**EFFECT OF A NSP DEGRADING ENZYME COMPLEX ON LAYER PERFORMANCE: A META-ANALYSIS**

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Background

Hostazym® X is a NSP degrading enzyme standardised on 1,4-β Xylanase activity, containing several other activities.

Objective

To determine if there is a consistent improvement on bird performance when Hostazym® X is fed to laying hens, independently of the cereal (NSP fibre) composition of the layer feed.

Material and methods

In the past years, plural efficacy trials in commercial laying hens have been performed by supplementing a xylanase-based complex of feed enzymes (Hostazym® X) on top of various types of layer diets (1050 to 1500 EPU of xylanase/kg). A meta-analysis was developed based on different studies (n=8) with first-cycle hens (from 20 weeks of age) and second-cycle hens (from 45 weeks of age) and with a trial period of 24 to 26 weeks.

Results

On top supplementation of the xylanase-based enzyme complex yielded on average a +1.61 grams (or 2.95%; P< 0.05) higher daily egg mass per hen, and a -0.061 (or 2.97 %; P< 0.05) lower feed conversion rate, compared to a non-supplemented control group. Additionally, the enzyme treated laying hens showed on average a +1.13 grams (or 1.90%; not significant) higher egg weight compared to the non-supplemented animals.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that Hostazym® X provides a consistent improvement in laying hen performance, independently of the cereal (NSP fibre) composition of the layer feed.