

Importance of early nutrition for day-old chicks

Nourishing day-old chicks is essential in order to obtain good economic and zootechnical performances. A windowed hatching process, followed by intensive handling procedures and transport, can induce a lot of stress for the day-old chick. Climate control and providing the necessary nutrients are crucial in order to cope with this.

by Stefan Alius,
Product Manager Poultry, Agrifirm EMEA.
www.earlyfeed.eu

Although nature provides the day-old chick with the necessary nutrients to survive via the presence of the remaining yolk, feeding the day-old chick with the proper additional nutrients is essential to stimulate intestinal development.

The intestine is the first line of defence in disease prevention and is responsible for nutrient efficiency.

Facilitate the change

The GalliFirst pre-starter has been developed to supply the necessary nutrients, taking into consideration all these disruptive changes, and merges the needs of the young bird with the demands of the respective production period in order to perform well.

A homogeneous and crumbled structure leads to rapid and stable increasing feed intake and, with its selected specific composition, builds the bridge between the yolk-nutrition and the later feed-based nutrition and development stage of the bird.

The protein sources in GalliFirst consist of a combination of highly digestible protein sources with low levels of antinutritional

factors for an optimal amino acid supply to the developing body. To reach a fast and balanced gut development in all phases, the nutrient sources combine the 'known' nutrients of the yolk with the later plant-based nutrients to adapt, but without overwhelming, the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) of the young animals.

A distinguished additive concept, based on antioxidants, phytogenic agents and MCFAs, leads to a balanced and resilient GIT, after the young birds have already experienced a lot of stress during the first hours of life.

GalliFirst is developed for the first few days (up to two days of age) to especially stimulate feed intake as early as possible.

The nutrient levels of the feed are designed to ease the transition to the usual starter feed as well, so that no drop in feed intake will be experienced. This is essential in order to obtain good performance.

Summary

The objective is to build the link between the intrinsic nutrition of the bird and the later feed supply. We want the birds to eat as soon as possible, resulting in a good GIT development with the potential for a very high and efficient performance during the production cycle.

GalliFirst is to be fed additionally to the normal starter feed for the first two days after arriving on farm. It should be applied on paper under the drinking line (with a feed intake of approximately 30g/bird).

If we want to achieve the genetic performance potential of our birds, it is crucial to create the basis to obtain adequate body development. This starts from day-old. GalliFirst facilitates the transition from yolk nutrition to feed nutrition helping the birds to cope with the early stressors of life. ■

