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### **Changes to nutrition strategies could reduce woody breast – AB Vista**

The release of nutrients through phytase superdosing, combined with nutrients that support the antioxidant status of the animal, are emerging as focuses in the search for tools and strategies to counter the effects of woody breast in poultry.

The exact cause of woody breast, a muscle myopathy affecting the quality, texture and colour of chicken breast meat, is currently unknown – although initial research points to genetics and fast growth rates.

Dr Tara York, AB Vista Technical Manager for the US, says that amid the wide variety of studies underway aimed at determining the cause, the most recent unpublished studies encourage the view that dietary manipulations can reduce the incidence of woody breast.

“Although a novel concept, recent studies evaluating the impact of trace minerals and antioxidants in combination with feeding higher levels of phytase, suggest they may reduce the incidence and severity of woody breast.

“Woody breast is a complex issue, and there doesn’t appear to be an easy fix – but superdosing influences many areas of nutrition, and our initial research suggests when you combine superdosing with other factors that support the antioxidants system, such as zinc and Vitamin E, there is some success in reducing the severity of the condition. Essentially the condition

may be alleviated because we are aiding the bird's ability to cope with environmental and metabolic stress while also supporting the increased demand for these nutrients for growth rate and breast muscle development."

Dr York explores these novel approaches in a new video, 'Nutritional strategies to improve breast meat quality', available at [AB Vista's website](#). The video features an exclusive interview, along with extracts of Dr York's presentation from November's International Phytate Summit - an event that focused on strategies for formulating with minerals and amino acids in the presence of phytate.

Dr York says the summit formed part of the company's collaborative approach to understanding how nutrition can help the industry to overcome current challenges such as woody breast.

"As an industry the more we expect from the broiler, the more we need to invest to ensure we accomplish our goal in an effective manner."

Watch highlights from the three-day International Phytate Summit here: <https://www.abvista.com/Innovation/International/IPS3.aspx>

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**Notes to editor:**

AB Vista is an animal nutrition technology company offering pioneering products and technical services to the global animal feed industry. Since its establishment in 2004, AB Vista has grown to be a top-three player in feed enzymes and is also one of the largest suppliers of natural betaine to the global animal nutrition industry. The company invests heavily in research

and development and has a growing portfolio of products and services spanning the poultry, swine, ruminant and aquaculture sectors. AB Vista is headquartered in the UK, with regional offices located in the USA, Brazil, Singapore, Spain, India, China, Germany and Finland.

AB Vista is part of AB Agri, the agricultural division of Associated British Foods, one of Europe's largest food & retail companies with a market capitalisation of £22 billion.

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