

**For Immediate Release**

**U.S. Poultry & Egg Association**

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**New Research Explores Dietary Approaches to Maintain Eggshell Quality in Older Hens**

USPOULTRY and the USPOULTRY Foundation announce the completion of a research project evaluating the effects of dacitic tuff breccia (DTB) and phytase on eggshell quality in older hens. The research is part of the Association's comprehensive research program, which encompasses all phases of poultry and egg production and processing, and is made possible in part through proceeds from the International Poultry Expo, part of the International Production & Processing Expo.

**Project F-118: Effects of Phytase and Dacitic Tuff Breccia (Azomite®) Supplementation Programs to Support Extended Lay in Laying Hens**

(Dr. Ishab Poudel, Prestage Department of Poultry Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.)

As the poultry industry looks to extend the productive lifespan of hens beyond 100 weeks, maintaining eggshell quality becomes increasingly important for animal welfare, sustainability and profitability. Researchers at North Carolina State University evaluated the impact of early dietary supplementation with DTB and phytase on eggshell strength and quality in older hens.

Hens fed moderate levels of DTB (0.25%) beginning at 50 weeks of age maintained stronger eggshells, while phytase supplementation improved bone strength and overall skeletal health. Although the combined use of DTB and phytase did not consistently yield additional benefits, each independently supported hen productivity during extended lay.

These findings provide practical insights for maintaining egg quality and supporting hen health in older flocks.

The research [summary](#) can be found on the USPOULTRY website. Information on other Association research may also be obtained by visiting the USPOULTRY [website](#).

**About USPOULTRY**

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the All Feather Association progressively serving its poultry and egg members through research, education, communications and technical services. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.

**About USPOULTRY Foundation**

The USPOULTRY Foundation's mission is to support the recruitment and training of the brightest students, seek and fund scientific research, foster student scientists and promote careers in the poultry and egg industry.