

Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey Newsletter 2019



Welcome

Introduction from Graham Palmer

Welcome to the 2019 GLW Feeds Turkey Newsletter. It seems no time since we produced the last edition but as always, we have seen plenty of changes and developments here at the mill.

At the end of 2018, after seeing through a very successful Christmas turkey season, Debra Holliday left us to further her career with our friends and collaborators at DSM. We were sad to see Debra go but she remains in contact and we wish her well. Debra's move means that Katie Stephens, who has been working with us for some 4 years, and who many

of you already know, has taken up the position of Poultry Department Lead.

Another well known face involved with the turkey business is Geoff Homewood. Geoff has been in and around the turkey industry for many years and is bringing his usual blend of experience and enthusiasm to the GLW Feeds Turkey customers.

My role has also changed. After being Sales Manager for 3 years I took on the position of Commercial Director in October last year. I have retained responsibility for the Monogastric side of the business, working with Katie and other colleagues to manage our pig and poultry business activities.

I have enjoyed a varied career in almost all aspects of agriculture and while my specialism has always been pigs, I'm now relishing working more closely with our poultry customers. Working with all classes of livestock at different times, one thing I've learnt is when it comes to feed, the road to success, be it pig, poultry, cattle, sheep or indeed game, is much the same. It relies on sourcing top quality raw materials, getting them carefully formulated by technical specialists; then making the diets into the best physical forms you can. Quite simply, that's what we try to do at GLW Feeds.



Graham Palmer



Katie Stephens



Geoff Homewood



Nutrition and management of turkeys to achieve optimum weight and quality

By Anthony Waller, DSM

The annual challenge that seasonal turkey producers set themselves is here again. That challenge is to produce turkeys ready for the Christmas table which are high quality and at the correct weight for the customer.

There are many routes of travel to arrive at this particular goal, but to achieve the given objective requires consideration to be given to the overall management of the birds, keeping the birds healthy and following an appropriate nutritional programme. Monitoring the growth profile through weighing samples of birds, and then making suitable adjustments to management and feed will play an important role during the growing season.

Having decided upon the weight ranges desired, and chosen and placed appropriate poults from either a particular strain or combination of strains to help meet this target, the producer then needs to focus on management and feeding with the final target in mind.

Early Management

In the early stages the objective is to get the poults off to a good start. Brooder management and correct temperature control are vital. Nutritionally in this phase focus should be on supplying good mineral levels (calcium and phosphorus) to facilitate skeletal development with a good quality protein supply to allow the early muscle development that will set the birds up to meet the later growth potential. There is no need to feed very high Crude Protein diets that may have the negative effects of promoting too much early growth and destabilising the gut, both of which could lead to difficulties in managing growth profile later.

Grower Phase Management

This is a key period in growth profile management. If birds get away from target in this phase they can be difficult to hold back. Some degree of weighing and weight monitoring is to be encouraged to help with decisions on feed selection. Here the diets need to be well balanced in terms of energy supply and amino acid (protein) content. With appropriate monitoring of growth it may be possible to adjust the timing of diet change in response to growth profile, and if the birds are a long way from target then diet selection may be revised.

Finisher Phase Management

Hopefully, the approach taken in the early stages getting the poults off to a good start and then managing through the grower phase means that the birds reach the finisher phase growing nicely giving the producer the perfect base to see the birds home with a focus on final weight and quality. There will probably need to be decisions taken at this stage on diet selection to help achieve final target weight. Choosing between early and late finishers / high and low density feeds and deciding when to move between these will help with this process. Temperature at this time may well overlay the impact of nutrition as feed intakes and therefore nutrient intakes may be affected by higher/lower than expected temperatures. The final finisher may also have a temperature dependence. It is desirable to have fat deposition and so colder weather later on helps to see the birds partition some of their energy and fat intake to fat deposition giving an excellent finish to the carcass. The fat quality and energy content of the diet is important at this stage as insufficient energy means the bird will only cover its maintenance requirement and not lay down fat.

Summary

Monitoring the birds throughout the growing period, with regular checks on growth rate and careful decisions on feed selection should ensure the turkeys grow along a suitable growth profile and achieve target final weights at the quality required.

The Market

The World Raw Materials market has been rather volatile over the last few years and that is certainly still the case. After some near record highs during the last 12 months, pricing does seem more sensible. World stocks, plus decent potential harvest seem to equal demand fairly well. Of late we've seen the wet weather in the States along with the ongoing rumblings between President Trump and China support cereal and protein prices somewhat.



Know your anticoccidials!

Antimicrobial resistance is a hot topic for agriculture, and recently there has been some media coverage of the use of ionophore anticoccidials in poultry so you may get some questions from your customers this year on what goes into your turkeys.

We do not add antibiotics to standard feeds, and we can only add an antibiotic to a feed if we are given a prescription from a veterinarian who has deemed it necessary to treat the animals with antibiotics. We do use an anticoccidial (ACS) product in the growing diets for turkeys. This is to aid in the prevention of coccidiosis in birds. Coccidiosis is a parasitic disease of the intestinal tract of birds which, if left untreated, can result in inflammation of the intestines and eventually death of the affected birds. The ACS products we use are called ionophores, these are a class of animal only antimicrobial additives that are not classed as veterinary medical products and do not require a prescription to be used in feed.

A common issue we encounter each season is the use of different anticoccidials in turkey feeds. It is not recommended to change the ACS in the feed during the life of the bird. GLW Feeds uses a product called Avatec in the TFF Turkey range of feeds. This ACS is a divalent ionophore which is a highly effective, broad spectrum anticoccidial and kills coccidia at the first stage of development with no depression of feed or water intake and it is effective during heat-stress conditions.

Our GLW Turkey (commercial turkey) diets contain a different ACS product and must not be mixed with the TFF diets. If birds are fed different ACS products it can result in paralysis and death throughout the flock. Please make sure you are careful when placing orders this season and use the correct codes and names to prevent any confusion.



Mill Update

June finds phase 1 of our mill extension and renewal project nearly complete, albeit with some electrical work and finishing touches to finalise. We have decided not to commission the new plant until September, to ensure that we have minimal production interruption during our peak summer months. Phase 1 sees the replacement of our 'blending' process. This is the weighing, sieving, grinding, liquid addition and mixing of our feed batches. Our new machinery allows for greater and more efficient output, whilst ensuring feed integrity and quality.

We installed a new robotic packing line during the summer of 2018 to ensure we could meet our increasing demand for bagged feeds. This has now been complemented by a new label printer in May this year to ensure our declarations are printed legibly on all bags.



GLW Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey Feeds 2019

Diet Range & Feeding Guide:

Code	Diet Name	Protein	Bags ¹ 20kg/100	Bulk ² t/1,000
F74000	TFF Turkey Starter Crumb ACS 0 - 14 or 28 days	25.0%	2	0.4
F74001	TFF Turkey Starter Short Cut Pellet ACS 15 - 28 days	25.0%	3	0.6
F74010	TFF Turkey Rearer Pellet ACS 29 - 49 days	21.4%	20	4
F74011	TFF Turkey Grower Pellet ACS 50 - 70 to 77 days	18.5%	25	5
F74020	TFF Turkey Early Finisher Pellet Plain 71 to 78 - 112 to 119 days	16.5%	35	7
F74021	TFF Turkey Late Finisher Pellet Plain 113 to 120 to Kill	13.7%	50	10

For ease of management the Starter Crumb can be continued through to 28 days if preferred.

Coccidiostat used in Starter, Rearer and Grower diets is Avatec.

¹ Minimum order 1 tonne, 50 x 20kg bags.

² Minimum order 4 tonnes bulk.

Whole wheat diets available upon request.