



No. 259

AQUA-DEE® IMPROVES BROILER PERFORMANCE

A large integrated broiler company was experiencing bone development problems with growing birds. When posting birds they noted a widened growth plate at the tibia. Mortality and condemnations were excessive.

In consultation with Dawe's Laboratories, this integrator designed a trial using **AQUA-DEE®**, our water-miscible source of 2 million I.C.U. of Vitamin D3 per ounce. Ten houses (342,000 broilers) served as controls. Another ten houses (454,700 broilers) received one-half ounce of **AQUA-DEE®** per 128 gallons of drinking water. **AQUA-DEE®** was administered for one day, than withdrawn for the following three days. This regimen was repeated from 3 days of age until the birds were 6 weeks old. They were marketed at 7 weeks of age.

The study demonstrated dramatic benefits from the use of **AQUA-DEE®**:

1. Bone development problems and the incidence of widened tibial growth plates were significantly reduced.
2. Livability was 3.0% greater through the fourth week, at which time all houses experienced an outbreak of bronchitis.
3. Birds sent to the processing plant increased 1.6%.
4. Condemnations were reduced:

	CONTROL	AQUA-DEE
<u>WHOLE BIRD CONDEMNATION</u> % OF BIRDS	3.05	2.40
<u>PARTS CONDEMNATION</u> % OF WEIGHT	1.24	0.98
<u>TOTAL CONDEMNATION</u> % OF (WHOLE BIRD WEIGHT + PARTS WEIGHT)	3.64	2.96

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

For every \$1.00 spent on AQUA-DEE®, the integrator's economic value increased by \$24.47. The economics are based on:

Market value/live bird = \$1.30
Average live weight = 4.90 lbs.
Feed efficiency = 2.06
Feed cost = \$.075/lb.
Carcass yield = 72.5%
AQUA-DEE® cost = \$158.75/five gallons (dealer price)

Values are calculated per 100,000 birds

BENEFITS

A.	1.6% more birds marketed (1600 birds)	\$ 868.72
B.	0.68% lower total condemnation (2416 more lbs. processed)	<u>\$ 881.84</u>
	GROSS ECONOMIC GAIN	\$1750.56

COSTS

A.	AQUA-DEE®, 6-week treatment (9 quarts)	<u>\$ 71.55</u>
	<u>NET ECONOMIC GAIN</u>	<u>\$1679.01</u>

This particular broiler integrator was so pleased with these results that AQUA-DEE® Supplementation is now used in its program for life cycle feeding of broilers. We would be happy to discuss with you how AQUA-DEE® and its companion water-dispersible products can improve your bottom line, too.