National Institute for Animal Agriculture: 8th Antibiotic Symposium

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Sustainable Food Animal Production

- Vaccination Programs
- Biosecurity
- Nutritional Health
- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Animal Welfare
- Food Safety Mitigation
- Environmental Management

Responsible Food Animal Production
Impact on Animal Health and Welfare

• How RWA (practice) and Conventional (perception) respondents believe RWA production will impact animal health and welfare.

Impact on Animal Health and Welfare

- How RWA (practice) and Conventional (perception) respondents think Customers believe RWA production will impact animal health and welfare
Broilers Raised Without Antibiotics Have Higher Mortality

Percent of Broilers Raised Without Antibiotics

Average Monthly Mortality by Antibiotic Use

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RWA Compromises Animal Welfare

Decline in Bird Health
A Look at Three Serious Conditions

3.5x  
greater risk of ammonia burns in the cornea,  
causing burning and irritation

1.4x  
greater risk of severe foot lesions,  
causing lameness and decreased mobility

1.5x  
greater risk of severe airsaccultis,  
leading to death

In addition to delayed treatment and increased mortality, other symptoms on the rise.

Salois et al. 2016
Impact of RWA on the U.S. Market

**Impact**
- Mortality: +24-52%
- Grow-out Time: +3-4%
- Bird Density: +5-12%
- Cycle Downtime: +21-29%

**Consequence**
Between 680 – 880 million more birds needed to meet demand

Salois et al. 2016
RWA Compromises Sustainability

Producing 683 to 883 million more birds also requires

- 5.4 to 7.2 million more tons of feed/year
  (Roughly equal to rail cars filled with grain that spans 655 to 873 miles)

- 3.9 to 5.2 thousands more square miles of land to grow the feed
  (About 10x the size of Los Angeles)

- 1.9 to 3.0 billion more gallons of water consumed by the birds
  (About the water consumed annually by 3,400-5,400 families of four in the U.S.)

- 4.6 to 6.1 million more tons of manure
  (Approximately equal to the amount of sewage produced by the people in Texas annually)

Salois et al. 2016
Importance of Maintaining the RWA Label

- Response to the statement “There are times that maintaining an RWA label has priority over flock/herd health and welfare.”