



## Product of the Month: MULTIVIT EXTRA

A good formulated diet should cover all the bird needs when it comes to vitamin requirements. However, when the health of the birds is compromised (i.e. weak chicks or enteritis) the birds may benefit from the use of multivitamins. Multivits are also recommended in periods of stress (i.e. due to vaccinations or birds being thinned). Our vitamins are formulated specifically by poultry nutritionists and poultry vets and have been recently reformulated to ensure that they cover the needs of the modern poultry breeds. They are very competitively priced and administered at specific times they can be very beneficial. We advise that a water sanitation programme is in place when you use any nutraceuticals or vitamins. Please ring us if you need vet advice about how these products are best administered.

## Vet of the Month: Rafael Mala

Rafael graduated from Porto University, Portugal in 2010 and started working in 2011 in the UK. He has worked in different veterinary roles including working in the Food Industry to farm animal practice in Cornwall, followed by a 3-year position at the APHA in Devon, Somerset and Dorset. He has experience dealing with statutory requirements on poultry farms and his area of interest is mostly within poultry production and poultry welfare. Rafael is based at our Leominster Practice but you may see him also supporting our new Practice at Shrewsbury. In his spare time, Rafael is a keen runner and climber and once tried a 54 mile walk in 24 hours for charity.



## ORT and Mycoplasma PCR testing now available at our lab

The laboratory at Sheriff Hutton (York) is now offering in-house PCR testing for Mycoplasma and ORT. PCR is a DNA test that finds the genetic material of the bacteria even when the bacteria is in low numbers in your birds. This means that infections can be found in the early stages when the birds are still not showing antibodies in the blood samples or when the bacteria is difficult to culture.

*Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* (ORT) is a bacteria that causes lameness and also increased rejects associated to airsacculitis and peritonitis in turkeys and broilers. It has also been associated with increased mortality in laying hens. This bacteria is difficult to isolate at the lab and it can take more than one attempt to find it in birds submitted for post-mortem examination.

Mycoplasma can produce severe egg drops in laying hens and high mortality associated to secondary bacterial or viral infections.

You can take the swabs yourself on farm and send them to the lab for testing. The results are always interpreted by a poultry vet who will be able to advise on how to proceed depending on the results. For sampling kits, or any questions regarding the new testing, please contact the laboratory on 01347 820378 or email: [yorklab@biobest.co.uk](mailto:yorklab@biobest.co.uk)

## Salmonella testing : submission forms

When sending Salmonella swabs for testing, please put the submission form for each sample in a separate plastic bag, attach this securely to the outside of the sample bag, and write the farm name and house number on both **in permanent marker**.

This reduces the risk of cross-contamination, and helps get your results to you as quickly as possible.

## WATER TESTING...is it worth doing?

Everyone agrees that the microbial quality of the feed that we give to our birds is of paramount importance. Feed is treated and tested on a regular basis to make sure that it is free of certain contaminants, for instance Salmonella. When it comes to water, it is surprising how many producers are still not testing water on a regular basis. Water is the first thing that the chicks have access to (before they find the feed) and broilers will end drinking 2 to 3 times what they eat. Bearing this in mind, it is very important that birds have access to clean water from day one and that this is maintained throughout the life of the flock. A number of vaccines are also administered through the water and can be inactivated if water is not of good quality. There are different tests that can be done to assess water quality, including (indicative) on-farm meters that can give you an idea of water quality. We recommend testing at a reliable poultry lab. A standard water test for general bacteria (TVC) would cost you less than £15 (exc VAT) and it will give you an accurate indication on how clean your water is. You can find out which bacteria specifically is in the water by requesting a bacterial profile; this is particularly useful if your birds have suffered from bacterial infections as you can correlate the bacteria in the water with the bacteria that was causing the infection in the birds. It also helps to choose the best sanitiser for the specific bacteria that you have in your water system.

If you need help with your specific case, please contact any of our poultry vets. We are not linked to any specific sanitising products and offer professional, independent advice.

## Congratulations to Emma King!

Sheriff Hutton vet, Emma King, has just been selected from a number of vets to join the Avian Expert Group (AEG). The AEG is part of the Surveillance Intelligence Unit of the APHA and is composed of avian specialists from industry, government and research bodies. The aim of the group is to share knowledge and carry out surveillance across the UK, to monitor for changing patterns or emerging threats in the field of avian disease. Interesting work!



## Are your training records up to date?

If they are not, you can now join our popular broiler and layer accredited courses. **These courses are only £20 for clients** (£30 for non-clients) and you can print the training certificate at home. You can do as much or as little as you want every day to fit with your day to day work, whilst making sure that you are compliant with the Red Tractor or Lion Code requirements for training. If you would like to enrol on the courses, please contact us at any of the numbers below or log in on <http://farmiq.co.uk/courses/poultry/> and follow the instructions to join the courses.



## Social Media

You can now find us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn! All of which are very active pages with lots of useful information posted daily– come and give us a follow!



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

Barton - 01772 428357 Wrexham - 01772 428357 Beeford - 01262 488323

Sheriff Hutton - 01347 820366 Shropshire - 01568 610343

[www.poultryhealthservices.com](http://www.poultryhealthservices.com)