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The importance of vitamin C under heat stress

The inclusion of vitamin E in animal feed has received a lot of attention. However, the inclusion of vitamin C in animal feed is also important and it might even be underestimated, as vitamin C has several beneficial functions, including free radical detoxification and beneficial effects on the immune system.

Although, both pigs and poultry are capable of synthesizing vitamin C to meet their requirements, the addition of vitamin C can benefit the animals.

For example, the body stores of vitamin C can easily be depleted during periods of stress, including heat stress, and vitamin C deficiency may therefore occur. Today, in some parts of the world, vitamin C is added to the broiler feed, during hot periods i.e. in the summer or throughout the year in the tropics, to reduce the negative impact of heat stress. However, the problem is that vitamin C is very sensitive to environmental conditions including heat, and there are often losses during manufacturing, storage and feeding. Therefore, more stable alternatives are attractive.

Nor-Feed's products, **ECspare2** and **Nor-Guard OMV** are stable products, which contain a combination of water and fat-soluble antioxidants, both of which types are needed to reduce the negative impacts of stress.

Nor-Feed A/S and its sister companies develop and manufacture a long line of natural antioxidants for the animal feed industry and for preservation purposes. For more information on these products, please contact Nor-Feed A/S (office@norfeed.dk).