

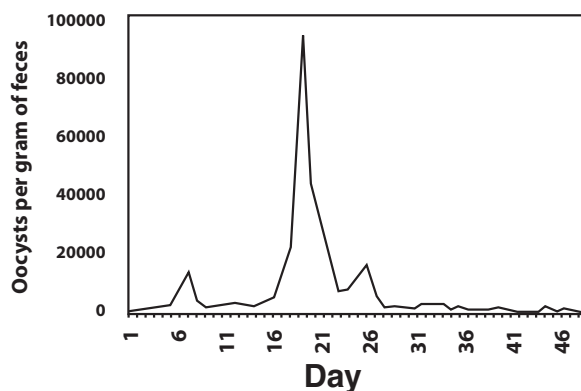


## Coccivac®-B Normal Reaction: Oocyst Shedding Pattern

**T**he normal Coccivac-B reaction pattern in broilers has been documented through field post-mortem sessions. The typical reaction following day-of-age spray application will produce gross coccidial lesions between 14 and 28 days of age, with the typical lesion peak between 18 and 23 days.

A recent study by Dr. Greg Mathis at Southern Poultry Research, Athens, Georgia followed the pattern of oocyst production following day-of-age spray application of Coccivac-B vaccine. The daily oocyst production (oocysts per gram of feces) pattern is summarized below:

**Coccivac-B Oocyst Shedding Pattern**



The lesion pattern consists of a small early mixed peak made up of mostly *E. acervulina* and *E. tenella*, a large mixed oocyst peak at 18 to 21 days of mostly *E. acervulina*, and a small late *E. maxima* peak at day 26 – 27. After day 28, oocyst excretion dramatically decreases, corresponding to development of immunity.

### Summary:

- The oocyst excretion pattern appears to correspond to the field post-mortem lesion observations.
- Field experience with antibiotic-free poultry demonstrates that necrotic enteritis secondary to Coccivac-B reaction most frequently occurs at 16 to 17 days of age. This corresponds to the last stage of the coccidial life cycle before peak oocyst shedding occurs. All necrotic enteritis control measures should be focused on this time period.
- Any attempt to use amprolium to control the reaction level should be focused on flocks at 16 to 17 days of age to achieve a reduction in reaction without disrupting the cycling of the vaccine and the development of an immune response.
- The dramatic decline in oocyst production after 28 days indicates that the immunity has developed and the infection has resolved. The flock performance should be unaffected by coccidiosis after this point.

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