Poultry Scan(-dals)?

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Keywords: broiler; drug residues; safety; responsibilities within the chain

Abstract

In modern broiler production we need to plan to keep “Healthy Birds Healthy”, it is not serendipity it is hard work. Having developed the health plan it is then important to train all those involved in the production of the bird and to put in place monitoring processes. Early detection and diagnosis of disease is important for the ‘Responsible Use of Medicines’ in all food animals but especially when ten of thousands are potentially in the treated population. With any use of medicines either for the prevention of coccidiosis or for the treatment of respiratory or enteric disease there is the potential for residues. This needs to be managed by ensuring an adequate withdrawal period and providing context so that the consumer safety of any residue detected in routine screening can be rapidly assessed. The finding of an unexpected residue should trigger a thorough investigation to establish the root cause of the residue. Too often there is a knee jerk reflex to blame the feed and carry-over in the mill when the explanation may lie elsewhere. Everyone in the Food Chain has a responsibility to hand over the birds or the carcass meat to the next link so that it is ‘suitable for the purpose’. Communication between the links of the chain provides an understanding the challenges that have to be met – standards are set by the most demanding link of the chain; this is very rarely the consumer.