

Technical know how and scientific information converts into success

Have you ever wondered how the latest technical know how and scientific information is converted into success in the performance of your flocks, whether it is another point or two off the FCR of broilers or more eggs per bird in table egg layers?

Yes, some of this knowledge is used to improve key inputs into your flocks, such as feed and vaccines, but a significant part of it has to be applied on the farm and to the birds by modifying procedures and practices.

This obviously involves managers and farm staff and giving them the knowledge and skills that they need to fully benefit their business and help them succeed.

Vetworks, the Belgian independent training consultancy, is doing this by sharing their knowledge in poultry production and health management to enhance the knowledge and skills base in our industry.

Founded a decade ago in 2008, the Vetworks team now consists of six poultry specialists. They have a wide knowledge base between them and they are able to convert this knowledge into sound, practical advice at farm level.

On a Vetworks training course participants learn how to put the right emphasis on management, nutrition and health control to get the best effect, as well as improving their skills in assessment, evaluation and diagnosis.

Vetworks' poultry training courses can also provide credits for the postgraduate World

Veterinary Education Program in Animal Production (WVEPAH). These credits count towards obtaining a worldwide certification for the WVEPAH programmes validated by the OIE, namely the Certificate in Master of Animal Health, Poultry Production (CAHPP) and Master in Animal Health, Poultry Production (MAHPP).

Strong connections worldwide

Vetworks has strong connections with field veterinarians all over the world, which gives them a good understanding of practical needs in the field. In addition, members of the Vetworks team have experience in the running of trials, and working with the pharmaceuticals industry and academia. They also provide diagnostic and advisory services across all sectors of poultry production and undertake audits.

The Vetworks team aims to inform poultry professionals about the latest innovations throughout the poultry production chain – from the hatchery, breeder and broiler farms to the slaughterhouse.

Important challenges for the poultry industry are food safety, reduction of antibiotic use to fight AMR, animal welfare and sustainable production with a good return on investment for the poultry producer.

Training focuses on specific topics, such as gut health, respiratory problems, parasites,

food safety and nutrition. In general, a course lasts for 2-3 days, thereby giving time for discussions of field cases, a necropsy session and an educational farm visit.

The aim is to create a good atmosphere, to share knowledge, discuss topics openly and find practical solutions to solve problems in the field and, after a full day, there is still time for networking. Sessions include:

- Basic knowledge on anatomy, physiology and behaviour of commercial poultry species.
- Poultry diseases: new tools for diagnosis, monitoring and prevention.
- Respiratory problems: how to control disease agents and the birds' environment.
- Parasitology: new approaches to control coccidiosis, helminths and red mite.
- Gut health: an holistic view.
- Innovation in management from the hatchery to the farm.
- Biosecurity.
- Nutrition.
- Food safety.

Although Vetworks is based in Belgium, training courses are regularly run in other parts of Europe and also globally in locations like Bangkok, Dubai, Chapéco in Brazil and Los Baños in the Philippines.

Wherever you are in the world, if you are looking to enhance your company by improving training, a Vetworks course will meet your training needs. Alternatively, they can tailor specific in-house course(s) to meet your own unique requirements. ■

Practical demonstrations take place both inside and outside the classroom.

