

## ISSUE 2

The highlights from the AgriHealth 5th Annual Gut Health Seminar at La Valla Tuakau are below. The theme 'out of the blocks' reflected our focus on doing the basics well, and ensuring the first week of life sets up broiler chickens for high productivity. This might prompt you to reflect on what you've learned and encourage implementation of some new ideas.

For more details please contact: [poultrynews@agrihealth.co.nz](mailto:poultrynews@agrihealth.co.nz)

### Gut Health before the Farm

*Shwanal Chand, Veterinarian, Cobb NZ*

- Shwanal outlined factors that affect chick quality including breeders, hatchery and chick delivery
- Hatchery expertise is important – given 33% of a 42-day old broiler is spent in the incubator you realise the impact it can have on the remainder of the broiler's life
- It is imperative farm managers know what to look for upon arrival of day-old chicks
- Crop fill at 12 and 24 hours is crucial



### Huvepharma Seminar on Animal Nutrition, A Targeted Approach on Gut Health

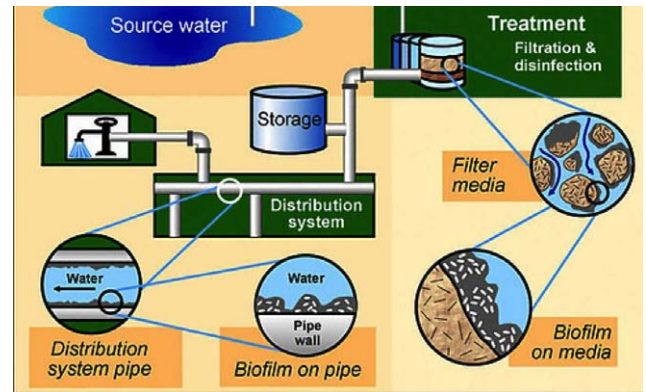
*Kate Lin, Veterinarian, Huvepharma*

- Kate explained the intricacies of microflora effect on gut health, including factors that affect it and the impact of microflora on FCR
- There is a brief window of opportunity to influence microflora population post incubation by inoculating chicks with B-Act (*Bacillus licheniformis*) to stabilize gut flora and suppress *Clostridium perfringens*
- B-Act can also be used via drinking water to act against *C. perfringens* as it produces the peptide lichenicidin, a bacteriocin selectively inhibiting the growth of *C. perfringens*



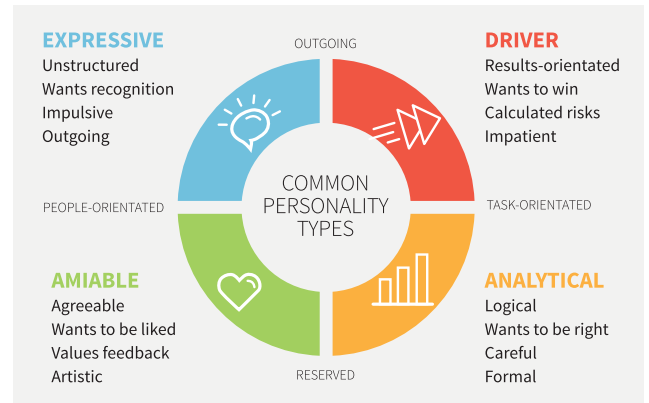
## Is water the most neglected nutrient *Warwick Wragg, AnQuip NZ*

- Water has major effects on bird production and yet not always given the attention it deserves
- Once water ‘basics’ such as availability, temperature and quality are covered, it is crucial to ensure the ‘hidden enemy’ of biofilm is effectively controlled
- Biofilms lurking within the piping and in tanks can be a huge potential source of contamination, and adversely impact on bird performance
- Warwick outlined options to best combat biofilm, including how to best use water sanitisers and key differences between chlorine and chlorine dioxide



## Getting the grower ‘over the line’ *Steve Cranefield, Veterinarian, AgriHealth*

- Steve shared a useful approach to identifying opportunities and influencing staff, customers and people in general, in a positive and productive way
- The crux is to investigate issues with an open mind, know the personality type you are dealing with, and formulate discovery questions not solutions
- Questioning is far more effective than ‘telling’ if the goal is to change grower behaviour and/or get people to reconsider their approach to problem solving or dealing with issues
- Greater knowledge of adult learning principles helps people use questions more skillfully



## Brooding Impacts *Mike Block, Aviagen*

- Brooding is crucial for a good final outcome. A good quality chick certainly helps too!
- Key take home messages were ‘back to basics’ and focusing on doing these basic things well
- Closing the ‘knowing doing’ gap was important – how do you know?
- What do you measure / benchmark? How is data presented and used for best effect?
- Crop fill at 12 and 24 hours was crucial for a good start – measure and display the results!

## Differences in chick size and gut development following good vs bad brooding



Mike shared an Aviagen experiment showing the difference between good and poor brooding resulted in a 7 day weight difference of 23g per bird. This equated to 18,400 kg extra chicken meat at 100,000 birds per week. Time spent by well trained staff in brooding provided the biggest payback overall of all parameters measured.