



Disseminating Innovative Solutions to Antibiotic Resistance Management: Farm Factsheet

Stefaan Stuer, East-Flanders

Stefaan exploits two broiler houses with a total capacity of 86 000 birds. One hatchery delivers the Ross broilers to the farm on an average 51 day interval. The farm strives to achieve optimal performance (41-42 kg/m²) to obtain good economic performance. The farm achieves an average delivery weight 2.66 kg and a FCR at 2500G of 1.517 and a overall production index of 420 over the last 2 years. As a young farmer Stefaan is eager to learn and improve his farm for better profitability whilst not relying on high medicine and antibiotic use.



Biosecurity

The Biocheck® assessment of biosecurity resulted in an overall score of 68% (External 69% and Internal 65%) and already practices good control over visitors entering the farm but could boost biosecurity by providing physical barriers for the clean and dirty area on the farms premises and provide farm specific clothing to the catching crew in addition to farm specific footwear

Main Health Challenges

As in lots of conventional broiler farms, coccidia and pathogenic enterococci and e-coli's pose a health challenge to the chicks potentially causing suboptimal technical performance and losses in revenues from discounts in the slaughterhouse in case of internal inflammations. The farm has a strict vaccination scheme for IB, Gumboro and NCD to prevent immunodepression posing the chicks at risk of a secondary infection.



Farm Health Action Plan

Together with his herd vet drs. Ongena from Degudap and vet drs. Van Driessche from Voeders Depre, Stefaan has designed a farm health action plan focusing on improving water quality to withstand enterococcosis, improved and optimized ventilation settings and enhanced coccidiosis control and prevention for better gut health of the chicks.





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Grard van Gerwe, The Netherlands

Grard is a young entrepreneur of 22 years old. In April 2020 he started his own closed pig farm. The farm is highly automated. Currently, he has 1400 fattening pigs and 940 breeding sows housed in his farm, but he is expanding to 1140 sows. On this farm almost 34 piglets per sow per year are weaned with a cycle index of 2,34. The farm strives to achieve optimal farm management to obtain good technical performance. He believes that farm management is the fundamental basis for good animal health. As a young, starting farmer Grard is eager to learn and is willing to get in contact with other young farmers who are dealing with similar challenges.

Main Health Challenges

In a start-up farm like the farm of Grard, the challenges change weekly due to the modifications that are constantly implemented. One week post-weaning diarrhoea is an issue, and in the other week returned sows. The main challenge is therefore to smooth out the peaks and troughs in the technical results, i.e. to stabilise the performance.

Biosecurity

The Biocheck® assessment of biosecurity resulted in a high score in pest prevention (no nuisance, professional pest control program) and in the internal biosecurity of fattening pigs (strict all-in-all-out system, age discrimination). To further improve the biosecurity, attention could be paid to the way of supplying feed, water and tools.



Farm Health Action Plan

Together with his veterinarian of *De Varkenspraktijk* and feed advisor of *Vleuten-Steijn voeders*, Grard is designing a farm health action plan focusing on improving farm management. Attention is drawn in particular to improving the structure of the farm, the efficiency and effectiveness of staff and the monitoring and improvement of animal health.

