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BACITRACIN SUPPLEMENTS FOR EGG PRODUCTION (II)

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A previous study showed improved egg production and feed utilization from Bacitracin MD additions to a low density layer diet. Antibiotic levels shown to be effective were 10, 25 and 50 grams per ton. A level of 100 grams per ton or all levels with a high density diet were without beneficial effects.

The low density diet was one consisting largely of oats and soybean meal and containing 13% protein with 2500 Cal of ME per kg, whereas the high density diet consisted largely of corn and soybean meal and contained 16% protein with 2900 Cal of ME per kilogram.

This work is being repeated using the same diets but with zinc bacitracin instead of the Bacitracin MD. A further trial involves the use of zinc bacitracin at levels of 0, 15, 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 grams per ton with the low density diet.

Whereas the data from the first 4-week period show similar improved production responses for both studies, it remains to be seen as to whether or not these trends continue.