

Special Issue

Effects of Alternative Feeds and Dietary Additives on Poultry Growth, Immune Function and Gut Health

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleague, Alternative feeds include not only cheap byproducts, but also cereal grains or legume seeds with high abiotic stress resistance. These feedstuffs usually contain more fibre, antinutritive compounds and more variation in their nutrient content, resulting in lower digestibility and worse feed conversion. Although these alternative sources are being used at small, safe ratios, we do not really know their maximal inclusion rates and their effects on gut health and the gut-associated immune system. Alternative feeds can modify not only digestibility and production traits, but also the microbiota of the small intestine and caeca. Therefore, holistic knowledge is needed to evaluate byproduct-based poultry diets and to give support for the industry with alternative solutions. In this Special Issue, new research on the abovementioned research fields is welcome. Economic evaluations could also be taken into account. We invite you to submit papers, with the aim of helping feed manufacturing companies and poultry farmers to overcome the difficult challenges posed by rising feed costs.

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