

# CASE STUDY

## DEVON POULTRY TRIAL

### BACKGROUND

Ten broiler houses split equally between two separate sites. Site B (where the Ekogea BCx trials were run) has 5 identical new houses of 44,000 birds each with underfloor heating generated from biomass.



### TRIAL PROTOCOLS

To ensure that as many variables were eliminated as possible, two identical houses were chosen which were filled on the same day with birds with the same flock code.

- **The control house was operated using the farm's normal best practice.**
- **The trial house was operated in the same way but additionally had Ekogea BCxF (feed grade liquid) added to the water lines from day one through the Dosatron® at a final dilution of 1:10,000 for the duration of the crop.**

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A 150g advantage at £0.81p/kg would be worth £0.12/bird.

BCxF treatment cost of 2.25p/bird.

For this house of 44,000 birds the net advantage was 9.75p/bird or £4,290.

**Extrapolated across the whole farm for a year this would give a net increase in profit in excess of £300,000.**

### OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- **Bird weights throughout the crop were consistently greater in the BCxF treated house with a final weight advantage of 150g per bird at slaughter, equating to nearly 2 days growth.**
- **The treated house had negative results (nil) for Salmonella and Campylobacter.**
- **Although the whole farm has low scores for Hock burn and Pododermatitis, the trial house had a zero (nil) score for both.**
- **The BCxF treated house also had slightly improved mortality figures.\***
- **Ammonia levels were not recorded, but with sophisticated underfloor heating this is not a perceived problem on the site.**
- **A centralised feed system did not allow for FCR analysis.**

\*Note: farmer has been recommended BCxS (house/bedding sanitisation) which may reduce mortality further.

Quote – Farmer

**"We have seen improvements in feed conversion and growth rates"**

