

## **EFFECTS OF ARTEVIDA® NUTRITIONAL FORMULA IN EARLY STAGE OF BROILER CHICKEN NUTRITION**

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During the first then to fourteen days after hatching, the digestive tract and immune system in young broiler chickens are still developing. The immature digestive and immune system means that the newly hatched broiler chick has a low resistance to pathogenic bacteria and viruses, and is unable to properly digest nutrients which is administrating by feed. This makes it crucial to select the right feed ingredients for the first days of the broiler chickens life, as the nutrition of the broiler plays a significant role in attaining its full performance potential. Immediate access of broiler chicks to caloric nutrients enhances growth rate, yolk utilization, gastro-intestinal development and immune system stimulation. Therefore, overall performance of broilers can be increased. However, early feeding is not practised routinely due to practical aspects like differences in hatching period of different chicks of same batch and time consideration of sorting, sexing and transport of chicks. Further, early feeding may incur additional cost. Having in mind that drinking water play a vital and essential role in young broiler chicken rising, addition of Artevida® in newly hatched broiler chicks provide them with all the nutrients they need for healthy development in a directed and easy to administer form. Aim of this research was to investigate the effects of Artevida® additive to broiler chickens nutrition on productive performance. Trial involved in total of 6310 day old broiler chickens divided in two treatments. Experiment lasted 43 days. At the end of experiment chickens on control treatment T achieved average final body weight of 2200 g

which was statistically significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) lower compared to chickens average body weight on treatment with addition of Artevida<sup>®</sup> which was 2400 g. Recorded feed conversion ratio was improved in chickens with addition of Artevida<sup>®</sup> (1.66 kg/kg), while feed conversion ratio in chickens on control treatment was increased (1.78 kg/kg). Mortality rate of chickens was significantly decreased on experimental treatment with addition of Artevida<sup>®</sup> (3.25%) while mortality in control treatment was increased (3.47%). Based on the obtained results it can be concluded that Artevida<sup>®</sup> additive can be successfully used in broiler chicken nutrition for improvement of productive parameters. Also important fact from the producers point of view feeding broiler chickens with Artevida<sup>®</sup> feed additive does not increase the cost per kilo of meat, is added in small amount and on the contrary, taking into account the improvement in persistence, the improved liveability parameters (mortality decrease for 7%) and the better body condition, higher average final body weight of chickens (increase of 9%), decreased feed conversion ratio (7%) and increased productive index, the breeder can count on a gain extra per broiler chicken and per year.

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