



Current State of the Industry, Importance of FCR and the Nitrogen Efficiency



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Poultry feed costs are on the rise, making feed formulation and ingredient consideration critical to every producer's bottom line. We're all asking ourselves, is there a way to cut costs and still perform? Feeding birds with a more precise focus can help you alleviate some of the strain. Because amino acids are a key component of poultry diets, formulating diets with an emphasis on limiting amino acids will allow you to balance ingredient use and lower feed cost.

Balancing Nutrients Amid Rising Costs

As our industry navigates global conflict and shipping delays, the prices of key commodities rise. Corn and soy prices remain high while wheat availability is limited. With so much fluctuation of supply and availability, ingredient quality can also become inconsistent, which can negatively impact bird performance. Different ingredients can be compatible with each other and present anti-nutritional factors when paired together. Keeping all of this in mind, to deal with high feed prices we must address another issue: balancing diets with the ingredient and nutrient matrix.

Key areas of focus within the ingredient matrix include soybean meal, valine, arginine and isoleucine. Within the nutrient matrix we focus on low crude protein and branched chain amino acids. As we understand how these elements interact with each other, we can better optimize feed conversion ratio.

Bird and Ingredient Evaluation are Key to Lowering Cost and Improving Performance

With the nutrient and ingredient matrix recommendations in mind, we can advance productivity by prioritizing continuous evaluation of birds and ingredients. Evaluation will help you keep notable observations and real time records of performance so you can continue adjusting the diet for the best outcome. This allows you to know how birds respond to diet changes as they advance through the supply chain. For example, you can test to see if loss occurs when amino acid density decreases. With this knowledge and understanding, you can position nutrient ratios for optimal performance based on cost.

Keeping a close eye on your protein supply and balance can also reduce costs and help you avoid health issues. Decreasing the amount of protein in the diet can impair the bird's intestinal integrity which lowers performance. To avoid this, regularly testing the composition of each ingredient and balancing limiting amino acids accordingly will ensure the correct crude protein level is set in the diet. By understanding the needs of each limiting amino acid, we can make sure every nutrient is present where it needs to be, so the bird is making the most out of the diet.

Your Knowledge and Expertise Can Decrease Costs and Improve Bird Health and Performance

Having a deeper understanding of diets leads to more opportunities for nutritionists and producers. When you understand how everything within the diet works together, you can formulate diets that exceed productivity goals. With optimized formulation, you can use less inputs for the same amount of output to,

- Save money
- Have birds excreting less ammonia for better footpad health and wellbeing
- Decrease water intake for preserved resources and sustainability

Understanding and balancing nutrients to optimize birds' full potential can immediately help with high feed prices and open the door for greater performance.

The right partners understand how critical nutrition is to the success of your flock and business, and they are collaborating to research and understand ingredient compositions and their overall impacts on the bird. As we innovate and adapt technology, we can lower the burden of feed price and keep improving operational and bird performance.

To discuss this topic in more detail, [connect with myself](#) and the [Zinpro® team of experts](#) here.

