



THE USE OF **OX-VIRIN®** IN POULTRY HATCHERIES

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Management of biosafety in poultry hatcheries is essential in order to optimize production parameters, and thus to achieve a better performance of the facilities.

One of the critical points in such hatcheries is the hygiene status of the hatchers themselves. As such, in order to maintain the chicks as healthy as possible, the use of environmental disinfection in these installations is recommended. This typically involves placing trays of disinfectant, which evaporates

into the atmosphere, thereby improving its microbiological quality and helping to maintain the optimal health status of the animals, in each hatcher.

However, not all disinfectants are equally effective when it comes to the environmental disinfection of hatchers. As such, the present work was designed to study the improvement in production parameters obtained when using the ecological disinfectant **OX-VIRIN®** compared with formaldehyde.

Materials and methods

In order to compare the efficacy of **OX-VIRIN®** and formaldehyde for the environmental disinfection of hatchers, and any improvement in the production parameters, two consecutive trials were undertaken on the same farm using two batches of animals (batches 43 and 44, containing 64,000 and 112,000 chicks, respectively).

The mean birth weight of the animals in the test batches was 43 g for batch 43 and 45 g for batch 44.

In both cases, the hatcher contained a broad-based tray containing 300 mL of the disinfectant to be studied.

The animals' mortality and weight were monitored for the first 7 days post-hatching.

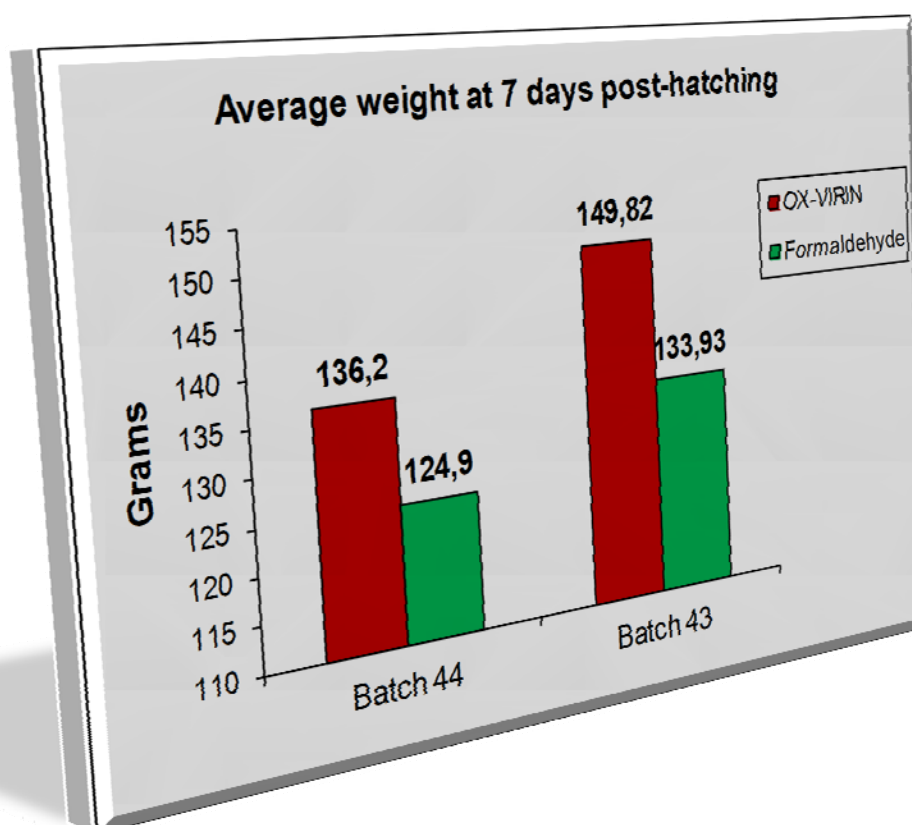
Results

As far as average weight at 7 days post-hatching is concerned, a significantly higher weight gain was observed for those chicks hatched in hatcher environmentally disinfected with **OX-VIRIN®** for both batches.

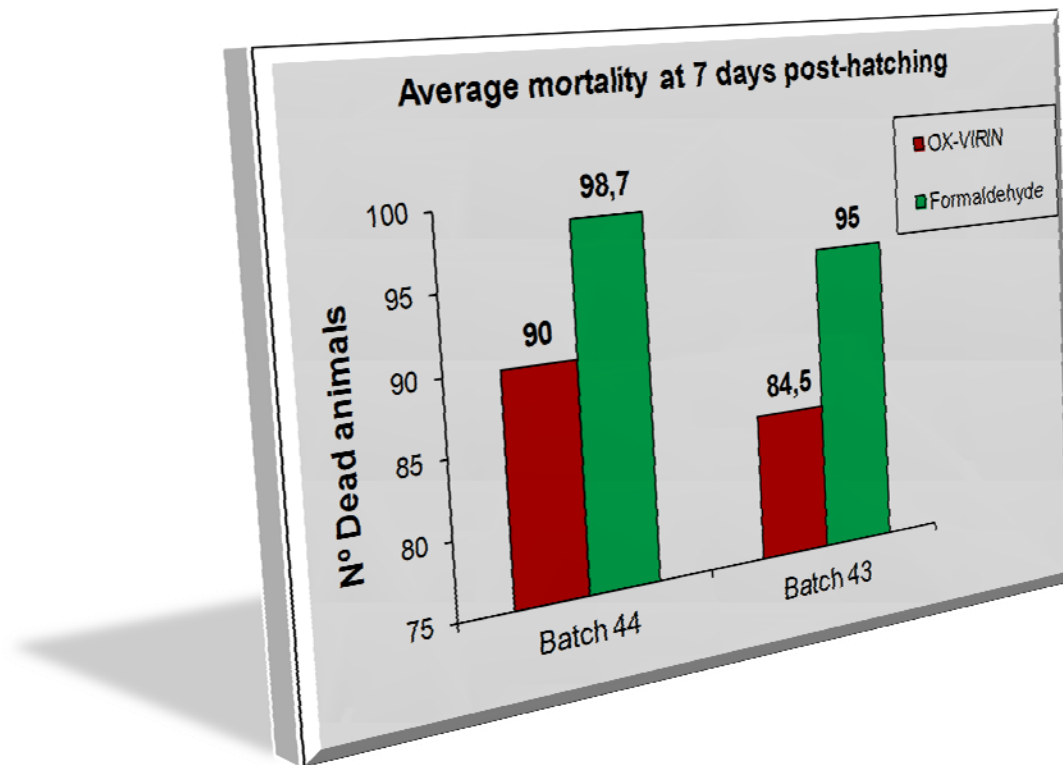
As can be seen in the following figure, chicks from batch 44 hatched in the hatcher disinfected with **OX-VIRIN®** had an average weight of 136.2 g after one week whereas those from the hatcher disinfected with formaldehyde weighed 124.9 g on average.

A similar situation was found for batch 43, where the animals hatched in the hatcher disinfected with **OX-VIRIN®** had an average weight of 149.82 g whereas those from the hatcher disinfected with formaldehyde had an average weight of 133.93 g.

The use of **OX-VIRIN®** therefore resulted in a higher average weight gain of 11.4 g per chick for batch 44 and 15.89 g per chick for batch 43.



Similarly, as far as the average mortality of the two batches is concerned, the number of deaths amongst the chicks hatched in hatchers environmentally disinfected with **OX-VIRIN®** was lower than for the animals hatched in hatchers disinfected with formaldehyde in the first 7 days post-hatching.



Furthermore, the use of **OX-VIRIN®** in the hatcher was found to improve navel healing.

Conclusions

Use of the broad-spectrum disinfectant **OX-VIRIN®** in hatchers increases the average animal weight at seven days post-hatching and reduces the mortality over the same time period, thereby providing an environmentally friendly, effective and economically viable alternative to the use of formaldehyde.