

Can we substitute avilamycin by a non medicated solution in broiler production ?

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Introduction

Antibiotics have been used for decades in broiler chicken production for their gut microflora regulation effect, resulting in growth promotion. Governments and consumers are more and more aware of damageable consequences of in routine use of antibiotics and as a consequence, there is a growing need for farmers to find alternatives without losing profitability. In this context, a patented activated clay, commercially named B-Safe, was compared to avilamycin in a field study.

Material and methods

468 000 broilers – ROSS 308

CONTROL

12 buildings
x 19 500 broilers

10 ppm
avilamycin

0-8 d	▶
9-21 d	▶
22-34 d	▶
34-39 d	▶

TEST

12 buildings
x 19 500 broilers

B-SAFE SD 3 kg/T
B-SAFE SD 2 kg/T
B-SAFE SD 2 kg/T
B-SAFE SD 1 kg/T

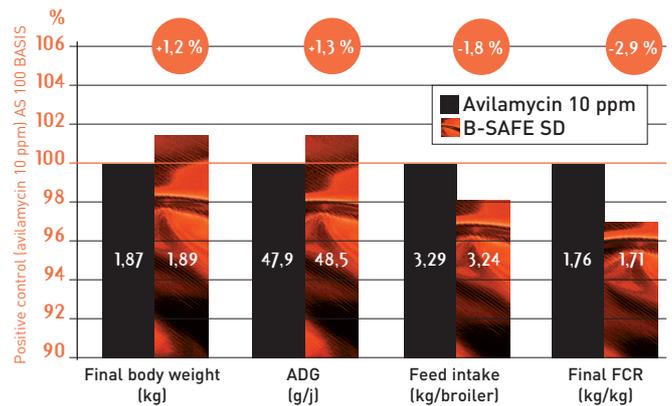


The following data were registered :

- global feed intake, final body weight, feed conversion ratio, mortality
- intestinal integrity at 28 and 35 days of age.

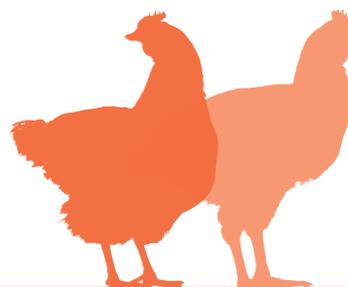
Results

Effect of B-SAFE SD on performances at 39 days



Regarding intestinal integrity, avilamycin and B-Safe groups were very similar ; they respectively obtained a score of 86.6 and 86.0 at 28 days and of 89.2 and 89.2 at 35 days.

Mortality was similar between avilamycin and B-Safe groups, respectively 4.8% and 4.5%. Animals receiving B-Safe consumed a little less feed (- 1.8%) but had a slightly better growth (+1.3%) because of a better feed conversion (- 2.9%) compared to animals receiving avilamycin.



Conclusion

In the conditions of this large-scale study, B-Safe enabled similar or slightly better zootechnical performances and intestinal integrity than avilamycin. Moreover profitability was preserved for the integrator. As a consequence, B-Safe can be considered as a promising alternative to avilamycin for broiler production.

