

# Good Management Practices to Reduce Enterococcus in Broilers



**Country of GP owner:** Spain

**BroilerNet Challenge:** Reducing the persistence and recurrence of Enterococci

This proposal seeks to reduce, through careful management of the animals, the factors that can lead to infection by Enterococci. These are not practices that have this prevention as their sole purpose, but it is necessary to be aware of their importance in order to avoid any aspect that leads to a promotion of the conditions in which Enterococci develop. First of all, it would be a question of avoiding thermal stress in chickens, especially in the first days of life. Caloric stress causes changes in the permeability of the intestine, which allows pathogens to pass into the systemic circulation and from there to affect other organs and tissues.

This situation is exacerbated when the animal stops eating or reduces its intake due to the heat, which makes it weak and more susceptible to infections. Secondly, the food must be appropriate to its growth needs and the environmental conditions in which it is found. The food must also strengthen the animals' immune system, reduce their susceptibility to infections and help prevent the proliferation of pathogens while promoting the growth of a beneficial microbiota. In addition, changes in the type of feed or in its composition must be gradual. Finally, it is necessary to control the quality of the water, acidifying it when deemed appropriate.

