

OREGO-STIM LIQUID SUPPORTS IMPROVED EGG PRODUCTION IN A FREE RANGE SYSTEM

SUMMARY

- ✓ Laying hens in free range production systems are faced with challenges, such as lower productivity and higher mortality, in comparison to hens housed in conventional systems.
- ✓ This commercial study was undertaken to determine the effect of Orego-Stim Liquid (OSL) on the productivity of hens in a free range housing system.
- ✓ OSL is a high quality eubiotic composed of 100% natural oregano oil (OEO). Natural OEO has many properties including antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory functions, and in previous trials has been shown to support egg production in a variety of systems.
- ✓ OSL supplemented hens produced an extra 22 eggs, consumed 12% less feed per egg produced, and were 1.3 times more likely to survive compared to control hens, with an overall return on investment of 14.4:1.

COMMERCIAL STUDY DESIGN

A commercial trial was conducted in collaboration with a free range egg producer in Europe (2020/2021), to determine the effect of OSL on hen performance. Two groups of 32,000 hens were used in the study, a control group and an OSL supplemented group. OSL was administered via a Dosatron at 300ml/1000L of drinking water (two times standard inclusion) from 21 to 43 weeks of age. The inclusion rate was reduced to 200ml/1000L of drinking water until 58 weeks of age, and then increased again to 300ml/1000L of drinking water until 76 weeks of age (study termination). Egg performance data was collected daily.

RESULTS

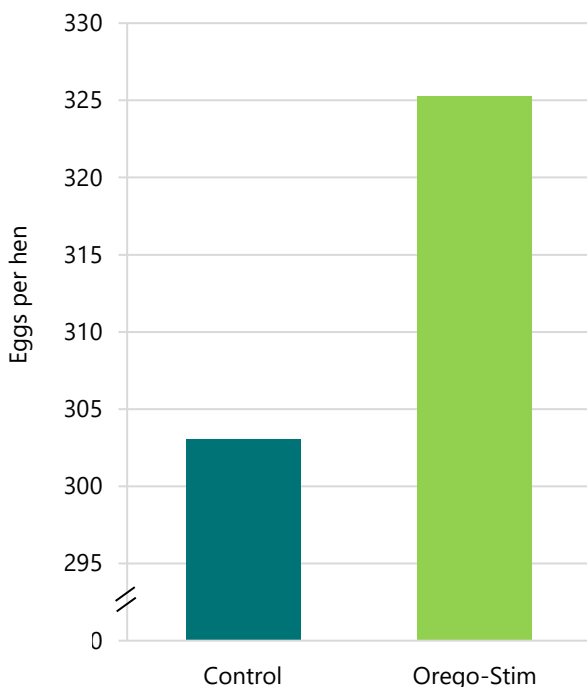


Figure 1. Average number of eggs produced per hen.

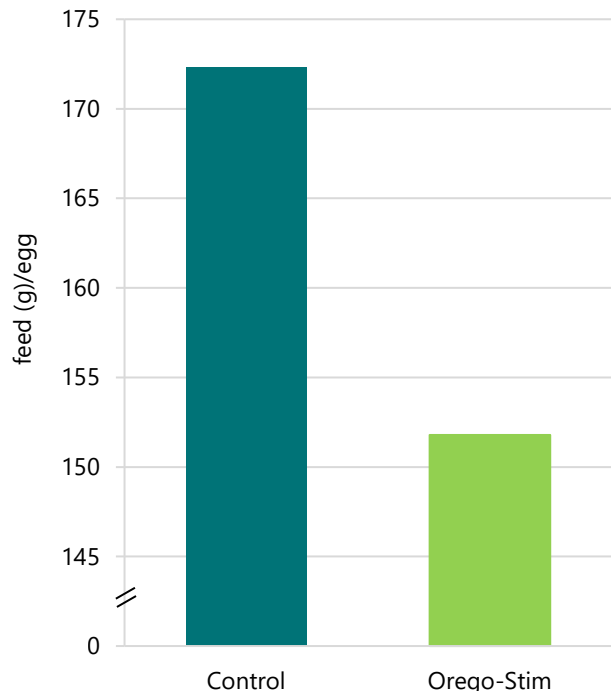


Figure 2. Average feed consumption per egg produced.



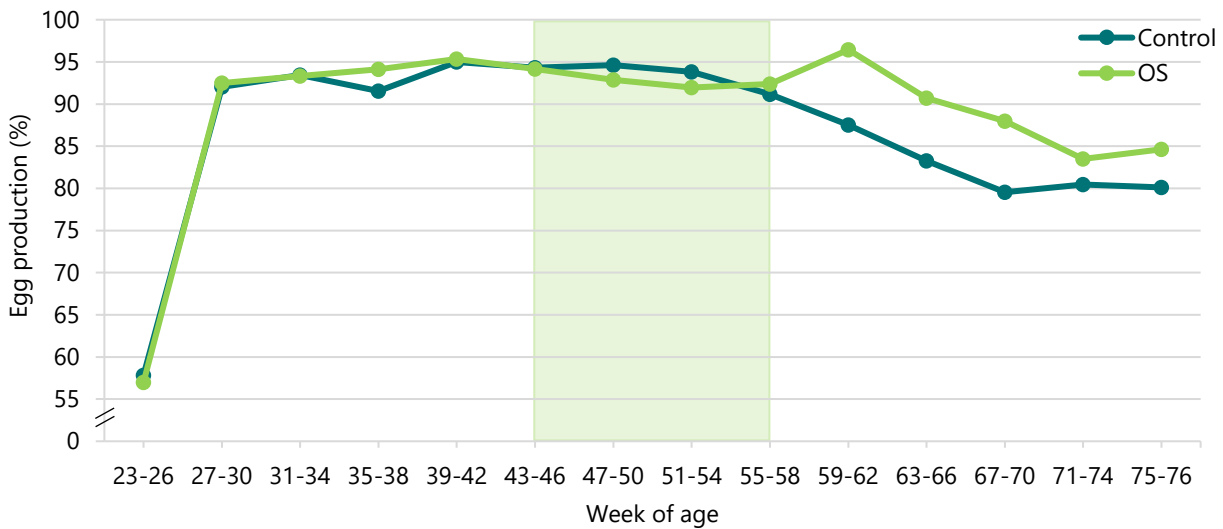


Figure 3. Egg production (%) and laying persistency. (■ Indicates period of reduced OSL inclusion).

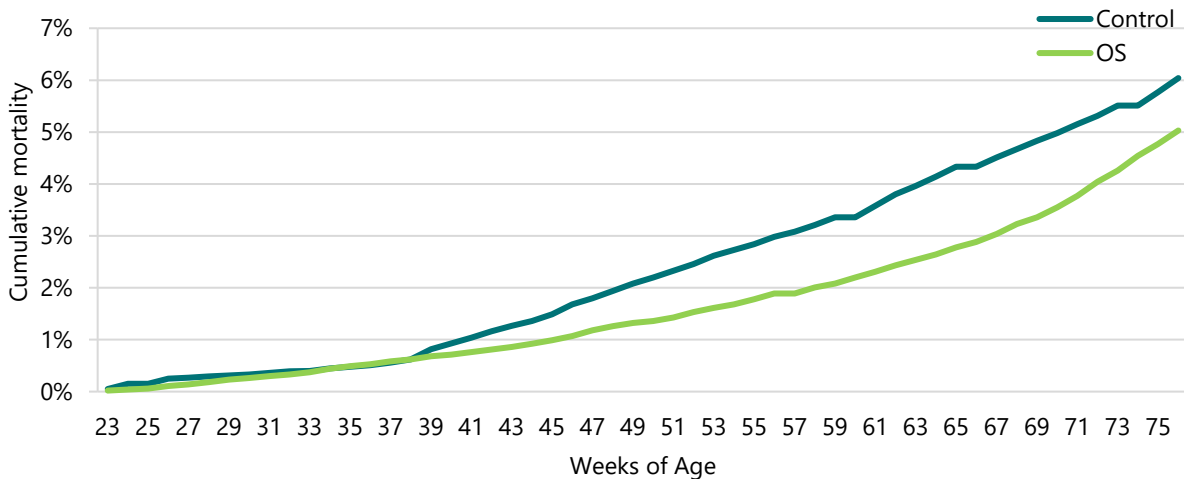


Figure 4. Cumulative hen mortality (%).

Compared to the control group, hens supplemented with OSL:

- ✓ Produced an extra 22 eggs on average (Figure 1).
- ✓ Required 12% less feed per egg produced and consumed 2.8kg less feed on average (Figure 2).
- ✓ Demonstrated improved persistency of lay (Figure 3).
- ✓ Had a 16.7% lower cumulative mortality (Figure 4), and overall were 1.3 times* more likely to survive.
- ✓ Achieved an overall return on investment of **14.4:1**.

In conclusion, OSL may support improved productivity and liveability of laying hens in free range production systems, and subsequent return on investment.

Odds ratio 1.138 (95% CI), Pearson chi-square $p=0.0027$

Disclaimer: No guarantee of performance is given. All economic benefits claimed in this document were correct at the time of publication.

