IMPACT OF EARLY NUTRITION ON POULTRY

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In 1998, the Poultry Science Informal Nutrition Symposium left a great impression and provided profound knowledge to all participants. It was an example of science in action. Prior to the symposium, we had some knowledge about nutrition for poultry during the initial few days after hatching. As the presentations were made and the discussions took place, it was recognized that our knowledge was improved exponentially, however, not yet adequate to provide answers to the complex issues that were acknowledged.

Dr. Yael Noy made it clear that nutrition and logic can be compatible in feeding the very young chick or poult. An example of this is providing feed immediately after hatching which can improve performance throughout the life of the animal.

Dr. W. James Croom reviewed the gastrointestinal function and its economic impact on performance. Due to logistical limitations, this paper will be published in a subsequent issue of The Journal of Applied Poultry Research.

Dr. Julia J. Dibner reviewed the effect of early feeding on the development of the immune system in neonatal poultry. The concepts that were presented by Dr. Dibner were sound, however, much more developmental work is needed.

Dr. M. S. Lilburn discussed the practical aspects of early nutrition for poultry and provided some novel approaches for its improvement.

Dr. Zehava Uni recapped the symposium and provided meaningful conclusions. She also alerted the audience to other pertinent applications for the early stages of poultry (post-hatch). Promising work is going on regarding the impact of nutrients such as vitamins and trace minerals on the digestive enzymes and other processes at the cellular and molecular level.

The symposium team consisted of Dr. D.J. Castaldo, Dr. N. Dale, Dr. Julia J. Dibner, Dr. W. Guenter, Dr. W. Robey, and Dr. J. L. Sell.

The team members, the symposium attendants, and the readers acknowledge the great effort and professionalism of the Management and Staff of The Journal of Applied Poultry Research in handling the proceedings of the symposium.