

TECHNICAL SERVICE



BULLETIN



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GROGEL PLUS FED AT THE HATCHERY REDUCES WEIGHT LOSS AND MORTALITY DURING SHIPMENT

Turkey poults usually hatch over a 12-24 hour time period, so that some may become dehydrated before others are even hatched. Delivery often takes an additional 12-24 hours (or more). As a result, among these weakened, dehydrated poults there is increased mortality, a lack of uniformity and delayed growth.

Dawe's Laboratories believes feeding GROGEL PLUS to poults at the hatchery can reduce the weight loss and mortality. To demonstrate this, a test was recently conducted at the Dawe's Research Facility at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The experiment involved Nicholas hen poults that were hatched in Missouri and shipped to Fort Dodge, Iowa. The poults were monitored for weight loss and mortality during the 48 hours following hatch. Half of the poults were fed **GROGEL PLUS** at the hatchery and the other half were transported normally (with no feed and no water). All poults were weighed at the hatchery and then again at 24 and 48 hours post hatch at the research facility. The results are shown in the table below.

	GROGEL PLUS	CONTROL
Gross weight at hatchery (50)	2695 grams	2680 grams
Gross weight 24 hrs. Post Hatch	2499 grams	2446 grams
24 Hr. weight loss,%	7.27	8.73
24 Hr. mortality	0	0
Gross weight 48 hrs. Post Hatch	2323 grams	2197 grams
48 Hr. weight, loss, %	13.8	18.0
48 Hr. mortality	0	2
Percent mortality	0	4

Weight loss was reduced 16.7% for the **GROGEL PLUS** treated poults during the first 24 hours following hatch compared to the Control poults. At 48 hours following hatch total weight loss was reduced 23.3% in the **GROGEL PLUS** poults compared to Controls. Mortality was 4% for the Control poults while no mortality was recorded for the **GROGEL PLUS** poults.

Saving only one poult per one hundred purchased covers the entire cost of **GROGEL PLUS** administered at the hatchery. This was calculated based on \$0.65 per poult and the cost of **GROGEL PLUS** at the hatchery of \$0.0062 per poult. And research elsewhere has demonstrated that poults that are heavier at hatch are heavier at processing. Both

Dawe's field studies and published research has demonstrated 4-8% heavier birds at processing when "early feeding" was practiced.

GROGEL PLUS provides a means of getting more poults off to a good start by reducing mortality and weight loss during shipment of poults to the farm. With the reduction of weight loss during shipment the poults are not as stressed on arrival and more likely to eat and drink once they are placed in the brooder. And poults that are eating and drinking from the very start are more likely to be healthy, fast growing poults throughout the grow-out period.