

Botanical feed additives – a powerful alternative to AGPs!

According to a recent article in AllAboutFeed (Aufy & Steiner, 2012), botanical feed additives can work as powerful alternatives to the antibiotic growth promoters (AGP) that are no longer allowed in the EU (with several more countries expected to follow).

The article is backed by several studies, which have shown that animal feed materials originating from plants contain solutions for many challenges in commercial farming. The interest in the effects of botanical feed additives - such as citrus fruits, grapes and olives - has risen steadily since the ban on AGPs in the EU.

In a growing number of scientific publications the positive effects and economic impacts of botanical feed additives have been recorded. The results have shown improvements in the animals' feed intake, weight gains, and feed conversion - simply by including small dosages of botanical feed additives. This has for instance been due to an improved protein digestibility.

The implications of these findings support the need for naturally developed products in order to prevent further spread of antibiotic resistance in animals as well as in humans. This issue has become a growing concern among a long line of influential people – not least in the EU, but also in the USA from for instance Congress woman, Louise Slaughter. Every year more than 25,000 people die from infections caused by these resistant bacteria.

Dumas develops and manufactures a long line of natural antioxidants and other additives and premixes for the animal feed industry. For more information on these products and trial results, please contact dumas@norgroup.dk / +45 3677 1901

Literature:

- Aufy, A. & Steiner, T., PhytoGenics – new benefits of a proven approach, AllAboutFeed, Vol. 20, No. 5, 2012
- Wilkins, Faber and Thomsen, Politiken, 13. May 2012, Minister vil stramme landmænds antibiotikaforbrug

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