Feed Additives and their use in animal nutrition

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Defination

• Feed additives is an ingredient or combination of ingredients added to the basic feed mix or parts there of to fulfill the specific need

• Usually used in microquantities and requires careful handling and mixing

• It is used to improve rate of gain, feed efficiency, preventing and controlling disease, prevention against untoward enviromantal influences.
Types of feed additives

• Nutrient feed additives
  – E.g. amino acids, minerals and vitamins

• Non nutrient feed additives
  – E.g. antibiotics, hormones, immunomodulators, enzymes, probiotics,
Advantages

- Increase feed quality and feed palatability
- Improve animal performance
- Improve the final product
- Economise the cost of animal protein
Antibiotics

Two Types:
• Non Ionophore antibiotics e.g. Chlortetracyclin, zinc bacitracin etc.
• Ionophore antibiotics e.g. monensin, lasalocid, salinomycin etc.
• Difference in between two is there mode of action
• Non ionophore antibiotics
  – Stimulation of microorganisms which favors nutrient synthesis
  – Suppression of organisms which compete for critical nutrients
  – Inhibition of toxin producing bacteria
• Ionophore antibiotics
  – Form hydrophobic complex with inorganic cations like sodium potassium and calcium
  – Mainly active against gram + ve organisms bcoz outer membrane of gram - ve bacteria are impermeable to such complexes
• Ionophore and nonionophore have been used in non-ruminants and preruminants while, only ionophore are successfully used in adult ruminants
Arsenicals

• E.g. 3-nitro-4hydroxy phenylarsonic acid (3 nitro), P-amino phenylarsonic acid (arsanilic acid)
• it improves the growth of broilers
• Such birds have bright red combs and wattles as it enlarges the cappillaries due to its dilator effect

Copper supplements

• Routinely used in pig diet as growth promoter
• Level at 250mg/kg in diet produce soft fat
• It also causes partial defaunation in ruminants
Hormones

- It is secreted by endocrine glands into the blood for transportation to target organ and tissue. Two types
- Anabolic hormones: Somatotropin, thyroxin and Androgens
  - They stimulates growth of endochondrial bones and epiphysis of long bones
  - Also aid in nitrogen retention during protein metabolism
- Catabolic Hormones: Oestrogens, glucocorticoids
  - They inhibit skeletal growth and also degrading protein and amino acid

Immunomodulators

- They are obtained from organisms or synthesized chemically which are capable of enhancing the defence mechanism
- Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Levamisole, quaternary ammonium compounds, chitin
Enzymes

- Cellulase, xylanase, protease, hemicellulase
- It is usually used with some unconventional feed stuff

Probiotics

- Parker coined the term Probiotics
- It is live culture of non pathogenic organisms which beneficially affect the host animal by improving its intestinal microbial balance.
- E.g. *lactobacillus acidophilus, L. casei, L. bifidus*

Prebiotics

- E.g. MOS, FOS
- Complex carbohydrates extracted from yeast cell wall
- MOS blocks the attachment of harmful bacteria and prevent their colonization
- FOS enhance the growth of probiotic bacteria which reduces harmful bacteria
Acidifiers

• E.g. Formic acid, Propionic acid

Antioxidants

• E.g. Vitamin E, Vitamin C (Natural)
• Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), Butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) (Synthetic)

Sequestrants

• E.g. EDTA, citric acid
• They are metal scavengers binds with certain metals (copper and iron) which acts as catalyst in oxidation process.