



Vet of the Month:

Catarina Guerreiro

Catarina qualified as a vet from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Lisbon, in 1999. After working for some time as a mixed practitioner, she obtained a Masters Degree in Animal Production in 2003. She then became involved in research, using molecular biology techniques to produce enzymes and studying the use of those enzymes in poultry nutrition. As a result, she obtained a PhD in Veterinary Sciences in 2008. Since then she has been working in the UK as an Official Veterinarian and as a Meat Inspector in Herefordshire and Powys so knows the area well. Catarina's previous experience will give us great insight into the future of enzymes in poultry production as we try to further reduce antibiotic use in the industry.



Project Farming Connect

We are working with a project called Farming Connect- Wales. Their aim is to provide farmers with bespoke one to one advice, training and access to a range of events. They are offering some funding, £50 towards vet time and £100 towards lab fees for example worm egg counts, blood testing and bacteriology. To qualify for this you need to live in Wales, have a holding number and register before 31st March 2019. You can contact Gwenan Jones at 01970 636296 to find out more.

B-Act Probiotic: prevention of leg problems in broiler farms

B-Act is a probiotic, containing the bacteria *Bacillus licheniformis*. In B-Act the bacteria is sporulated, meaning that it will survive milling and pelleting and can be used in feed, but is also stable in chlorinated water and can be used through the drinking water during disinfection, acidification and chlorination. The product not only provides probiotic effects, but also produces Lichenicidin, an antibacterial peptide with very good effects against other bacteria causing gut and **lameness issues**. B-Act is beneficial in maintaining stabilised gut health and tight junctions protecting against bacterial leg issues.



There is no withdrawal period for eggs and meat, meaning it is safe to use at any stage of production and can also be used during vaccination and antibiotic treatment. The suggested programme in water for broilers is Day 0 to day 7 and again from Day 14 to day 28. One 2kg bucket contains 20 x 100g sachets and each sachet is enough for 20,000 birds for one day. **The cost** of the treatment is £0.43 for every 1,000 birds per day of treatment.

B-Act could also be incorporated into an existing probiotic programme to target specific issues, for example, with necrotic enteritis or lameness. Please contact your local PHS branch if you would like any advice on how you could use B-Act effectively on your site.

B-Act[®]

Hereford - 01981 241320 Leominster - 01568 610343 Sutton Bonington - 01159 516551

Barton/Tarvin- 01772 428357 Beeford - 01262 488323 Edinburgh—0131 4456236

Sheriff Hutton - 01347 820366 Edinburgh—0131 445 6236

Feather pecking and Hartshorn Oil

Feather pecking is one of the most widespread problems in the free-range egg production and most difficult to control. It can be triggered by a range of different reasons such as stress in response to new sudden changes, unevenness of the flock, inadequate ventilation or lighting, poor quality litter, nutritional deficiencies or health problems such as presence of intestinal worms or red mite.

It is important to monitor the hens closely, as feather pecking can be learned between birds. Hens with irregular plumage or wounds will become a target for other birds and the problem may be difficult or even impossible to control, once a considerable number of hens have their plumage damaged.

Control measures would include the dimming of the lights, increasing the enrichment of the house (strings, bales of alfalfa, red plastic dishes, pecking mineral blocks etc.), ensuring good ventilation, friable litter and increase of the fibre in the feed. For individual animals with visible wounds, the best option would be to separate them from the rest in isolation pens, applying oil of hartshorn in spray over the wounds and bald patches. This product gives off bad smell and deters other animals from pecking at the wounds and we are able to provide cans of hartshorn oil from our branch in Sheriff Hutton.

Feather pecking is a multifactorial problem and we should adopt a comprehensive approach to this problem. Please, contact your local branch if you have any queries about feather pecking and/or hartshorn oil.



Look out for our NEW online Lion Passport Training Courses

Our layer courses are **Lion Code approved** and are available now. The courses are: Poultry Health and Welfare Operative, Poultry Health and Welfare Management and Biosecurity and Egg Handling. They offer very good value for money as they are a fraction of the price of the conventional courses. The training courses cost £20 +VAT each or £50 +VAT when purchased together for PHS clients and £30 +VAT or £80 +VAT for the three courses for non-PHS clients. Login on-line <http://farmiq.co.uk/courses/poultry> or call us to register for the courses.



Yorkshire free range producers discussion group

A meeting of the Yorkshire Egg Producers Discussion group was held on Wednesday 16th January. The speaker was Ian Rubinoff from Hy-line Technical Services, who spoke about the importance of lighting during the laying cycle. It was an informative and engaging presentation, which was reflected in what must have been a record turnout! A big thank you to the organisers for a useful and enjoyable evening.

Use of Diatomaceous earth products in Lion Code farms (Clarification from BEIC)

We had a number of egg producers asking if the use of Diatomaceous earth products is acceptable for use for the control of red mite on Lion Code farms.

BEIC has informed us that two products based on silica, including diatomaceous earth, have been submitted for Biotic Product Regulations Approval.

BEIC **is not** currently taking action against Lion Code producers using diatomaceous earth products whilst the list is under review.

A new list clarifying BEIC position will be issued as soon as the review is complete.

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