



NECOX[®]

USE OF NECOX[®] ON A COMMERCIAL BROILER FARM

INTRODUCTION

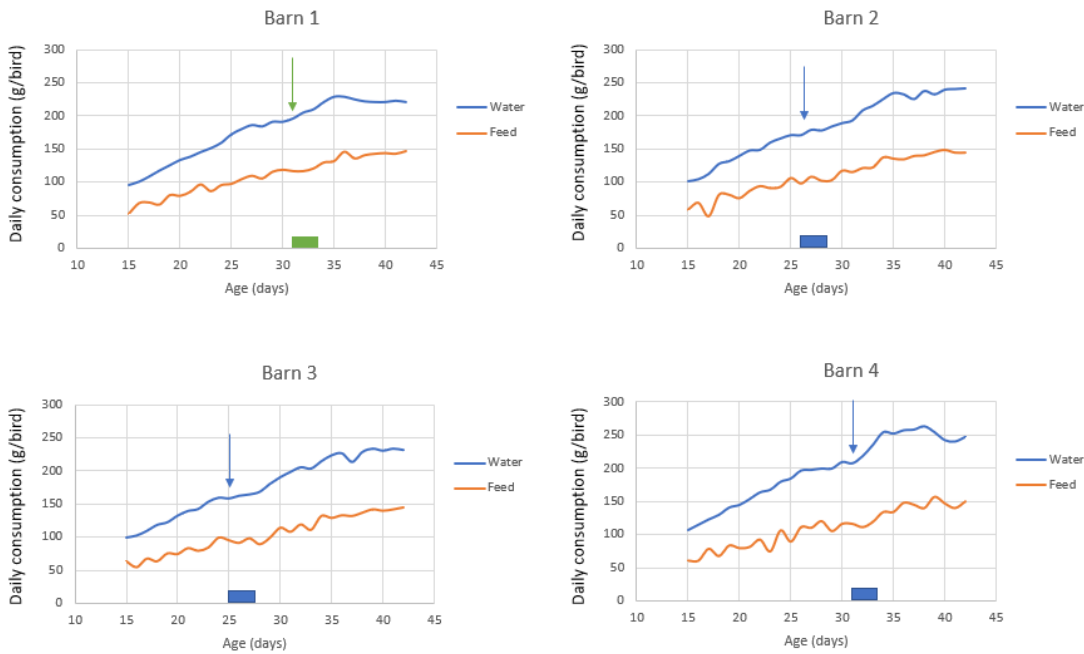
Daily water and feed intake development are good indicators of the health status of a broiler flock. When water intake, and subsequently feed intake, stops to increase on a daily basis, it is generally an indication for the onset of health problems. The faster a farmer acts upon such observations, the better the health status of a flock can be maintained and a drop in performance prevented. NECOX[®], a phytogenic drinking water supplement, enables such an immediate response. It is based on garlic, cinnamon and oregano oil and controls the pathogenicity of the microbiota. This report describes a field trial on a broiler farm in the Netherlands.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Approximately 100.000 Ross Ranger Classic broilers were housed in four barns on a commercial broiler farm in the Netherlands. Broilers were reared for 49 days to reach a final body weight of approx. 2500 g. Wood shavings were used as bedding material.
- A 4-phase wheat/corn/soya diet was fed: Starter, 0-14 days (incl. 80 g pre-starter feed); grower 1, 15-28 days; grower 2, 29-38 days and finisher, 39-49 days of age. Maxiban was used as coccidiostat up to 39 days of age, whereas no coccidiostat was used in the finisher phase.
- Feed and water were *ad libitum* available.

RESULTS

Daily feed and water consumption are given per barn in the figure. NECOX[®] (500 mL/m³) was added to the drinking water during 3 consecutive days in Barn 2, 3, 4 and with CuSO₄ (10 g/m³) in Barn 1, when water and/or feed intake ceased to increase (as indicated by the arrow) and digestive disorders were observed. Treatment duration is indicated by the box (green for CuSO₄, and blue for NECOX[®]).



In Barn 1 and 4, *Eimeria tenella* infection was observed prior to start of supplementation. Average performance per barn is given in the following table.

	Barn 1	Barn 2	Barn 3	Barn 4
Drinking water supplement:	CuSO ₄	Necox [®]		
Number of broilers	27'820	25'110	20'160	25'830
Final body weight, g	2462	2475	2465	2539
Daily weight gain, g	50,2	51,6	50,3	51,8
FCR	1,846	1,778	1,785	1,815
FCRc*	1,851	1,780	1,799	1,804
Foot pad lesion score	53	6	30	18
Carcass condemnations, %	0,58	0,12	0,36	0,33

*FCRc: corrected for the average body weight (0.02/100 g BW)

Water intake increased again after drinking water supplementation. NECOX[®] resulted in a better FCR compared to CuSO₄ and fewer birds were removed for health issues. Daily gain was similar among barns. The farmer indicated that the broilers' general appearance at the end of the rearing period favored Barns 2, 3 and 4 over Barn 1, as was the case for foot pad lesion scores and carcass condemnations.

CONCLUSIONS

Supplementation of drinking water with NECOX[®] (500 mL/m³) during 3 consecutive days resulted in a 5 to 7 points better FCR at a similar to better daily weight gain. Foot pad lesion scores and carcass condemnations also favored NECOX[®] over CuSO₄ in drinking water.

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