# IPPE Coverage: Using Organic Trace Minerals in Poultry Layer Diets

(QualiTech) — QualiTech Animal Nutrition researchers recently finished a trial showing organic trace minerals (SQM zinc, SQM copper and SQM manganese) in poultry layer diets optimizes the bird's egg production from weeks 40 through 51 of the birds' production cycle. QualiTech found by replacing zinc, copper and manganese from an inorganic source to their organic SQM form significantly influence nearly all of the egg production parameters measured with positive trends for those not reaching statistical significance (feed consumption, total eggs layed, egg weight, feed/dozen eggs, etc.)

This 12-week performance study was conducted utilizing more than 240 Lohmann LSL Classic layers in either colony groups or individual laying cages. Egg product and weight was measured daily. Every 14 days eggs were collected (from each individual cage and 30 from each colony pen) for candling, weight, egg shell thickness and strength, and egg quality. Feed intake was measured on a weekly basis. The trace minerals in the study were zinc, copper and manganese provided by either an inorganic sulfate source (or oxide for manganese) or SQM polysaccharide complex. The levels of zinc, copper and manganese evaluated were 40 ppm, 40 ppm, and 25 ppm.

The study results indicate the use of organic sources, such as SQM, will provide the highest level of live animal performance. The additional cost of using an organic source such as SQM was offset by the influence of overall production and egg quality. This study indicates that the use of organic trace minerals (SQM) allows egg production facilities to optimize their output and maintain a high quality product with maximized feed efficiency.

*For more information, please stop by the QualiTech booth #2859 at IPE or visit www.qualitechco.com or call 800.328.5870 ext.222.*

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