

Sense and animal welfare prevail in antibiotic-free production



Moving towards antibiotic-free production was a recurring theme at Asian Agribiz's Poultry Health Conference 2019.



The industry, while rattled initially by the withdrawal of antibiotics, is now embracing it and adopting measures to ensure better productivity and safer products.

Most presenters agreed that sense is prevailing now that the industry is settling into the ABF culture and acknowledged the importance of animal welfare. When a flock's



Pat Blackall

health is compromised, permissible antibiotics should be administered, but only under veterinary guidance.

Held on May 7-8 at the Hilton Sukhumvit Bangkok, the conference was led by Tom Grimes, Chairman and Program Director. Its theme of 'Antibiotic use and controls in poultry – Current trends and the future' drew more than 110 delegates from 18 countries.

Sensible approach to ABF production

In the introductory presentation, Pat Blackall, Principle Research Fellow at the University of



Tom Grimes chairing a panel discussion.

Queensland, urged the poultry industry to take the lead in antimicrobial stewardship, saying that antimicrobial resistance is a major issue in sustainable farming practices.

"While a number of claims of the movement of AMR genes—particularly those connected to *E. coli* and antibiotic resistant forms of *E. coli*—from chickens to humans have been published, these claims are not fully supported by evidence used to make those claims," he said.

Addressing programs to reduce antibiotics and AMR, Mr Grimes, who was speaking on behalf of John Smith, an American Poultry Veterinary Consultant, championed judicious use of antimicrobial drugs. He said it pays to be judicious because doing so reduces drug costs with no adverse effects on the health and performance of animals.

"Besides, it builds



Orlando Fernandez

consumer confidence and widens market reach, while preserving antibiotic efficacy," he said. He added that raising birds without ever using antibiotics costs more and offers no benefit to the birds, society or the environment.

Role of breeder, hatchery and husbandry in reducing antibiotics use and AMR

Orlando Fernandez, of Cobb Asia in the Philippines, emphasized breeder health and focused on the considerations needed for a vaccination program. He said this



Donna Hill

should be kept as simple as possible as proper techniques should be employed to ensure that vaccines get into the birds.

Hatchery Management Consultant Donna Hill added to this by stating that the hatchery is a crucial step in taking a 'no antibiotics ever' (NAE) approach. Egg quality and sanitation, hatchery sanitation, incubation and chick handling were each critical areas to consider.

"There are numerous ways that chicks can be exposed to salmonella in the hatchery," she said. "A correlation exists between hatchery-acquired salmonella and the production of salmonella seeder chicks."

Reducing antibiotic use and AMR

Dan Pearson, Veterinary Health Director for Europe at Aviagen UK, said all



Dan Pearson

AGPs are banned in the EU and all other antibiotics must be licensed and prescribed by veterinarians for use in livestock.

"To achieve reductions in antibiotic use, most companies have used a combination of feed and water additives, but no one class of products have emerged as a solution," he said.

"A combination of measures combining best management practices and feed and water additives seems to work."

Moreover, Kiran Doranalli, Technical Director



Kiran Doranalli

The lighter side

Apart from tea and meal breaks which offered participants ample opportunity to network with one another and the speakers, Asian Agribiz also hosted a cocktail reception.

The draw at that event was two prizes for dinner-for-two at the Radisson Hotel, which were won by Poultry Consultant, Gordon Butland and Michael Kampschoer of Pas Reform.

It featured a draw with two prizes for dinner-for-two at the Radisson Hotel, won by Poultry Consultant Gordon Butland and Michael Kampschoer of Pas Reform.

In addition, prizes were offered to three participants who had provided feedback that will be used by Asian Agribiz to help design its future conferences.

Marilyn Sim, of Daimond V in Malaysia, received a Deelite International buffet voucher; Muhammad Irfan Ghazi, of Ghazi Brotherx in Pakistan, won a Mondo Afternoon tea set, while Niwat Chansiriphochai of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, will dine at Attico Radisson.

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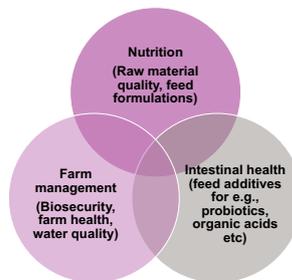
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Antibiotic free production is a multidimensional approach
We are bound to fail if we don't follow these essential elements



- Farm management to reduce pathogens:**
 - Understand the purpose of using antibiotics at the farm and try to reduce exposure of animals to such bacteria.
 - Replace AGP with other gut health feed additives
- Nutritional management:**
 - Feed retention time and the efficiency of digestion and absorption are reduced by several feed ingredient characteristics including viscosity, particle size, digestibility (protein, starch, fat), and lipid or protein content.
- Intestinal health management:**
 - Prevent pathogenic bacterial overgrowth by using feed additive
 - These additives are must. There is no second thought about using them
 - However, these additives are most effective when farm and nutritional management are take care first.

Thumbs up!!

“The Poultry Health Conference gave me a holistic view and a combination of knowledge on feed, hatchery vaccine with a mix of commercial backgrounds. The case study presented by Betagro was interesting. In the future, I would love to learn more about raising poultry without antibiotics from other regions at the conference.” – **Dr Lau Kah May, Veterinarian, Taseen Trading, Malaysia**

“Singapore has embarked on a national action plan for microbial stewardship. Attending this conference has given me a better understanding of general guidelines and requirements needed for the transformation towards an antibiotic-free direction and overall challenges that poultry producers will be facing in the next few years.” – **Dr Lai Jun Yu, Veterinarian, Seng Choon Farm, Singapore**

“I would love to hear less about biosecurity management as a concept, but more in detail about accreditation, its definition applied to different types of poultry farming, so that participants can learn not only about the impact of antibiotic use and its effects, but also actual challenges when opting for antibiotic-free or non-antibiotic farming.” – **Dr Phang Yuen Fun, Technical Services, Boehringer Ingelheim, Malaysia**

“For a person from the marketing field, it would be great if more case studies and evidence-based scientific reports are presented, so I can understand more in depth and explain to clients clearly about the impact of antibiotics and non-antibiotic use in the livestock industry, particularly poultry. Such details would surely be beneficial for the future poultry health conference and the overall participants.” – **Marilyn Sim, Business Development, Diamond V, Malaysia**

“I found the conference useful as it highlighted global needs for raising poultry without antibiotics. As I am responsible for the vaccine department, I learnt more about the opportunities for additional nutrition and alternative products, and will explain them to my team and clients in the Indian market.” – **Joshua Coilraj Thangaraj, Aviagen, India**

◁ for Gut health Solutions at Evonik Nutrition and Care, emphasized that ABF production requires a multi-dimensional approach.

Numerous definitions of ABF produce

On the second day, discussions centered

on the role of broiler vaccination and husbandry programs in reducing antibiotic use and AMR. They also looked at the importance of disease control and controlling gut infections while doing so.

A no-antibiotics policy could translate to a number of definitions, said Sakdid

Anulomsombat, Food Safety and QM Manger at Betagro in Thailand. It could mean raised without AGPs, without medically important antibiotics or without critically important antibiotics.

“Betagro is changing to meet consumer demand and food labels



Sakdid Anulomsombat

are reflecting this,” he explained. These labels, in addition to promoting food safety, also combine organic and animal welfare elements.

Production efficiency

Producers are being challenged by thin margins and fierce competition. To counter this, producers must focus on efficiency and reduce losses, said Christophe Cazaban, Global Veterinary Services Manager at Ceva Sante Animale.

“Targets should be set



Christophe Cazaban



Registration was a smooth process for the delegates.



Gordon Butland (right) and Michael Kampschoer.



Comfortable atmosphere amidst the heavy presentations.

top-down and across the value chain. Regular monitoring of the sanitary status of all production areas, starting with the hatchery, should be initiated and followed through," he said.

Good husbandry and biosecurity

Newcastle disease (ND) and avian influenza negatively impact poultry production globally, and co-infection with both diseases is not uncommon but hard to detect in the field, said Ming Yong, Head of Marketing at Boehringer Ingelheim.

"Together with good husbandry practices and sound biosecurity, ND and AI can be controlled, leading to healthier flocks and the reduced use of antibiotics," he said.

Meanwhile, coccidiosis prevention will help reduce antibiotic use in poultry production. The parasitic disease is regarded as costly because it causes gut health to deteriorate and increases the need for antibiotic treatments to curb intestinal bacterial overgrowth, wet droppings and other health issues.

"It is ubiquitous; if you do not take steps to

prevent it in commercial situations with dense populations, subclinical and even clinical issues are almost guaranteed," said Mr Grimes. Control of coccidiosis would effectively eliminate necrotic enteritis while reducing the need for antibiotics and making vaccination more feasible.

Mycotoxin management

Antinutritional factors in feed, including mycotoxins, are central to the heavy use of antibiotics, said Michele Muccio, Production Manager at Biomin. Mr Muccio stressed the severity of mycotoxin contamination saying this could impair gut health and nutrient adsorption, while also increasing the severity of pathogenic diseases.

The use of good agricultural and manufacturing practices, as well as other common guidelines, will help control and reduce mycotoxin contamination, particularly in the storage of feed ingredients like rice, soybean and corn, he said. **Ap**

Interesting slides from the conference:

Pat Blackall: Why is antibiotic use...

It is important that national governments develop national priority listings and this should cover both humans and animals. These listings should be reflective of national epidemiology, relevant target pathogens and other local conditions.

Antimicrobial Priority Listing

Agent	WHO Listing	OIE Listing
Aminoglycosides	Critical	Critical
3 rd gen Cephalosporins	Critical	Critical
Macrolides	Critical	Critical
Penicillins (Natural and Amino)	Critical	Critical
2 nd gen Quinolones	Critical	Critical
Amphenicols	High	Critical
Sulfonamides	High	Critical
Tetracyclines	High	Critical



The spread of AMR

