LATIN AMERICA MANAGEMENT

ROSS 308 AP

Management Supplement

2016

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Introduction

The Ross® 308 AP is a Ross breeder that has been developed specifically for the Latin American market and selected for higher meat yield and a lower feed conversion ratio (FCR) when compared to the Ross 308.

The purpose of this supplement is to highlight the management differences between the Ross 308 AP and the Ross 308. Management practices not addressed in this document should follow the guidelines and recommendations found in the Ross Grandparent, Parent Stock, and Broiler Management Handbooks.

The Performance Objectives for the Ross 308 AP are different from those of the Ross 308 and are specific to results obtained in Latin America. When used outside of this region, results will vary.

The information presented in this supplement is based on data from internal trials, field studies, practical knowledge, experience, and expertise of Aviagen® Service Teams from the Latin American region. It includes grandparent and parent stock management, nutrition, and hatchery.

Grandparent Female Line Female and Parent Stock Female Management

Brooding

During the brooding period (0-28 days) it is important to provide enough feeders and drinkers to allow all birds easy access to feed and water. The Ross 308 AP female has a natural tendency to eat faster than the Ross 308 female, which may result in less uniform flocks at point of lay. The provision of correct feeder and drinker space from placement, and ensuring correct crop fill levels (**Figure 1** and **Table 1**) are achieved, will help flock uniformity get off to a good start. For more information on crop fill, please see Management How To #1 – *How To Assess Crop Fill*.

Figure 1: Crop fill assessment. The chick on the left has a full, rounded crop while the chick on the right has an empty crop.

Table 1: Crop fill targets.

Time of Crop Fill Check After Placement	Target Crop Fill (% of Chicks with Full Crops)
2 hours	75
8 hours	>80
12 hours	>85
24 hours	>95

Body-Weight Profile

The Ross 308 AP follows a different body-weight profile than the Ross 308. It has a larger skeletal frame size than the Ross 308, making it important to closely monitor and maintain the relative differences in body weight and frame size of both males and females. Ensuring that both males and females stay on body-weight target will help fertility and mating in production. Routine weighing should be used to closely monitor body weight throughout the life of the flock and to help managers recognize and respond to deviations promptly.

Because the Ross 308 AP has been selected for better FCR, all generations have the ability to efficiently convert nutrients into yield. Daily nutrient allowances provided in the Ross 308 AP Performance Objectives should be strictly adhered to, especially in the case of crude protein and energy intake. Regardless of the number of feeding stages adopted during rearing, it is crucial to closely monitor the feed distribution, feed volume, feed intake parity, and feed clean-up time in order to maintain flock uniformity. All of these variables should be taken into account when determining the feeding program, diet energy density, and practices. Following the nutrient allocations defined in the Ross 308 AP Performance Objectives also helps to provide adequate fat pad deposition at point of lay. The recommendation is to feel fat cover over pin bones at least once per week from 20 weeks on. Fat pad development is likely to be sufficient if pin bones feel rounded rather than sharp to the touch.

Egg Size

The Ross 308 AP has a tendency to produce larger eggs than the Ross 308. Closely following the Ross 308 Parent Stock Nutrition Specifications will help to control egg size and produce eggs that are close to target egg weight, thus helping to maximize hatchability and hatching egg utilization.

Lighting Programs

The basic principles for lighting the Ross 308 AP are the same as those for the Ross 308. The recommendations for lighting programs can be found in the Ross Parent Stock Management Handbook.

Laying Period

Feeding Into Production

When feeding the Ross 308 AP at point of production, closely adhere to the nutritional recommendations for the Ross 308. Feed allocation increase from the onset of production until peak production should be well-aligned to hen-day % production and egg weight. This will help to ensure that the females are not overfed as they climb to peak egg production.

Feeding After Peak Production

A breeding bird must never lose weight. However, after peak production, the bird requires less feed. Feed withdrawal after peak production should be more conservative for the Ross 308 AP when compared to the Ross 308. Female body weight, egg weight, egg mass, and hen-day % production must be taken into account when deciding which feed withdrawal program will be used. As a guideline for the Ross 308 AP, it is advisable to withdraw a total of 8% of feed divided into 4% from 2 weeks after peak production until 40 weeks of age. From 40 weeks until 55 weeks of age, 4% of feed should be withdrawn. For both grandparent and parent stock, feed withdrawal should be stopped after 55 weeks of age.

Hatchery

Egg shell quality for the Ross 308 AP tends to be better than the Ross 308. Because of this, it is important to pay close attention to egg moisture loss in order to achieve the best hatchability. For more information, see Hatchery How To #1 – *How To Measure Water Loss*.

Conclusions

Although the basic management advice for the Ross 308 AP is the same as that of the Ross 308, some key considerations include:

- The Ross 308 AP tends to eat faster than the Ross 308 - managing uniformity is therefore a point of attention.
- Aim for >95% crop fill at 24 hours after placement.
- Monitor male body weight and skeletal size for best mating and fertility results.
- The Ross 308 AP has been selected to have better FCR than the Ross 308.
- The Ross 308 AP should follow a 3-stage rearing program.
- The Ross 308 AP may produce larger eggs than the Ross 308.
- Follow Ross 308 nutritional guidelines and take care not to overfeed females as they climb to peak egg production.
- Feed withdrawal should be more conservative with the Ross 308 AP.
- Pay close attention to Ross 308 AP egg moisture loss in order to achieve the best hatchability.

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For further information on the management of Ross stock, please contact your local Ross representative.

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