
Booth A1520
www.interstates.com

Interstates offers electrical construction, electrical engineering and control system services. For 70 years, we've tackled complex challenges and developed innovative solutions for industrial manufacturing and processing facilities around the world. Whether your project is large or small, complex or simple, our knowledgeable teams will work alongside you to truly understand your needs and deliver exceptional results.

J&D Manufacturing
Booth B14055
www.jdmfg.com

J&D Manufacturing is your poultry climate control specialist. J&D's complete line of poultry market products include recirculation and exhaust fans, ceiling fans, ceiling and wall inlets, curtain systems and winches, evaporative pad cooling, high-pressure fogging, misting, wire mesh, environmental controls, lighting and more. J&D has been delivering quality products at competitive prices for over 30 years.

JBT Marel
Booth C22158
www.marel.com

Leading global provider of advanced food processing systems and services for the poultry and meat industries. The product range includes top-quality equipment for live handling, slaughtering, scalding, defeathering, desliming, evisceration, giblet, organ and byproduct handling, chilling, grading, cut-up, deboning, meat harvesting, skinning, bone detection, portioning, preparation, forming, coating, freezing, sausage making, heat treatment, batching, end-product logistics and software solutions.

JH Biotech Inc.
Booth A1260
www.jhbiotech.com

For over 37 years, we have led the way in innovative agriculture, providing livestock producers with safe and effective feed additives, natural health solutions and sustainable environmental enhancements. Our flagship Buffermin line of chelated minerals and TruPhyte range of natural supplements help producers meet the rising demand for organic and antibiotic-free animal products. These advances drive robust growth, reduce antibiotic reliance and minimize environmental impact, supporting the industry's shift toward sustainable and responsible farming practices.

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Kemin
Booths A1825, C27155
www.kemin.com

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As a leading provider of food technologies, Kemin knows how to keep your product safe, of high quality and appealing. With our range of plant-based extracts, antioxidants, antimicrobials and functional proteins, we provide shelf-life, flavor and color, food safety and yield enhancement solutions.

KT Pacer
Booth A2233
https://ktpacer.com

A Marmon | Berkshire Hathaway Company

For nearly 50 years, KT Pacer has led the industry in aluminum feed transportation equipment, known for innovative design and superior manufacturing. We offer complete feed delivery solutions, repairs and rebuilds for all makes and models. Every PACER unit combines lightweight durability, patented aluminum construction and customizable features to deliver efficiency and reliability worldwide.

LANXESS Corporation
Booth B36009
http://virkon.us

Shaping the Future of Biosecurity

LANXESS Biosecurity Solutions has over 70 years' expertise in the research and development of science-based cleaners and disinfectants for animal health, husbandry and livestock production. Focused on biosecurity today and in the future, LANXESS Biosecurity Solutions offers and invests in sustainable, innovative and cost-effective technologies that protect and improve animal health. The Virkon range of science-based biocidal technologies, for animal health disinfection, has been specifically engineered to provide effective, flexible and convenient modern-formulated disinfectant solutions for commercial livestock producers, veterinary hospitals and farmers.

Lone Star Enterprises
Booth A1001
www.lonestarenterprises.com

Lone Star Enterprises specializes in design and manufacturing of state-of-the-art animal feed roller grinder mills and accessories. We offer portable, stationary and fully automated roller mills as well as our own line of grain and seed cleaners and accessories to help streamline your operation. Come see us at IPPE to see how we can help you!

Meyhen International
Booth C25151
www.meyhenfingers.com

Meyhen International is the U.S. distributor of Duram Picking Fingers and a leading supplier for the North American market. Made from high quality materials, Duram Picking Fingers are designed to increase both precision and longevity. With several degrees of hardness, multiple colors and antibacterial availability, Meyhen has a solution for all processing needs. Experience the latest defeathering technology with our patented two-plate Easy Change Picking System.

NestBorn / Incubel
Booth B25050
www.nestborn.eu

Incubel has grown into a major partner for the supply of hatching eggs and day-old chicks from Europe to Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. NestBorn is an affordable and accessible on-farm hatching system for broilers. The advantages of NestBorn are optimal chick welfare, better technical performance and significant lower use of antibiotics.

Novonesis
Booth A621
www.novonesis.com

Chr. Hansen and Novozymes have joined forces to create Novonesis, a leading biosolutions partner. Novonesis means "a new beginning." It's derived from the Greek word "genesis." And that's what we offer: a new beginning based on the power of biology.

Novus International
Booth A1833
www.novusint.com

NOVUS is the intelligent nutrition company. We combine scientific research with local insights to develop innovative technologies that are Made of More than what is expected from traditional feed additives.

O&T Farms
Booth A1812
www.otfarms.ca

Naturally Better

O&T Farms manufactures several highly digestible and stable Omega-3 animal feeds under the name LinPRO; blending flaxseed, canola and pulses in a patented dry-extrusion process. LinPRO is both non-GMO and Organic certified, and is the leading specialty feed ingredient for Omega-3 Egg enrichment in North America. With a patent extending to over 40 countries, O&T provides a "naturally better" solution for Omega-3 functional foods.

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Booth B37003
www.parker.com/hvac

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Phibro Animal Health Corporation
Booth A2433
www.pahc.com

Phibro Animal Health Corporation is a leading global diversified animal health and nutrition company. We strive to be a trusted partner with livestock producers, farmers, veterinarians and consumers who raise or care for farm and companion animals by providing solutions to help them maintain and enhance the health of their animals.

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Booth B22060
www.pixon.biz

Pixon Company Inc. is proud to be the only authorized manufacturer and seller of the famed Lyon Beak Trimmer, used in thousands of farms around the world, thus continuing to offer customers the same quality Lyon Technologies was known for over 100 years. With units continuously operating in the field for 30-40 years, Lyon is the trimmer everyone else copies.

Pneumat Systems Inc.
Booth A426
www.pneumat.com

Don't miss out on your chance to see the Dual Impact BinWhip from Pneumat Systems, the world's most powerful silo cleaning system. Pneumat equipment is used in more than 65 countries to keep critical commodities like grains, protein meals, fertilizer and countless ag products flowing. Other product lines include our RailSpreader to optimize railcar loading and the HopperBot intelligent railcar unloader. We make bulk flow — safer, faster, easier.

QMS International
Booth C36169
www.qmsintl.com

Visit us and ask about the new model Siebeck FRT-MF MK 4.1 poultry tying machine. The FRT-MF MK 4.1 is a versatile, semi-automatic poultry tying machine, providing an alternative to the labor-intensive process of hand trussing birds. Processors are able to yield quality products in less time. The machine uses fewer operators resulting in a lower cost with increased hygiene.

QTI
Booth A2727
www.qtitechnology.com

QTI provides natural products for improved production performance, return-on-investment and food safety to help conventional, antibiotic-free and organic producers reach their goals. QTI's portfolio includes probiotics, prebiotics, botanicals, organic acids and water supplements. USA-based QTI has been a leader in natural intestinal health products for more than 25 years.

QuantiPath
Booth B50005
www.quantipath.bio

QuantiPath's innovative genetic testing technology precisely identifies and quantifies *Salmonella* serovars with unparalleled accuracy and speed. QuantiPath is a science-driven biotech initiative led by seasoned executives on a mission to safeguard the food supply by revolutionizing food pathogen testing. Developed over more than a decade by researchers at Tuskegee University and now exclusively licensed for global deployment, GenoPATHX is a game-changing platform for food safety testing. Our commitment is to deliver rapid, actionable diagnostics that protect livestock, consumers and brands.

Scott Equipment Company
Booth A1429
www.scottequipment.com

Scott Equipment Company is a trusted manufacturer of custom, high-quality industrial processing equipment serving diverse industries. With two manufacturing facilities and a state-of-the-art pilot plant, we deliver reliable, long-term solutions. Our on-site engineers and welders ensure superior support, secure warranties and expert handling of even the most complex projects from concept to completion.

Space-Ray
Booth B33019
www.gasfiredproducts.com

Space-Ray, Charlotte, North Carolina, will display our popular LoPro, a low-profile, high-efficiency, quick-assembly radiant brooder. Also displayed will be the Space-Ray Big Foot tube brooders with an extra-wide, rectangular heat pattern. Space-Ray also offers energy-efficient radiant and single-jet brooders and both negative-pressure and positive-pressure tube-type gas heaters for poultry and swine applications.

Spartan Chemical Company
Booth BC42091
www.spartanchemical.com

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Star-Labs
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www.primalac.com

PRIMALAC Direct Fed Microbials are formulated with selected cultures grown together for superior efficacy in maintaining proper microflora balance in the intestinal tract. Only PRIMALAC DFMs are stabilized with the Thermo-Positive System, a process that assures resistance to stomach juices, bile, numerous antibiotics and the high heat of pelleting. Stable PRIMALAC cultures remain viable and can improve performance of all poultry feeds.

Steen
Booth C42169
www.steen.be

Skinning and deboning equipment. Steen equipment is built for high speed for chicken or turkey. Water is not a processing requirement.

TARGAN
Booth B31059
www.targan.com

TARGAN Poultry Systems is transforming hatchery automation through next-generation technologies that deliver precision, speed and scale. Our flagship WingScan technology offers high-throughput, AI-powered chick sexing with over 98% accuracy — enabling hatcheries to process up to 160,000 birds per hour while minimizing handling and advancing animal welfare. In parallel, our vaccination system enables individualized delivery of vaccines at unmatched speed and consistency, supporting better flock health from day one.

Thomas Precision Inc.
Booth C45137
www.tpm-inc.com

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Trouw Nutrition
Booth A823
www.trouw-nutritionusa.com

Trouw Nutrition is a leading animal nutrition company with over 90 years of experience and presence in 105 countries. With a broad portfolio of feed specialties, feed additives, premixes and nutritional models and services, along with ever-increasing expertise in feed, farm and health makes them a one-stop-shop with limitless opportunities to create tailored, integrated solutions suited to each customer's local situation.

United Animal Health
Booth B10007
www.unitedanh.com

United Animal Health produces a wide range of solutions serving the areas of animal nutrition and animal health. We continuously innovate for the benefit of our customers. At United Animal Health, we develop solutions that deliver results because we understand your issues and problems.

VAA LLC (Van Sickle, Allen & Associates)
Booth A1723
www.vaaeng.com

VAA is a nationally recognized engineering, planning and design firm with more than four decades of expertise. From bulk commodity-handling facilities to processing facilities, waterfront distribution terminals to interfacility rail design — and beyond. Clients choose VAA for our unique ability to understand their realities, integrate the various elements of a solution and cultivate long-term, mutually successful partnerships.

Walinga
Booth A2417
www.walinga.com

Walinga manufactures a complete line of bulk feed bodies and bulk feed trailers. Walinga also manufactures pneumatic conveying systems and vacuum conveying systems for the grain and feed industry. Since 1954, the Walinga line of bulk feed delivery units have been the equipment of choice. These units allow the operator maximum load capabilities, minimum weight to strength ratio, and of course our quality guarantee.

WATT Global Media
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www.WATTGlobalMedia.com

WATT Global Media has a proven track record of accelerating business growth for agrifood and pet food businesses for over 100 years. Our extensive portfolio of industry events and media brands provides access to market expertise, engaged audiences and targeted strategies that drive successful connections in the poultry, feed, grain and pet food industries. Contact us for custom marketing solutions served through innovative technologies and delivery channels.

Zoetis
Booth B19019
www.zoetis.com/poultry

As the world's leading animal health company, Zoetis exists to nurture our world and humankind by advancing care for animals. With nearly 70 years of experience innovating a leading portfolio and pipeline of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and technologies, we stand by those caring for animals by providing solutions. Our biodevices set the standard for *in ovo* vaccination technology in poultry hatcheries worldwide.

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Join industry peers, experts, and decision-makers at The Poultry Federation's 2026 educational events—designed to deliver practical insight, timely research, and real-world solutions across live production, processing, nutrition, food safety, and leadership.

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March 31–April 2, 2026 | Hot Springs, AR

- Regulatory updates & compliance strategies
- Data-driven food safety practices
- Industry, academic, and government perspectives

Nutrition Conference

August 25–27, 2026 | Little Rock, AR

- Poultry nutrition research & innovation
- Feed formulation, health, and performance
- Practical applications for today's challenges

Poultry Symposium for Live Production

October 12–14, 2026 | Rogers, AR

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- Operational efficiency and workforce topics
- Peer-to-peer learning and best practices

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- **Practical, applicable takeaways**
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