

# VACCINATION: RISING TO THE TOP

US poultry complexes using Coccivac-B now among top performers

A national report shows that of 10 poultry complexes with the best results for “days to 5 pounds” in 2006, the top three were using Coccivac-B vaccine instead of a traditional in-feed anticoccidial for coccidiosis control.

The complex with the best result for calorie conversion was also using the vaccine instead of anticoccidials for two of four time periods in 2006, according to the survey (Table 1).

Overall, at least four complexes

among the top 10 industry performers for days to 5 pounds (2.27 kg) were using Coccivac-B at some time in 2006; between one and three of the top 10 performers for calorie conversion were using Coccivac-B.

In striking contrast, the same report in 2003 showed that none of the complexes using Coccivac-B were among the top 10 for days to 5 pounds (Table 2).

The report was prepared by Agri Stats, Inc., a statistical research and

**Table 1. In 2006, the top three poultry complexes with the best results were using Coccivac-B for control of coccidiosis.**

		JAN – MAR		APR – JUN		JUL – SEP		OCT – DEC	
		Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion	Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion	Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion	Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion
<b>Best Company</b>	Starter Grower	Coccivac-B	Coccivac-B	Coccivac-B	NIB COB	Coccivac-B	SCX SCX	Coccivac-B	Coccivac-B
<b>2nd Company</b>	Starter Grower	Coccivac-B	MAX MON	Coccivac-B	NIB COB	Coccivac-B	MAX MON	Coccivac-B	BCX BCX
<b>3rd Company</b>	Starter Grower	Coccivac-B	BCX BCX	Coccivac-B	NIB COB	Coccivac-B	MAX MON	Coccivac-B	MON BCX
<b>4th Company</b>	Starter Grower	SCX SCX	SCX COY	NIB BCX	Coccivac-B	SCX SCX	Coccivac-B	Coccivac-B	Coccivac-B
<b>5th Company</b>	Starter Grower	NIB COB	NIB BCX	SCX SCX	NIB BCX	SCX SCX	SCX SCX	COB COB	SCX MON
<b>6th Company</b>	Starter Grower	Coccivac-B	BCX BCX	Coccivac-B	COY SCX	Coccivac-B	CLI SCX	Coccivac-B	BCX BCX
<b>7th Company</b>	Starter Grower	MON MON	SCX SCX	SCX SCX	MAX MAX	MON MON	BCX BCX	Coccivac-B	MON BCX
<b>8th Company</b>	Starter Grower	MAX COB	NIB COB	COB COB	NIB COB	CLI SCX	BCX BCX	SCX SCX	BCX BCX
<b>9th Company</b>	Starter Grower	NIB COB	MON COB	COB COB	NIB MON	MON SCX	SCX MON	SCX BCX	Coccivac-B
<b>10th Company</b>	Starter Grower	NIB MAX	COB COB	MAX MAX	MAX BCX	BCX BCX	SCX MON	NIB BCX	BCX BCX

Source: Agri Stats, Inc.

analysis firm that receives data monthly from 160 poultry complexes owned by various poultry companies. Agri Stats annually compiles the figures and provides comparisons.

Agri Stats also found that for several months in 2006, many of the complexes using Coccivac-B were also in the top 10 for adjusted feed ingredient expense — the feed cost/pound of live weight, which quantifies feed conversion ratios by dollars and cents.

Analysis of specific results averaged out for all complexes and for birds by weight categories (Table 3) underscores the positive results — broilers vaccinated with Coccivac-B against coccidiosis had better adjusted calorie conversion and fewer days to 5 pounds

compared to those on in-feed anticoccidials. Average mortality was similar except for the over 6-pound (2.72-kg) category, where it was considerably lower among Coccivac-B vaccinated birds.

### Enhances profits

“Good results for days to 5 pounds is important because this parameter reflects daily weight gain,” says Dr. Marcelo Lang, a veterinarian and poultry marketing director for Schering-Plough Animal Health. Fewer days to 5 pounds improves the utilization of poultry houses and helps growers reap better profits, which enhances grower relations, he says.

“It’s an overall sign of good health and an indication that the birds are

**Table 2. In 2003, none of the top 10 poultry complexes with the best results were using Coccivac-B for control of coccidiosis.**

		JAN – MAR		APR – JUN		JUL – SEP		OCT – DEC	
		Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion	Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion	Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion	Days to 5.0 lbs	Calorie Conversion
<b>Best Company</b>	Starter	NIB	NIB	NIB	SCX	CLI	SCX	SCX	SCX
	Grower	DCX	DCX	DCX	SCX	DCX	SCX	SCX	SCX
<b>2nd Company</b>	Starter	NIB	SCX	NIB	NIB	DCX	BCX	BCX	SCX
	Grower	COB	SCX	SCX	AVI	CLI	BCX	BCX	SCX
<b>3rd Company</b>	Starter	NIB	SCX	SCX	NIB	SCX	BCX	SCX	SCX
	Grower	SCX	AVI	SCX	DCX	SCX	BCX	SCX	SCX
<b>4th Company</b>	Starter	MON	NIB	SCX	NIB	BCX	SCX	SCX	BCX
	Grower	COB	SCX	SCX	COB	BCX	SCX	SCX	BCX
<b>5th Company</b>	Starter	NIB	SCX	SCX	NIB	DCX	SCX	SCX	BCX
	Grower	COB	SCX	SCX	SCX	CLI	SCX	SCX	BCX
<b>6th Company</b>	Starter	COB	MON	SCX	BCX	DCX	CLI	SCX	SCX
	Grower	COB	MON	SCX	BCX	CLI	DCX	SCX	SCX
<b>7th Company</b>	Starter	NIB	MON	COB	COB	SCX	BCX	SCX	SCX
	Grower	COB	COB	COB	COB	SCX	BCX	SCX	SCX
<b>8th Company</b>	Starter	COB	CLI	BCX	MON	SCX	NIB	DCX	SCX
	Grower	COB	SCX	BCX	MON	SCX	SCX	DCX	SCX
<b>9th Company</b>	Starter	NIB	BCX	MON	NIB	DCX	SCX	DCX	DCX
	Grower	COB	BCX	COB	AVI	SCX	SCX	DCX	DCX
<b>10th Company</b>	Starter	MAX	NIB	COB	COB	DCX	DCX	MON	SCX
	Grower	MON	COB	COB	COB	SCX	CLI	SCX	SCX

Source: Agri Stats, Inc.

**Table 3. Comparison of 2006 results for all complexes and by weight categories.**

	<b>Anticoccidial</b>	<b>Coccivac-B</b>
<b>Results for all complexes</b>		
Adjusted calorie conversion	2,691	2,679
Days to 5 lbs	44.40	42.38
Average mortality	4.68%	4.72%
Feed meds \$/ton*	\$3.31	\$1.90
<b>Results for birds between 5.2 to 6.0 lbs</b>		
Adjusted calorie conversion	2,677	2,655
Days to 5 lbs	45.14	41.80
Average mortality	4.80%	5.05%
Feed meds \$/ton*	\$3.30	\$1.76
<b>Results for birds over 6.0 lbs</b>		
Adjusted calorie conversion	2,683	2,682
Days to 5 lbs	43.29	42.71
Average mortality	5.23%	4.61%
Feed meds \$/ton*	\$3.19	\$1.82

*Source: Agri Stats, Inc.*

*\*Feed meds \$/ton is a difficult comparison to make since feed costs are determined by ton and the cost of Coccivac-B is based on the number of birds. A fairer comparison would factor in the increased cost of chick vaccination for the same complexes, but data is not now available.*

growing to their full potential,” Lang adds.

Why are so many complexes using Coccivac-B now in the top 10 but were not just a few years ago? “We can only guess,” says Lang. “From these data, we cannot say that Coccivac-B is responsible for the good results at top-performing complexes, but we can surmise that Coccivac-B is contributing to their success.

“It could be management changes or that problems with traditional in-feed anticoccidials, such as resistance, have intensified. It could also reflect the improved advice we give to customers about how to get the best

results with the vaccine, or the fact that several companies that used Coccivac-B in 2006 were repeat users, and we’ve seen many times that performance with Coccivac-B tends to improve with repeat usage,” he says.

The new data should help dispel the notion that using Coccivac-B for coccidiosis control slows broiler growth. “Based on our experience in the field and this recent Agri Stats report, it is apparent that complexes using Coccivac-B coupled with good management can achieve weight gain and calorie conversion ratios that are among the best in the entire industry,” Lang says.

**Vaccinate Early. Finish Strong.**

**COCCIVAC<sup>®</sup>-B**



**Protection against coccidiosis  
starts at day-of-age**

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