# Preventative Medicines for More Sustainable Poultry

ANIMAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

America is the world's leading poultry producer, and poultry meat is the most consumed animal protein in the U.S. Domestic and global demand for animal protein like poultry calls for producers to take steps to ensure animal welfare while also minimizing the industry's environmental footprint. In this sense, the animal health products that protect against common poultry diseases have a significant impact on economic and food security sustainability.

In 2024, the total number of broilers produced in the US was 9.33 billion, with a total live weight of 61.1 billion pounds.

**To illustrate the relationship between animal health products and the sustainability of the poultry industry, Oxford Analytica analyzed the impacts of coccidiosis on broilers.**

Coccidiosis is a protozoan parasite that can affect the intestines of domestic meat-producing and egg-producing poultry. Morbidity can affect entire flocks, and mortality rates can reach as high as 50%. Anti-coccidiosis treatments, including synthetic drugs, ionophores, vaccines, and holistic farm management approaches, are essential to reducing mortality, improving animal welfare, and minimizing the ecological footprint of poultry production.

## CONSEQUENCES OF UNTREATED COCCIDIOSIS

### Animal Welfare

**1.7 BILLION**

Without anticoccidial drugs, the U.S. poultry industry would lose 1.7 billion broiler chickens to coccidiosis.

### Environmental Impact

Infected or weakened chickens require more feed (corn and soy), which contributes to GHG emissions and expanded land use.

## VALUE OF TREATING COCCIDIOSIS

### Food Supply

**8.5B pounds of poultry**

The additional 1.7 billion broiler chickens that would be saved by treating coccidiosis could deliver an estimated 39 billion chicken meals.

### Economic Impact

**$1.8 BILLION**

By reducing mortality, anticoccidial drugs could preserve an additional $1.8 billion in production value.

**For more information, contact:**
Ginny Siller: gsiller@ahi.org or 202-341-0620