

DDGS use prompts questions

By TIM LUNDEEN

WITH the increased availability of ethanol co-products, especially distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), concern has been expressed about virginiamycin residues in DDGS, particularly in diets fed to laying hens as Food & Drug Administration regulations state that virginiamycin residue in laying hen feed is an adulterant.

Before the current ethanol boom started, Smith Kline Beecham obtained a letter of no objection from FDA in 1993 concerning its Lactrol formulation of virginiamycin targeted to ethanol production.

Phibro Animal Health Corp. acquired the Lactrol product and is the exclusive supplier. The 1993 letter, amended in 1994 to change the carrier from lactose to dextrose, applies only to Lactrol and does not allow the use of virginiamycin Type A Medicated Articles approved for use in medicated animal feeds.

Lactrol is the only antimicrobial used in ethanol production in the U.S. that has undergone FDA review and received a no objection letter. Other antimicrobials — such as penicillin and some combinations — are being used, Phibro pointed out, but their

Key Points

- One antimicrobial product has been reviewed for use in ethanol production.
- Phibro working with FDA to demonstrate that residues are not a concern.

safety has never been assessed by FDA.

The letter allows the maximum use rate of 2-6 parts per million in the ethanol fermentation phase and requires 0.5 ppm or less of virginiamycin residues in distillers grains.

At the recent International Poultry Science Forum in Atlanta, Ga., E.C. Hale III of Rose Acre Farms presented an abstract (M81) on virginiamycin residue analysis in DDGS.

He pointed out that FDA regulatory language does not differentiate between active and inactive virginiamycin residues as an adulterant, but the microbial inhibition test method generally used by FDA identifies only active virginiamycin residues.

The FDA letter of no objection for Lactrol clearly defines the maximum residue limits for virginiamycin and links them to a specific testing method — the microbial inhibition test.

Phibro also told *Feedstuffs* that it is working with FDA to



demonstrate that virginiamycin residues are not a concern with DDGS use in laying hen diets.

Furthermore, Phibro said it is

working on developing a third-party certification program that, when implemented, will allow DDGS producers to have

their product tested for the presence of virginiamycin residues using the microbial inhibition test accepted by FDA.

USDA investigates plant

• From page 1

THE video was released on Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer's first day in office, and he responded swiftly, establishing a team of USDA agencies, including the Office of the Inspector General, to investigate the matter.

He also indefinitely suspended the company as a meat supplier to USDA food nutrition programs until the team completes its investigation and USDA takes "appro-

ally inspected plant, but the HSUS investigator said the inspectors observed procedures in the facility only twice a day, at 6:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and the workers' goal was to get the animals on their feet long enough for the inspectors to pass them as ambulatory.

If an animal goes down after it passed, a facility must notify inspectors to have it re-inspected, but the investigator said that rarely happened.

HSUS has not disclosed the

ably confident that we will get to the bottom of this."

FSIS has enforcement responsibility for the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, which governs how livestock are handled in processing plants.

Although Petersen said FSIS had not taken action to shut down the plant, Mendell said operations there have been suspended pending the company's own investigation of the matter.

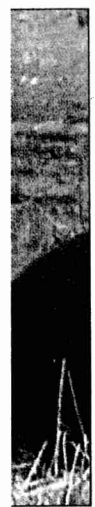
Tyson to change claim

• From page 1

THE plaintiffs said media campaigns continued to run after the Jan. 20 deadline,

start using its new advertising and promotional materials in February.

The dispute represents the latest in a series of events associated with Tyson's move



new
wn are

sed ex-

ported
f wheat
rley to
s more
agricul-
untry.
deal is
ill have
Peru's
g econ-
lemand
t prod-
aid in a

the fed-
ow ad-
Colom-
490,000
1 wheat