



Introduction of Zeolites and Their Utility in Poultry

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Abstract

Zeolites are naturally occurring minerals that have unique molecular structures and are widely used in various industrial and agricultural applications. In recent years, zeolites have gained attention in poultry farming due to their potential benefits for improving animal health, productivity and environmental sustainability. This article aims to introduce zeolites and their applications in poultry farming, highlighting their benefits, mechanism of action and potential limitations.

Introduction

Zeolites are hydrated aluminosilicates that have a porous structure and a high affinity for cations, such as calcium, magnesium, and ammonium. They are formed by the alteration of volcanic ash and are found in many parts of the world. Zeolites have been used for decades in various industrial applications, such as adsorption, catalysis and ion exchange. More recently, they have also been used in agriculture and animal husbandry, particularly in the poultry industry.

Poultry farming is a rapidly growing industry that faces several challenges, including disease outbreaks, environmental pollution, and feed costs. Zeolites have been proposed as a potential solution to some of these challenges, due to their ability to improve animal health, increase feed efficiency, reduce environmental pollution and enhance nutrient utilization.

Utility of Zeolites in Poultry

Zeolites have several potential benefits when used in poultry farming. Firstly, they can improve animal health and productivity by reducing the incidence of bacterial and viral infections, such as coccidiosis and salmonellosis, through their antibacterial and immunomodulatory effects. Secondly, they can increase feed efficiency and reduce feed costs by adsorbing mycotoxins and other harmful substances in feed, and enhancing nutrient utilization and absorption. Thirdly, they can reduce environmental pollution by adsorbing ammonia and other noxious gases in poultry litter, and



improving air and water quality. Finally, they can also enhance the quality of poultry products, such as meat and eggs, by improving their taste, texture, and shelf life.

The mechanism of action of zeolites in poultry is not fully understood, but it is thought to involve their adsorption and ion exchange properties. Zeolites can adsorb and trap harmful substances, such as bacteria, viruses, mycotoxins, and heavy metals, and prevent their absorption into the animal's system. They can also exchange cations with those in the animal's gut, which can enhance nutrient absorption and utilization, and improve gut health.

Conclusion

Zeolites are a promising tool for improving poultry health, productivity, and sustainability. They have several potential benefits, including improving animal health and feed efficiency, reducing environmental pollution, and enhancing product quality. However, the use of zeolites in poultry farming is still in its early stages, and more research is needed to fully understand their mechanism of action, potential limitations, and optimal usage levels. Nevertheless, zeolites hold great promise for improving poultry farming practices and ensuring a sustainable and healthy food supply.

References

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