

Essential Oils for Poultry

Famo Flier

Antibiotics have traditionally been used in the poultry and livestock industries to both treat illness and as growth promotants at subtherapeutic levels. However, with the rise in concern over antibiotic use and resistance, the acceptability of antibiotic use has dwindled. In response, essential oils have grown in popularity as an alternative option to traditional medications. Essential oils are the aromatic compounds found in plants. There is evidence that these compounds may display the following:

1. Simulate digestive enzymes
2. Improve gut health
3. Antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral
4. Anti-inflammatory
5. Antioxidant
6. Coccidiostat
7. Improve immunity

There are thousands of different essential oils which makes research tedious and time consuming. Some researchers have found great success while others see little benefit. With that said, there are some oils with a solid foundation of data to support their use:

- Cinnamon/Cinnamaldehyde – supports gut health, antimicrobial, feed efficiency.
- Thyme – supports gut health, antimicrobial, improved growth.
- Oregano/Origanum oil – Gut health and immune support

Famo has added an essential oil layer feed to their Full-Fledged poultry line. Essential Egg utilizes a blend of essential oils to provide the best chance for success as the different oils complement one another's functions.

Using essential oils in poultry diets is a fantastic strategy to support their health, performance, and well-being.

