

Efficacy of plant extracts (CleanActiv and AEN) on the performance of broiler chickens reared in experimental conditions compared to conventional ionophor program

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Due to the growing pressure of governments and consumers to reduce the use of antibiotics and coccidiostats in animal feed, new alternatives to prevent coccidiosis are now available beyond the use of vaccines. Plant extracts are commonly known in Europe to reduce incidence of coccidiosis [1]. This trial was implemented to compare a plant extract digestive program (CleanActiv and AEN) with a conventional coccidiostat program and an untreated group.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

- 4 920 broilers, mixed males and females Ross, reared in a private experimental farm.
- 24 pens of 205 broilers: 8 repetitions/treatment

Density: 16.4 broilers /m²

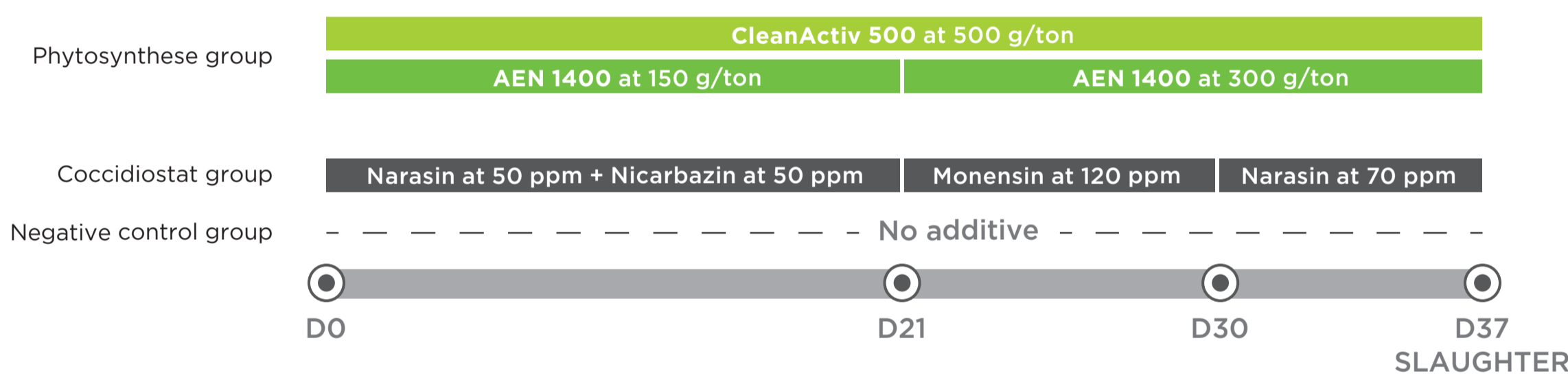
Feeds: Starter D0 to D21, Grower D21 to D30, Finisher D30 to D37 (slaughtering)

Control group (C-): no supplementation

Control group (C+): ionophor coccidiostat program

Experimental group (PE): plant extract group with **CleanActiv** and **AEN** products (titrated in terpens, phenols, organosulfurs and phenylpropanoids)

TREATMENTS



- **Recording:** feed intake, live weight and mortality measured at day 7, 21, 28 and 35 for each pen
- One bird by pen necropsied at day 19, 28 and 35 to determine coccidiosis lesion scores

RESULTS

FIGURE 1: LIVE WEIGHTS (G)

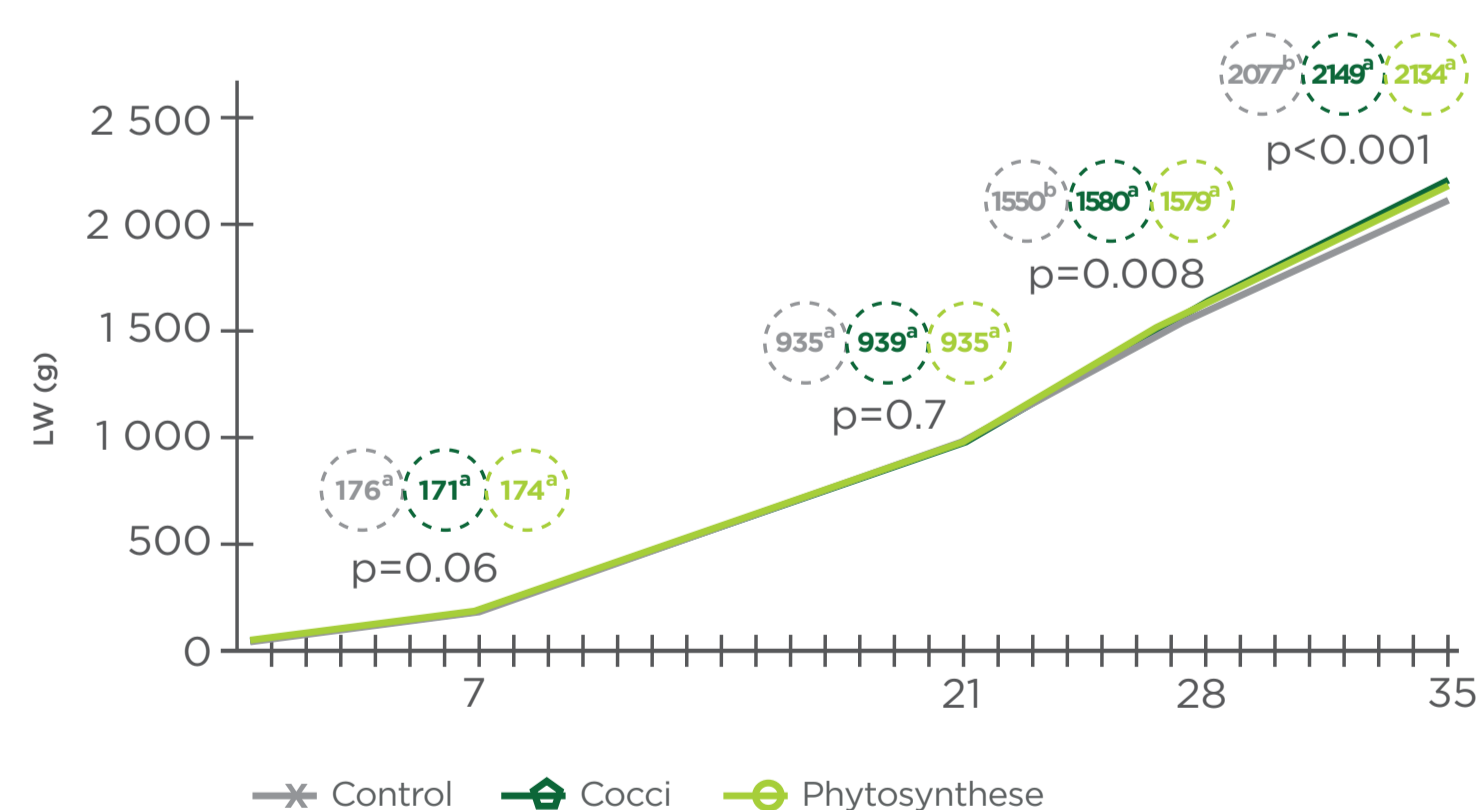


FIGURE 2: DAILY WEIGHT GAIN PER PERIOD (G/D)

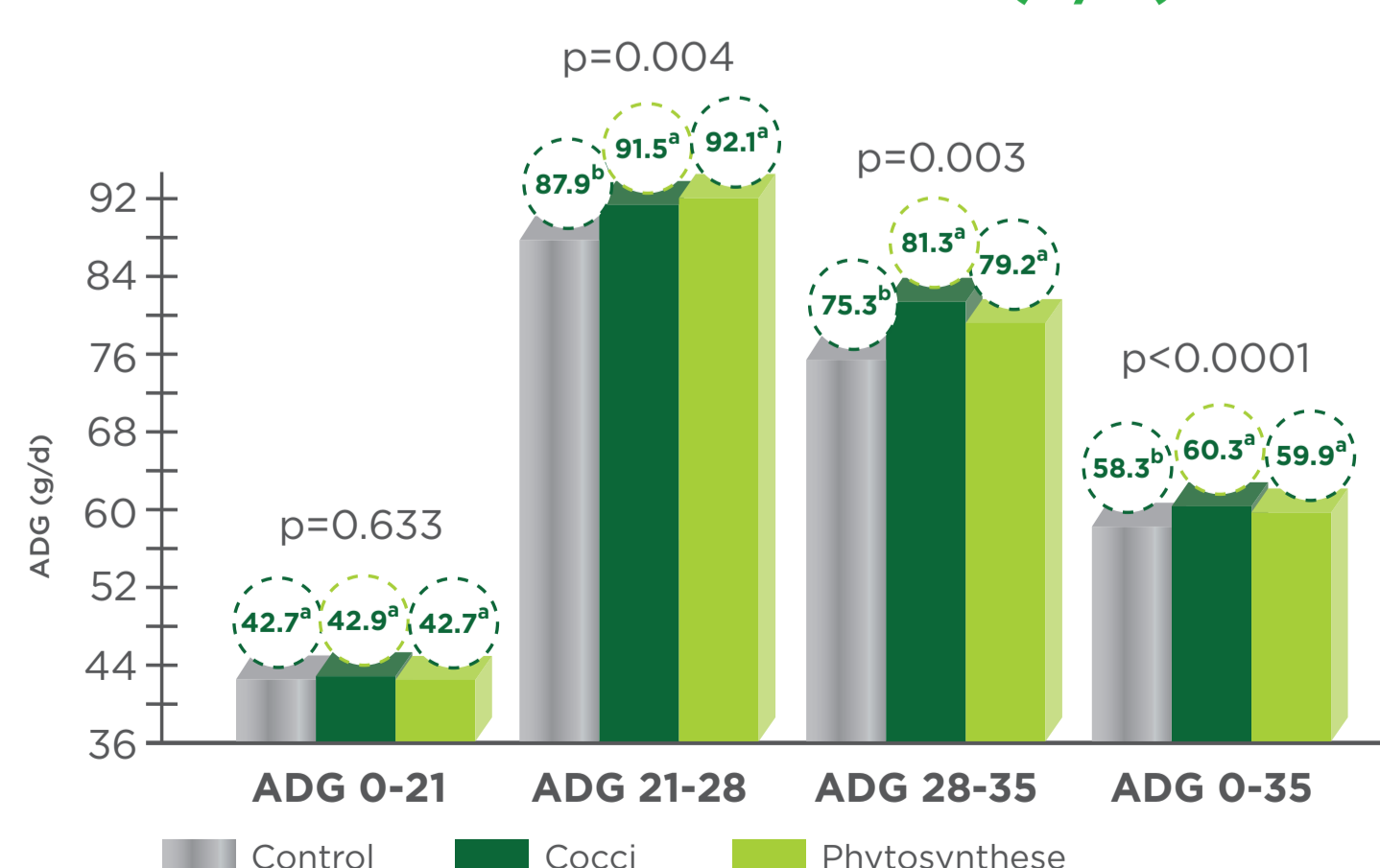


FIGURE 3: FEED CONVERSION RATIO PER PERIOD

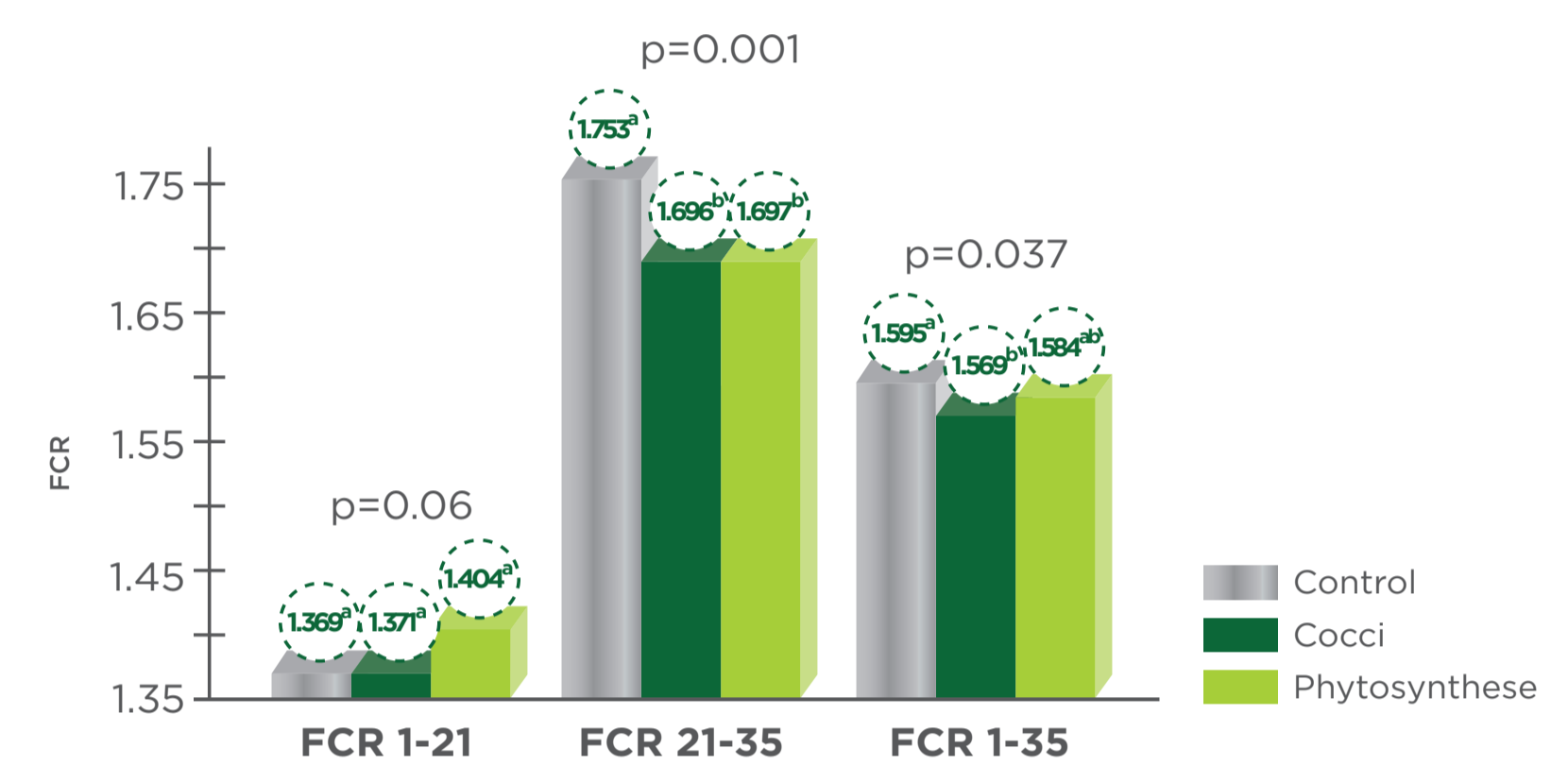
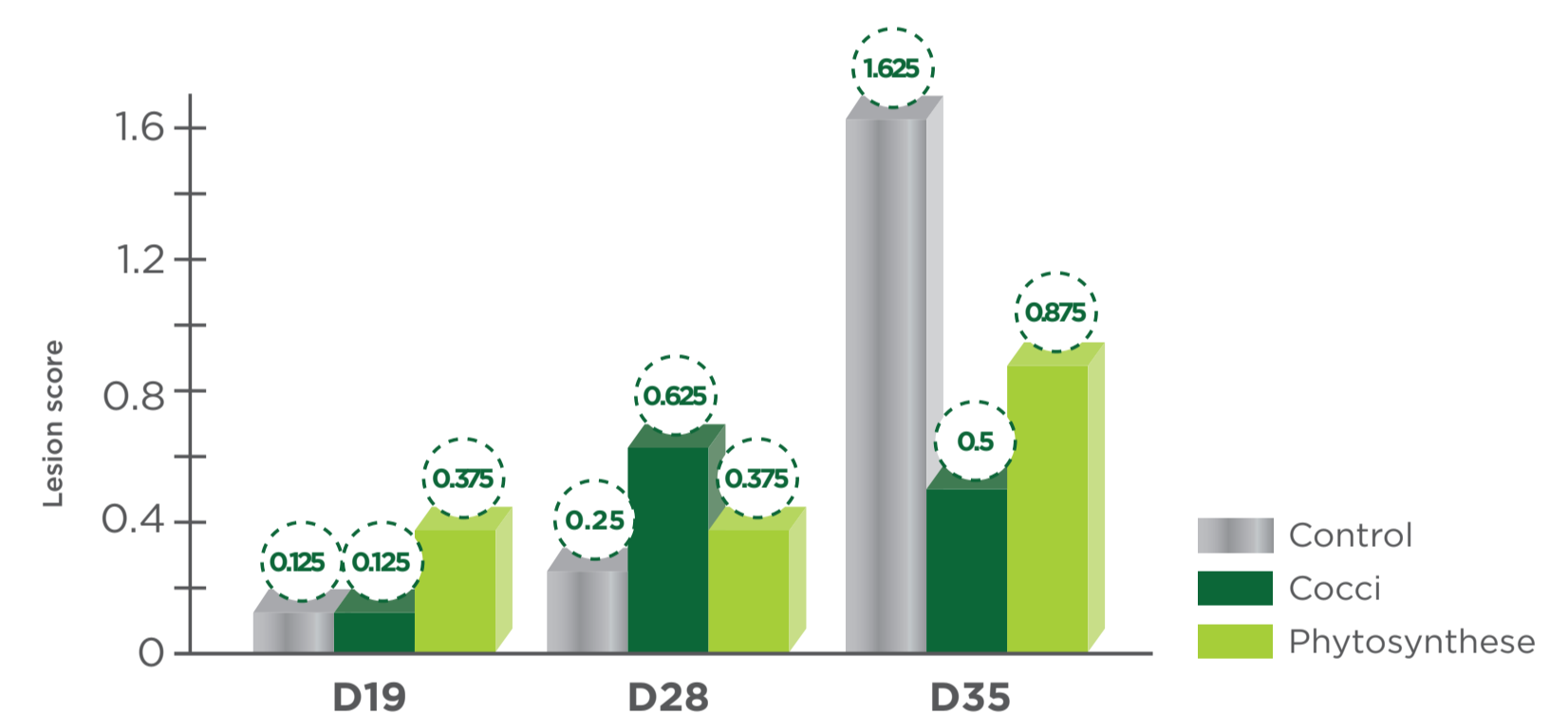


FIGURE 4: LESION SCORE (E. MAXIMA + E. TENELLA)



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

At D28 and D35 live weights were higher for PE than C- (live weight at 35 days: 2.077 kg vs 2.134 kg; $p < 0.0001$). The average daily gain (ADG) was higher for PE than C- (58.3 g/d vs 59.9 g/d; $p < 0.0001$).

No significant differences were observed for LW, ADG or FCR between PE and C+ at any period. Regarding necropsies, *Eimeria maxima* and *Eimeria tenella* lesions were observed; due to experimental conditions and no artificial challenge, un-significant differences were obtained. Mortality was between 1.6 and 1.9 % with no significant difference.

JUIN *et al.* (2007) [2] and FORAT *et al.* (2009) [3] obtained similar results. These performances could be explained by a reduction of *Eimeria* invasion in epithelium cells [4] and improved immunity [5].

Performances were improved in treated groups from 21 days, when the daily growth and risk of coccidiosis and enteritis became higher.

REFERENCES

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Plant extract programs are very promising for reducing the use of antibiotics and coccidiostats in the future