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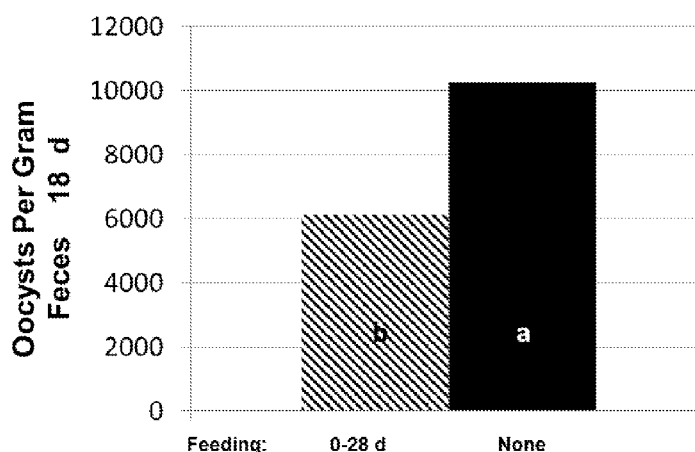


FIG. 28

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein are embodiments of a combination and/or composition for administration to animals. In some embodiments, the combination and/or composition can be administered to treat and/or prevent a disease in animals. In some embodiments, the combination and/or composition can be administered to promote animal health. In some embodiments, the combination comprises a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera*, *Quillaja saponaria*, and combinations thereof and a composition comprising an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial, a vaccine, or combinations thereof. The combinations or compositions disclosed herein can also improve feed conversion rates in animals.

COMBINATION, COMPOSITION, AND METHOD OF ADMINISTERING THE COMBINATION OR COMPOSITION TO ANIMALS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/002,527, filed May 23, 2014, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD

This disclosure concerns embodiments of a combination and/or composition for administration to animals, as well as methods of making the combination and/or composition and administering the same to animals.

BACKGROUND

Feed conversion rates (or ratios) provide animal producers a method for monitoring the efficiency of raising animals. Estimating the amount of feed required per unit of body gain for animals provides the animal producers the ability to effectively budget costs associated with raising the animals. Feed conversion rates also can be used to reduce risks associated with raising animals, such as feed shortfalls or waste, and can facilitate determining profit margins.

Coccidiosis is a parasitic disease of the intestinal tract of animals caused by coccidian protozoa of the genus *Eimeria*. The disease can spread amongst animals by contact with infected feces by means of an infective form called the oocyst. Coccidiosis is a significant disease of certain animals, such as domestic fowl and livestock, as it can affect animals at a very young age. It can be fatal or compromise animal health, thereby impairing the feed conversion rate of the animals. Thus, production, reproductive efficiency and animal health are adversely affected by coccidiosis. Diseases, such as coccidiosis, cause significant economic losses in certain animal industries. Such diseases also can negatively affect the health of domesticated animals.

SUMMARY

Disclosed herein are embodiments of a combination comprising a first combination comprising yucca, quillaja, or both; and a second composition comprising an antibiotic, an antimicrobial, an anticoccidial agent, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the combination comprises 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or a combination thereof, and a second composition comprising an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or combinations thereof. The second

composition may comprise 10 ppm to 30 ppm Virginiamycin and/or 50 ppm to 70 ppm Salinomycin. In some embodiments, the first composition can comprise a mixture of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*.

Accordingly, in one aspect the present invention provides a combination, comprising:

(i) 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; wherein the combination is formulated for administration to a chicken or turkey and wherein the combination provides a beneficial health effect when administered to the chicken or turkey; or

(ii) 10 ppm to 5,000 ppm of the first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and the second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; wherein the combination is formulated for administration to an animal selected from an avian species other than a chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate; and wherein the combination provides a beneficial health effect when administered to the animal.

Embodiments of the combinations may also include a third composition comprising a vaccine, and in some embodiments, the vaccine is a composition comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or combinations thereof.

In some embodiments, the first and second compositions, and optionally the third composition, are admixed to form an admixed composition. The compositions may be mixed simultaneously or sequentially. The admixed composition may be further admixed with a feedstuff to form a feedstuff admixture.

The combination may be formulated for administration to an avian. In some embodiments, the combination is formulated for administration to chickens and turkey. In some other embodiments the combination is formulated for administration to animals other than chicken or turkeys.

The components of the admixed composition, the feedstuff admixture, or both, may be sized, concentrated, or diluted to facilitate admixing, facilitate administration to an animal, or combinations thereof. The combination may further comprise a vitamin, a trace mineral, a bulking agent, a carrier, a colorant, a taste enhancer, or any combination thereof, and in some embodiments the combination further comprises corn, soybean meal, wheat, barley, rye, canola, corn oil, limestone, salt, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), dicalcium phosphate, sodium sesquicarbonate, methionine source, lysine source, L-threonine, choline, or any combination thereof.

Also disclosed herein is a method, comprising administering the composition and/or combinations described herein. In some embodiments, the method further comprises administering a third composition comprising a coccidiosis vaccine comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or combinations thereof. The first and second compositions, and the third composition and/or feedstuff if present, may be administered substantially simultaneously, or they may be administered sequentially, in any order.

Additionally disclosed is a method for making a combination, comprising providing a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or both; providing a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or a combination thereof; and mixing the first composition and the second composition. The method may further comprise admixing the combination with a feedstuff to form an admixed feedstuff. In some embodiments, the method further comprises formulating the first and/or second compositions for mixture with the feedstuff to provide a substantially homogeneous admixed feedstuff.

Accordingly, in a further aspect the present invention provides a method for making a combination, comprising:

- 25 providing a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*, and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof;
- providing a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an
- 30 anticoccidial agent, or a combination thereof;
- combining the first and second compositions; and

(i) formulating the combination for administration to a chicken or turkey to thereby provide a beneficial health effect when administered to the chicken or the turkey by providing the first composition in an amount ranging from 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm; or

(ii) formulating the combination for administration to an animal selected from an avian species other than a chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate to thereby provide a beneficial health effect when administered to the animal by providing the first composition in an amount ranging from 10 ppm to 5,000 ppm.

In certain embodiments, the method further comprises combining the first composition, the second composition, or both with a third composition comprising a vaccine.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a composition formulated for administration to a chicken or turkey, wherein the composition comprises:

200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and

an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a composition formulated for administration to an animal selected from an avian species other than chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate, wherein the composition comprises:

10 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and

an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; and wherein the composition provides a beneficial health effect when administered to the animal.

The foregoing and other features and advantages of the present disclosure will become more apparent from the following detailed description, which proceeds with reference to the accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a graph of average weight (kg) and adjusted feed conversion of birds fed for 28 days with bird feed (Treatment Group 1), and bird feed comprising 125 ppm of an embodiment of a composition according to the present disclosure (composition embodiment (Treatment Group 2), 250 ppm of the same composition embodiment (Treatment Group 3), 500 ppm of the same composition embodiment (Treatment Group 4), and 2,500 ppm of the same composition embodiment (Treatment Group 5).

FIG. 2 is a graph of average weight (kg) and adjusted feed conversion obtained from birds fed for 28-42 days with bird feed (Treatment Group 1), and bird feed comprising 125 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 2), 250 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 3), 500 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 4), and 2,500 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 5).

FIG. 3 is a graph of average weight (kg) and adjusted feed conversion obtained from birds fed for 42 days with bird feed (Treatment Group 1), and bird feed comprising 125 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 2), 250 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 3), 500 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 4), and 2,500 ppm of a composition embodiment (Treatment Group 5).

FIG. 4 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 18 days of feeding.

FIG. 5 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250

ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 18-32 days of feeding.

FIG. 6 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 0-32 days of feeding.

FIG. 7 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 32 days of feeding.

FIG. 8 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 32-42 days of feeding.

FIG. 9 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 0-42 days of feeding.

FIG. 10 is a graph of bird weight gain (kg) illustrating results obtained from feeding birds various different treatments of a composition embodiment (0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm) and Virginiamycin (0 ppm and 22 ppm), with the graph providing results obtained after 42 days of feeding.

FIG. 11 is a graph of feed conversion rates illustrating results obtained 18 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 12 is a graph of feed conversion rates illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 13 is a graph of feed conversion rates illustrating results obtained 42 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 14 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results obtained 18 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 15 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 16 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results obtained 42 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 17 is a graph of oocysts per gram of feces illustrating results obtained 21 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 18 is a graph of lesion scores post challenge illustrating results obtained 21-28 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 19 is a graph of lesion scores post challenge illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment, and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin, wherein the results were pooled across Virginiamycin levels.

FIG. 20 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results obtained 18 days after feeding birds with different combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 21 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding birds with different combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 22 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results obtained 42 days after feeding birds with different combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 23 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results obtained 18 days after feeding birds with different combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 24 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding birds with different combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 25 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results obtained 42 days after feeding birds with different combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 26 is a graph of oocysts per gram of feces illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising a composition embodiment (0 ppm and 250 ppm) and/or Salinomycin (0 ppm and 66 ppm).

FIG. 27 is a graph of lesion scores post challenge illustrating results obtained 28 days after feeding vaccinated birds with different feed combinations comprising 0 ppm, 200 ppm, or 250 ppm of a composition embodiment and/or 0 ppm or 22 ppm Virginiamycin.

FIG. 28 is a graph of oocysts per gram of feces illustrating results on day 18 for birds fed (a) salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment or (b) salinomycin alone.

FIG. 29 is a graph of oocysts per gram of feces illustrating results on day 28 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 30 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results on day 18 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 31 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results on day 28 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 32 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results on day 42 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 33 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results on days 29-42 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 34 is a graph of body weight gain (kg) illustrating results on day 18 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 35 is a graph of body weight gain (kg) illustrating results on day 28 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 36 is a graph of body weight gain (kg) illustrating results on day 42 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 37 is a graph of body weight gain (kg) illustrating results on days 29-42 for birds fed salinomycin and 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 38 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating the effects of a composition embodiment on birds vaccinated with a coccidiosis vaccine at birth wherein the results illustrated are for birds that were not fed the composition embodiment (left bar) and for birds that were fed the composition for different time periods (right bar); the results were measured at day 18.

FIG. 39 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating the effects of a composition embodiment on birds vaccinated with a coccidiosis vaccine at birth wherein the results illustrated are for birds that were not fed the composition embodiment (left bar) and for birds that were fed the composition for different time periods (right bar); the results were measured at day 28.

FIG. 40 is a graph of adjusted feed conversion illustrating results on day 42 for birds administered a coccidiosis vaccine and fed 0 mg or 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 41 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating the effects of a composition embodiment on birds vaccinated with a coccidiosis vaccine at birth wherein the results illustrated are for birds that were not fed the composition embodiment (left bar) and for birds that were fed the composition for different time periods (right bar); the results were measured at day 18.

FIG. 42 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating the effects of a composition embodiment on birds vaccinated with a coccidiosis vaccine at birth wherein the results illustrated are for birds that were not fed the composition embodiment (left bar) and for birds that were fed the composition for different time periods (right bar); the results were measured at day 28.

FIG. 43 is a graph of body weight gain illustrating results on day 42 for birds administered a coccidiosis vaccine and fed 0 mg or 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 44 is a graph of oocysts per gram of feces illustrating results on day 18 for birds administered a coccidiosis vaccine and fed 0 mg or 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

FIG. 45 is a graph of oocysts per gram of feces illustrating results on day 28 for birds administered a coccidiosis vaccine and fed 0 mg or 250 mg of a composition embodiment for days 0-42, days 0-28, days 29-42, and days 19-42.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This disclosure concerns embodiments of a combination comprising quillaja (*e.g.*, *Quillaja saponaria*), yucca (*e.g.*, *Yucca schidigera*), an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent,

and/or a vaccine, such as a coccidiosis vaccine. Methods of administering the combination and/or composition embodiments disclosed herein are described, as are methods for treating and/or preventing certain diseases, such as coccidiosis, in animals using embodiments of the disclosed combination and/or composition embodiments.

I. Terms and Definitions

The following explanations of terms and abbreviations are provided to better describe the present disclosure and to guide those of ordinary skill in the art in the practice of the present disclosure. As used herein, “comprising” means “including”. Accordingly, where any or all of the terms "comprise", "comprises", "comprised" or "comprising" are used in this specification (including the claims) they are to be interpreted as specifying the presence of the stated features, integers, steps or components, but not precluding the presence of one or more other features, integers, steps or components. The singular forms “a” or “an” or “the” include plural references unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. The term “or” refers to a single element of stated alternative elements or a combination of two or more elements, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Unless explained otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. Although methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the present disclosure, suitable methods and materials are described below. The materials, methods, and examples are illustrative only and not intended to be limiting. Other features of the disclosure are apparent from the following detailed description and the claims.

Unless otherwise indicated, all numbers expressing quantities of components, molecular weights, percentages, temperatures, times, and so forth, as used in the specification or claims are to be understood as being modified by the term “about.” Accordingly, unless otherwise indicated, implicitly or explicitly, the numerical parameters set forth are approximations that may depend on the desired properties sought and/or limits of detection under standard test conditions/methods. When directly and explicitly distinguishing embodiments from discussed prior art, the embodiment numbers are not approximates unless the word “about” is recited. Furthermore, not all alternatives recited herein are equivalents.

To facilitate review of the various embodiments of the disclosure, the following explanations of specific terms are provided:

Administering: Providing a combination, composition, or component disclosed herein by any suitable route to an animal. In some embodiments disclosed herein, administration can refer to oral administration.

Animal: This term includes, but is not limited to, humans, mammals, aquaculture species, and avian species. In some embodiments, this term can refer to mammals, aquaculture species, and

avian species that are raised for human consumption or that are domesticated animals. Exemplary such animal species are provided herein.

Aquaculture Species: An animal that lives in salt or fresh water. Exemplary aquaculture species are disclosed herein.

5 **Binding agent or binder:** A material or substance that is used to hold or draw together other materials to form a cohesive unit. Examples include, but are not limited to, acacia, alginic acid, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium compressible sugar, ethylcellulose gelatin, liquid glucose, methylcellulose, povidone or pregelatinized starch.

10 **Co-administration:** Administering two or more combinations, compositions, or components simultaneously or sequentially in any order to a subject to provide overlapping periods of time in which the subject is experiencing effects, beneficial and/or deleterious, from each component. One or more of the components may be a therapeutic agent. Components may be combined into a single composition or dosage form, or they may be administered as separate components either simultaneously or sequentially in any order. When administered sequentially,
15 the two or more components are administered within an effective period of time to provide overlapping periods of time in which the subject experiences effects from each component.

20 **Combination:** A combination comprises two or more compositions or components that are administered such that the effective time period of the first composition or component overlaps with the effective time period of the second and subsequent compositions or components. A combination may be a composition comprising the components, or it may be two or more individual components administered substantially simultaneously or sequentially in any order.

25 **Excipient or carrier:** A physiologically inert substance that is used as an additive in (or with) a combination, composition, or component as disclosed herein. As used herein, an excipient or carrier may be incorporated within particles of a combination, composition, or component, or it may be physically mixed with particles of a combination, composition, or component. An excipient or carrier can be used, for example, to dilute an active agent and/or to modify properties of a combination or composition. Examples of excipients and carriers include but are not limited to calcium carbonate, polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate (also known as vitamin E TPGS, or TPGS), dipalmitoyl phosphatidyl choline (DPPC), trehalose,
30 sodium bicarbonate, glycine, sodium citrate, and lactose.

Feed conversion rate: A measure of the efficiency of an animal to convert feed mass into increased body mass; also known in the art as feed conversion ratio (which is expressed herein as a dimensionless number).

Feedstuff: Anything that may be consumed by an animal. The term “feedstuff” includes, but is not limited to, solid and liquid animal feeds (*e.g.*, a feed ration), supplements (*e.g.*, a mineral supplement), water, and feed additive carriers (*e.g.*, molasses).

Saponin: A class of chemical compounds, one of many secondary metabolites found in natural sources, with saponins found in particular abundance in various plant species. More specifically, they are amphipathic glycosides grouped, in terms of structure, by their composition. In certain embodiments, saponin comprises one or more hydrophilic glycoside moieties combined with a lipophilic triterpene derivative.

Therapeutically Effective Amount or Effective Amount: A quantity or concentration of a specified compound or composition sufficient to achieve a desired effect in an animal being treated for a disorder. The therapeutically effective amount may depend at least in part on the species of animal being treated, the size of the animal, and/or the severity of the disorder.

II. Compositions and Combinations

Disclosed herein are embodiments of a combination of yucca or quillaja, more typically both, with an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, and/or a vaccine, such as a coccidiosis vaccine. In some embodiments, the disclosed combination embodiments may be administered prophylactically or therapeutically, to an animal to reduce the risk of the animal from developing particular diseases, such as coccidiosis, and/or to treat an animal suffering from a disease, such as coccidiosis. In some embodiments, the disclosed combinations also can improve the feed conversion rate of certain animals that are raised for human consumption, such as domestic fowl and livestock. In yet additional embodiments, the combinations and compositions can be used to improve animal health generally.

In some embodiments, the compositions and combinations disclosed herein can be used to significantly reduce the costs associated with animal production. In particular embodiments, the compositions and combinations can significantly reduce the costs associated with avian (*e.g.*, domestic fowl) production as the compositions and combinations provide improvements in animal health and growth. Solely by way of example, a reduction of just one point in feed conversion ratio for 1 million chickens per week can translate into a cost/feed savings of nearly \$750,000 per year. Some embodiments of the combinations disclosed herein can provide reductions of 5 or more points in feed conversion, thus illustrating their utility and superior activity.

Examples of yucca that can be used in the disclosed combination include, but are not limited to, *Yucca aloifolia*, *Yucca angustissima*, *Yucca arkansana*, *Yucca baccata*, *Yucca baileyi*, *Yucca brevifolia*, *Yucca campestris*, *Yucca capensis*, *Yucca carnerosana*, *Yucca cernua*, *Yucca*

coahuilensis, *Yucca constricta*, *Yucca decipiens*, *Yucca declinata*, *Yucca de-smetiana*, *Yucca elata*, *Yucca endlichiana*, *Yucca faxoniana*, *Yucca filamentosa*, *Yucca filifera*, *Yucca flaccida*, *Yucca gigantean*, *Yucca glauca*, *Yucca gloriosa*, *Yucca grandiflora*, *Yucca harrimaniae*, *Yucca intermedia*, *Yucca jaliscensis*, *Yucca lacandonica*, *Yucca linearifolia*, *Yucca luminosa*, *Yucca madrensis*, *Yucca mixtecana*, *Yucca necopina*, *Yucca neomexicana*, *Yucca pallida*, *Yucca periculosa*, *Yucca potosina*, *Yucca queretaroensis*, *Yucca reverchonii*, *Yucca rostrata*, *Yucca rupicola*, *Yucca schidigera*, *Yucca schottii*, *Yucca sterilis*, *Yucca tenuistyla*, *Yucca thompsoniana*, *Yucca treculeana*, *Yucca utahensis*, or *Yucca valida*. In certain disclosed embodiments the yucca component is *Yucca schidigera*.

Examples of quillaja that can be used in the disclosed combination include, but are not limited to, *Quillaja brasiliensis*, *Quillaja lanceolata*, *Quillaja lancifolia*, *Quillaja molinae*, *Quillaja petiolaris*, *Quillaja poeppigii*, *Quillaja saponaria*, *Quillaja sellowiana*, or *Quillaja smegmadermos*. In particular disclosed embodiments the quillaja is *Quillaja saponaria*.

A person of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that, as used herein, a plant name may refer to the plant as a whole, or to any part of the plant, such as the roots, stem or trunk, bark, leaves, flower, flower stems, or seeds or a combination thereof. These plant parts may be used fresh, or dried, and may be whole, pulverized, mashed, comminuted, or ground. The name may also refer to extracts from any part or parts of the plant, such as chemical extracts, or extracts obtained by pressing, or any other methods of concentrating or extracting oils or other extracts known to those in the art or that are hereafter discovered. Plant extracts may include compounds that are saponins, triterpenoids, polyphenols, antioxidants, resveratrol, or combinations thereof.

A composition comprising yucca and/or quillaja can be used to make embodiments of the disclosed combination. Such compositions can also include carriers and binding agents suitable to formulate the yucca and/or quillaja for administration to animals. In some embodiments, the compositions are formulated for administration to mammals, avian, or aquaculture species. In certain independent embodiments, the composition can be a commercially available product, such as a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria*, which is sold under the trade name NUTRAFITO PLUS by Desert King International and/or MAGNI-PHI by Phibro Animal Health Corporation. Such composition embodiments can comprise 85% *Quillaja saponaria* and 15% *Yucca schidigera* or 90% *Quillaja saponaria* and 10% *Yucca schidigera*.

In some embodiments, the combination also comprises an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, and/or combinations of such components. The combination components can be administered in any order. In some embodiments, an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, and a vaccine can be administered to the animal prior to

administration of yucca, quillaja, or a composition thereof. Alternatively, a vaccine can be administered to an animal, followed by administration of yucca, quillaja, or a composition thereof. In such embodiments, an antimicrobial, an antibiotic and/or an anticoccidial agent may be administered simultaneously with the yucca, quillaja, or composition thereof; or an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, and/or an anticoccidial agent may be administered before or after each of the yucca and/or quillaja. In an independent embodiment, an antimicrobial, an antibiotic and/or an anticoccidial agent need not be administered. In yet other independent embodiment, a vaccine need not be administered.

Suitable antimicrobials and/or antibiotics include, but are not limited to, Virginiamycin, Bacitracin MD, Zinc Bacitracin, Tylosin, Lincomycin, Flavomycin, Terramycin, Neo-Terramycin, or combinations thereof. In yet additional embodiments, the antimicrobial or antibiotic can be selected from penicillin, tetracycline, ceftiofur, florfenicol, tilmicosin, enrofloxacin, and tulathromycin, procaine penicillin, benzathine penicillin, ampicillin, amoxicillin, spectinomycin, dihydrostreptomycin, chlortetracycline, gentamicin, sulphadimidine, trimethoprim, oxytetracycline, erythromycin, norfloxacin and combinations thereof.

Suitable anticoccidial agents include, but are not limited to, ionophores and chemical anticoccidial products. Ionophores can include, but are not limited to, Monensin, Salinomycin, Lasalocid, Narasin, Maduramicin, Semduramicin, Laidlomycin, or combinations thereof.

Chemical anticoccidial products can include, but are not limited to, Nicarbazin, Maxiban, Diclazuril, Toltrazuril, Robenidine, Stenorol, Clopidol, Decoquinate, DOT (zoalene), Amprolium, or combinations thereof.

Suitable vaccines can be selected from live coccidiosis vaccines, such as COCCIVAC (*e.g.*, a composition comprising live oocysts of *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or combinations thereof), LivaCox (a composition comprising 300 – 500 live sporulated oocysts of each attenuated line of *Eimeria acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella* in a 1% w/v aqueous solution of Chloramine B), ParaCox (a composition comprising live sporulated oocysts derived from *E. acervulina* HP, *E. brunetti* HP, *E. maxima* CP, *E. maxima* MFP, *E. mitis* HP, *E. necatrix* HP, *E. praecox* HP, *E. tenella* HP, and combinations thereof), Hatch Pack Cocci III (a composition comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, or combinations thereof), INOVOCOX (a composition comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, and a sodium chloride solution), IMMUCOX (a composition comprising live oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria*

maxima, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria tenella*, and combinations thereof), Advent, or combinations thereof.

In yet additional embodiments, other vaccines can be utilized. For example, any vaccine suitable for use in any of the animals described herein can be used in the disclosed combinations and methods. In some embodiments, the vaccine can be selected based on the particular animal to receive the combination. In some embodiments, the vaccine can be selected based on the particular diseases to which a particular animal is susceptible. Solely by way of example, a vaccine administered to a ruminant can be selected from any vaccine suitable for preventing or treating sudden death (*e.g.*, clostridial diseases, anthrax, and the like), respiratory diseases (*e.g.*, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, parainfluenza-3, bovine virus diarrhea, bovine respiratory syncytial virus, pasteurella, haemophilus sommus, and the like), reproductive diseases (IBR, BVD, brucellosis, vibriosis, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, and the like), scours (rotavirus and coronavirus, *E. coli*, and the like), pinkeye, hepatitis E virus, porcine endogenous retrovirus, swine influenza virus, porcine parvovirus, and the like. In some embodiments, vaccines can be selected from B ALPHA, BAR-GUARD-99, BAR-VAC, BIOMYCIN 200, BO-BAC-2X, BOVIKALC, CALIBER, CITADEL, CYDECTIN INJECTABLE, CYDECTIN POUR-ON, C & D ANTITOXIN, DIAQUE, DRY-CLOX, ENTERVENE-D, EXPRESS, EXPRESS FP, HETACIN-K, LYSIGIN, OCU-GUARD MB-1, POLYFLEX, PRESPONSE, PRISM 5, PYRAMID, PYRAMID, PRESPONSE SQ, QUATRACON-2X, SYNANTHIC, TODAY, TOMORROW, TRIANGLE, TRIVIB 5L, TRICHGUARD, and the like. In yet additional embodiments, the vaccine can be selected from CIRCUMVENT PCV G2, CIRCUMVENT PCV-M G2, MAGESTIC 7, MAXIVAC, EXCELL 5.0, PROSYSTEM RCE, PROSYSTEM ROTA, TGE/ROTA, PROSYSTEM TREC, and the like.

The amount of antimicrobial or antibiotic used is within the amounts stated below but may depend on the particular antimicrobial or antibiotic used as will be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art. In an independent embodiment, the amount of the antibiotic or antimicrobial that is used can be a therapeutically effective amount that is at an approved or authorized dosage level for a particular antibiotic. In some embodiments, the amount of antibiotic or antimicrobial used can range from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as 0.25 ppm to 5,000 ppm, or 0.5 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 0.75 ppm to 2,000 ppm, or 1 ppm to 1,500 ppm, or 5 ppm to 1,000 ppm, or 10 ppm to 500 ppm, or 25 ppm to 300 ppm. In yet additional embodiments, the amount of antibiotic or antimicrobial used can range from greater than 0 mg/kg of body weight to 100,000 mg/kg of body weight, such as 0.5 mg/kg to 2,500 mg/kg, or 1 mg/kg to 1,500 mg/kg, or 5 mg/kg to 1,000 mg/kg, or 10 mg/kg to 500 mg/kg, or 25 mg/kg to 300 mg/kg, or 10-20 mg/kg.

In some embodiments, the amount of the antimicrobial or antibiotic that is included in the composition can range from at least 1 g/ton of feed to 230 g/ton of feed (or at least 1.1 ppm to 256 ppm), such as at least 1 g/ton of feed to 220 g/ton of feed (or at least 1.1 ppm to 243 ppm), at least 1 g/ton of feed to 100 g/ton of feed (or at least 1.1 ppm to 110 ppm), at least 1 g/ton of feed to 50 g/ton of feed (or at least 1.1 ppm to 55 ppm), or at least 1 g/ton of feed to 10 g/ton of feed (or at least 1.1 ppm to 11 ppm). Particular antimicrobials or antibiotics that can be used, and dosage amounts of such antimicrobials and antibiotics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Virginiamycin in an amount ranging from 5 g/ton of feed to 25 g/ton of feed (or 5 ppm to 27 ppm, such as 22 ppm); Bacitracin MD in an amount ranging from 40 g/ton of feed to 220 g/ton of feed (or 44 ppm to 242 ppm, or 50 ppm to 250 ppm in some other embodiments); Zinc Bacitracin in an amount ranging from 40 g/ton of feed to 220 g/ton of feed (or 44 ppm to 242 ppm); Tylosin in an amount ranging from 1 g/ton of feed to 1000 g/ton of feed (or 1 ppm to 1100 ppm); Lincomycin in an amount ranging from 1 g/ton of feed to 5 g/ton of feed (or 1 ppm to 6 ppm); Flavomycin in an amount ranging from 1 g/ton of feed to 5 g/ton of feed (or 1 ppm to 6 ppm); or combinations thereof.

The amount of anticoccidial agent, as will be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art (*e.g.*, a veterinarian), can be selected depending on the particular anticoccidial agent used. In some embodiments, the amount of anticoccidial agent used can be a therapeutically effective amount for a particular animal species. In some embodiments, the amount of anticoccidial agent used can range from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as 0.25 ppm to 5,000 ppm, or 0.5 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 0.75 ppm to 2,000 ppm, or 1 ppm to 1,500 ppm, or 5 ppm to 1,000 ppm, or 10 ppm to 500 ppm, or 25 ppm to 300 ppm. In yet additional embodiments, the amount of antibiotic or antimicrobial used can range from greater than 0 mg/kg of body weight to 100,000 mg/kg of body weight, such as 0.5 mg/kg to 2,500 mg/kg, or 1 mg/kg to 1,500 mg/kg, or 5 mg/kg to 1,000 mg/kg, or 10 mg/kg to 500 mg/kg, or 25 mg/kg to 300 mg/kg, or 10-20 mg/kg.

In some embodiments, the amount of the anticoccidial agent that is included in the composition can range from at least 1 g/ton of feed to 250 g/ton of feed (or at least 1 ppm to 275 ppm), such as at least 1 g/ton of feed to 200 g/ton of feed (or at least 1 ppm to 242 ppm), or at least 1 g/ton of feed to 150 g/ton of feed (or at least 1 ppm to 165 ppm), at least 1 g/ton of feed to 100 g/ton of feed (or at least 1 ppm to 110 ppm), or at least 1 g/ton of feed to 50 g/ton of feed (or at least 1 ppm to 55 ppm). Particular anticoccidial agents that can be used, and dosage amounts of such anticoccidial agents include, but are not limited to, the following: Monensin in an amount ranging from 35 g/ton of feed to 110 g/ton of feed (or 38 ppm to 121 ppm); Salinomycin in an amount ranging from 25 g/ton of feed to 90 g/ton of feed (or 27 ppm to 99 ppm); Lasalocid in an

amount ranging from 35 g/ton of feed to 113 g/ton of feed (or 38 ppm to 125 ppm); Narasin in an amount ranging from 35 g/ton of feed to 72 g/ton of feed (or 38 ppm to 79 ppm); Maduramicin in amount ranging from 2 g/ton of feed to 7 g/ton of feed (or 2 ppm to 8 ppm); Semduramicin in an amount ranging from 12 g/ton of feed to 23 g/ton of feed (or 13 ppm to 25 ppm); Nicarbazin in an amount ranging from 60 g/ton of feed to 113 g/ton of feed (or 66 ppm to 125 ppm); Maxiban in an amount ranging from 40 g/ton of feed to 90 g/ton of feed (or 44 ppm to 99 ppm); Diclazuril in an amount ranging from 0.5 g/ton of feed to 10 g/ton of feed (or 0.6 ppm to 11 ppm); Toltrazuril in an amount ranging from 1 g/ton of feed to 10 g/ton of feed (or 1 ppm to 11 ppm); Robenidine in an amount ranging from 20 g/ton of feed to 60 g/ton of feed (or 22 ppm to 66 ppm); Stenorol in an amount ranging from 1.5 g/ton of feed to 15 g/ton of feed (or 1.5 ppm to 17 ppm); Clopidol in an amount ranging from 90 g/ton of feed to 227 g/ton of feed (or 99 ppm to 250 ppm); Decoquate in an amount ranging from 18 g/ton of feed to 27 g/ton of feed (or 19 ppm to 29 ppm); Zoalene in an amount ranging from 25 g/ton of feed to 113 g/ton of feed (or 28 ppm to 125 ppm); Amprolium in an amount ranging from 20 g/ton of feed to 227 g/ton of feed (or 22 ppm to 250 ppm).

The amount of vaccine administered to the animal in combination with any of the components described herein can depend on the type of animal to which the vaccine is administered. In some embodiments, the amount of vaccine used is a therapeutically effective amount ranging from greater than 0 mL/animal to 1,000 mL/animal, or 0.25 mL/animal to 500 mL/animal, or 0.5 mL/animal to 150 mL/animal, or 1 mL/animal to 100 mL/animal, or 2 mL/animal to 50 mL/animal, or 3 mL/animal to 25 mL/animal, or 5 mL/animal to 15 mL/animal.

In some embodiments the composition and/or combination further comprises a vitamin, a trace mineral, a bulking agent, a carrier, a colorant, a taste enhancer, or any combination thereof. In other embodiments the combination further comprises corn, soybean meal, wheat, barley, rye, canola, corn oil, limestone, salt, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), dicalcium phosphate, sodium sesquicarbonate, methionine source, lysine source, L-threonine, choline, or any combination thereof.

In some embodiments, the combination can be admixed with a feedstuff. The combination can be formulated to form a homogeneous mixture with the feedstuff, such as by crushing, crumbling, grinding or otherwise sizing the combination. Alternatively, the combination may be formulated as a solution, suspension, or slurry with the feedstuff, or separately and then added to the feedstuff. In embodiments where the combination comprises two or more compositions, the compositions may be formulated separately or substantially together. Any of the compositions disclosed herein also can be admixed with the feedstuff. In some embodiments, a composition and the feedstuff may be admixed sequentially, in any order, or substantially simultaneously.

In some embodiments the amount of yucca administered to an animal can range from 0 to greater than 10 ounces per ton of feedstuff, typically greater than 0 ounces up to at least 10 ounces per ton of feedstuff, such as from 1 ounce to 9 ounces, or 1 ounce to 8 ounces, or 1 ounce to 7 ounces. The amount of quillaja administered to an animal can range from 0 to greater than 10 ounces per ton of feedstuff, typically greater than 0 ounces up to at least 10 ounces per ton of feedstuff, such as from 1 ounce to 9 ounces, or 1 ounce to 8 ounces, or 1 ounce to 7 ounces. In certain embodiments, both yucca and quillaja are administered, and the combined amount administered is from greater than 0 ounces to greater than 10 ounces per ton of feedstuff, such as from 1 ounce to 9 ounces, or 1 ounce to 8 ounces, or 2 ounces to 7 ounces. In an independent embodiment, *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* can be administered together in an amount ranging from 2 ounces to 8 ounces per ton of feedstuff.

In some embodiments, the amount of compositions comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof that are administered to animals can be an amount sufficient to promote animal health, reduce susceptibility to disease, and/or improve feed conversion performance in animals. The amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof that can be administered to animals can be measured based on the concentration of the composition per unit of feed, such as in ppm of feed. In such embodiments, the amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof can range from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as greater than 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm, such as 50 ppm to 3,000, or 100 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 200 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 250 ppm to 600 ppm, or 150 ppm to 600 ppm, or 200 ppm to 400 ppm, or 250 ppm to 300 ppm.

In some embodiments, the amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof that can be administered to animals can be measured based on the amount of the composition per unit body weight of an animal, such as mg/kg BW/day and/or g/kg BW/day, wherein "BW" refers to body weight. In some embodiments, the amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof that is administered can range from greater than 0 mg/kg BW/day to 1000 mg/kg BW/day, such as 10 mg/kg BW/day to 500 mg/kg BW/day, or 20 mg/kg BW/day to 250 mg/kg BW/day, or 30 mg/kg BW/day to 200 mg/kg BW/day, or 40 mg/kg BW/day to 100 mg/kg BW/day. In yet additional embodiments, the amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof that can be administered to an animal can be measured based on the amount of the composition per animal per day, such as mg/head/day and/or g/head/day. In some embodiments, the amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof that is administered can range from greater than 0

mg/head/day to 100 g/head/day, such as 0.25 mg/head/day to 100 g/head/day, or 1 mg/head/day to 75 g/head/day, or 10 mg/head/day to 50 g/head/day, or 50 mg/head/day to 25 g/head/day.

In an independent embodiment, a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* can be administered using at least 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm, such as 200 ppm to 2,500 ppm, 200 ppm to 500 ppm, 200 ppm to 300 ppm, 225 ppm to 275 ppm, or 230 ppm to 260 ppm. An exemplary embodiment of the disclosed combination comprises 200 ppm, 250 ppm, or 300 ppm of a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria*.

In some embodiments, the ratio of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* can range from 70:30 (*Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*) to 90:10 (*Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*). In an independent embodiment, the ratio of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* can be 85:15.

III. Methods of Use

Disclosed herein are embodiments of a method of using the compositions and combinations disclosed herein. Certain method embodiments can concern administering the disclosed compositions and/or combinations to an animal to treat and/or prevent certain diseases, such as coccidiosis. In some disclosed embodiments, administering the composition and/or combination result in reducing negative effects associated with diseases, such as coccidiosis, in animals, such as, but not limited to, poor body weights, feed conversion rates, oocyst production, and/or lesion scores. In some embodiments, the animal can be an animal raised for human consumption or a domesticated animal. Examples of animals that can be administered the compositions and combinations disclosed herein include, but are not limited to, mammals, such as livestock (*e.g.*, feed or dairy cattle) or pigs; avian, such as domestic fowl (*e.g.*, laying hens, chicken, turkey, goose, duck, cornish game hen, quail, partridge, pheasant, guinea-fowl, ostrich, emu, swan, or pigeon); aquaculture species, such as fish (*e.g.*, salmon, trout, cod, halibut, snapper, herring, catfish, and the like), crustaceans (*e.g.*, lobster, shrimp, prawns, crabs, krill, crayfish, barnacles, copepods, and the like), or molluscs (*e.g.*, abalone, conchs, rock snails, whelk, clams, oysters, mussels, cockles, and the like). In other embodiments, the animal can be a domestic animal, such as a dog, cat, fish, or rabbit. In some other embodiments, the animal can be a ruminant species, such as a sheep, goat, cow, deer, bison, buffalo, or llama. In yet other embodiments, the animal can be an ungulate, such as a horse, donkey, or pig.

In some embodiments, the method comprises administering a combination comprising a first composition and a second composition. The first composition can comprise yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the first composition comprises *Yucca schidigera*, *Quillaja saponaria*, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the method can comprise

administering an amount of a composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof to an animal in amounts ranging from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm, or 10 ppm to 3,000 ppm, or 25 ppm to 4,000 ppm, or 50 ppm to 3,000, or 100 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 200 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 250 ppm to 600 ppm, or 250 ppm to 300 ppm.

5 In some embodiments, the method can comprise administering an amount of a composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof ranging from greater than 0 mg/head/day to 100 g/head/day, such as 0.25 mg/head/day to 100 g/head/day, or 1 mg/head/day to 75 g/head/day, or 10 mg/head/day to 50 g/head/day, or 50 mg/head/day to 25 g/head/day.

10 In some exemplary embodiments of the disclosed methods, the first composition comprises *Yucca schidigera*, *Quillaja saponaria* and the composition is administered to avian. In such embodiments, the amount of the first composition can range from greater than 150 ppm to 5,000 ppm, such as at least 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm, such as at least 200 ppm to 500 ppm, or 250 ppm to 300 ppm of a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera*, *Quillaja saponaria*, or a combination thereof.

15 In some embodiments, the methods can comprise administering the compositions disclosed herein to animals other than chickens and turkeys. In some embodiments concerning administering a first composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* to animals other than chickens or turkeys, the amount of the first composition that is administered can range from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as greater than 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm, or 50 ppm to 3,000, or 100
20 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 200 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 250 ppm to 600 ppm, or 250 ppm to 300 ppm.

In some embodiments, the method can comprise administering the compositions or combinations to ruminants or ungulates. Such embodiments can comprise administering a disclosed composition or combination embodiment to a livestock animal in an amount suitable to improve animal health or increase milk production. In some embodiments, a composition
25 comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof can be administered to a ruminant or ungulate in an amount ranging from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as greater than 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm, such as 50 ppm to 3,000, or 100 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 200 ppm to 2,500 ppm, or 250 ppm to 600 ppm, or 150 ppm to 600 ppm, or 200 ppm to 400 ppm, or 250 ppm to 300 ppm. In exemplary embodiments, the amount of the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof
30 that is administered to certain ruminants, such as swine, ranges from 50 ppm to 600 ppm. In yet additional embodiments, a composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof can be administered to a ruminant or ungulate in an amount ranging from greater than 0 mg/head/day to 100 g/head/day, such as 0.25 mg/head/day to 100 g/head/day, or 1 mg/head/day to 75 g/head/day, or 10 mg/head/day to 50 g/head/day, or 50 mg/head/day to 25 g/head/day.

In yet additional embodiments, the composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof can be administered to aquaculture species. In such embodiments, the methods can comprise providing the aquaculture species an amount of the composition that ranges from greater than 0 ppm to 100,000 ppm, such as 100 ppm to 50,000 ppm, or 200 ppm to 25,000 ppm, or 300 ppm to 15,000 ppm, or 400 ppm to 5,000 ppm, or 500 ppm to 1,000 ppm. In some exemplary embodiments, the amount ranges from 300 ppm to 2,000 ppm, such as 300 ppm to 500 ppm.

In an independent embodiment, the method can comprise administering a composition comprising yucca, quillaja, or a combination thereof wherein the amount of the composition that is administered ranges from at least 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm, such as 200 ppm to 2,500 ppm, 200 ppm to 500 ppm, 200 ppm to 300 ppm, 225 ppm to 275 ppm, or 230 ppm to 260 ppm. An exemplary embodiment of the disclosed combination comprises 200 ppm or 250 ppm of a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria*.

In certain method embodiments, the second composition can comprise an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the second composition comprises Virginiamycin, Salinomycin, or a combination thereof. The amount of the antibiotic, antimicrobial, anticoccidial agent, or vaccine in the second composition can range from any of the amounts disclosed for such components provided herein. In some embodiments, the amount of the antibiotic, antimicrobial, anticoccidial agent, or vaccine can range from greater than 0 ppm to 500 ppm, such as 10 ppm to 100 ppm, or 10 ppm to 70 ppm. In some embodiments, the amount ranges from at least 10 ppm to 30 ppm Virginiamycin and/or at least 25 ppm to 90 ppm Salinomycin, such as 20 ppm to 80 ppm, 20 ppm to 70 ppm, 20 ppm to 60 ppm, or 20 ppm to 50 ppm. Exemplary amounts in certain working embodiments include, but are not limited to, 22 ppm Virginiamycin and/or 50 ppm to 70 ppm, such as 66 ppm Salinomycin.

Method embodiments disclosed herein also can comprise administering the combination comprising the first composition and the second composition in combination with a feedstuff. For example, the combination of the first composition and the second composition can be administered in combination with an amount of feedstuff suitable for obtaining an animal having a weight suitable for that particular species. Solely by way of example, some embodiments can comprise administering the first composition and the second composition in combination with 7 lbs to 10 lbs of a feedstuff to a chicken. Any suitable dosage of the combination comprising the first composition, second composition, and the feedstuff may be used. In some embodiments, the amount of the feedstuff that is provided to the animal can be varied according to their food intake needs as growth occurs.

In some embodiments, the combination can comprise a first composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria*, a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent and/or an antibiotic, and a third composition comprising a vaccine. A feedstuff also may be administered in such embodiments. The combination of the first, second, and/or third compositions that is
5 administered can be admixed with a feedstuff prior to administration to the animal, or the feedstuff may be administered before or after the combination of the first, second, and/or third compositions. These embodiments are not intended to limit the order of administration, as any suitable order of administration can be selected.

The combination and/or composition embodiments disclosed herein can be administered
10 using any suitable technique. In some embodiments, the combination and/or the composition is orally administered by actively introducing the combination into the animal's mouth, or orally administered by allowing the bird to ingest the combination and/or composition on its own. The combination and/or composition may be administered to the animal during any stage of its lifecycle in which they consume food. In some embodiments, the animal is an avian, such as a domestic
15 fowl and the combination or composition disclosed herein is administered after hatching (or "day of age"), or at any stage thereafter, such as day of age to 42 days after birth, or 18 days after birth to 35 days after birth. In some embodiments, the combination or composition can be fed to 18 day-old broiler chickens, and thereafter until harvest, typically at 8 weeks. In some embodiments, the combination or composition can be fed to an animal that is raised for human consumption from day
20 of age to day of death, or from day of age to a time period prior to death.

Method embodiments disclosed herein improve an animal's feed conversion rate, such as by reducing the animal's feed conversion rate value, relative to animals that are fed a standard diet (e.g., a feedstuff). In an independent embodiment, the method described herein can be used to improve an animal's feed conversion rate relative to animals that are solely fed a feedstuff in
25 combination with amounts of a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* ranging from 100 ppm to 150 ppm. In some embodiments, the animal is an animal raised for human consumption, such as a domestic fowl and/or livestock. A feed conversion rate (feed conversion ratio) is a measure of an animal's efficiency in converting feed mass into increased body mass. In embodiments wherein the combination or composition is administered to an avian,
30 such as a domestic fowl, an avian (e.g., domestic fowl) exhibiting a low feed conversion rate (e.g., at least one to less than 2, such as greater than 1 to 1.8, 1.7, 1.6, 1.5, 1.4, or lower) is considered efficient, as it requires less feed to reach a desired weight. In some embodiments, a low feed conversion rate for pigs can be 1 to 3, such as 1 to 3, or 2 to 3. In some embodiments, a low feed conversion rate for cattle can be 5 to 8, such as 6 to 8, or 7 to 8. In some embodiments the feed

conversion rate of an avian, such as a domestic fowl, can be enhanced by 0.5% to greater than 20%, such as 2% to 10%, and in certain independent embodiments, by 3% to 5%. Exemplary embodiments disclosed herein provide a feed conversion rate enhancement of broiler meat-type chickens of 4-5%.

Some method embodiments disclosed herein also comprise reducing the concentration of oocysts in feces of animals, thereby reducing the incidence of coccidiosis in such animals, by administering an embodiment of the combination and/or composition. In some embodiments, the method can comprise administering a combination or composition disclosed herein to an animal and then evaluating the number of oocysts produced by the animal in comparison to an animal that has not been administered the combination and/or composition. In some embodiments, the number of oocysts can be reduced by a factor of 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, or by about 20% to 80%, such as 20% to 70%, 20% to 60%, or 20% to 50%. In certain vaccinated animals, such as domestic fowl, the number of oocysts can range from 10,000 to 20,000 oocysts per gram of feces, which can be reduced by a factor of four or 25%.

IV. Working Examples

The subject matter disclosed herein is further understood by reference to the following examples, which are intended to be purely exemplary of certain working embodiments of the present disclosure. The present disclosure is not limited in scope by the exemplified embodiments, which are intended as illustrations of single aspects of the claimed invention only. Any methods that are functionally equivalent are within the scope of the claimed invention. Various modifications of the presently disclosed subject matter, in addition to those described herein, will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art from the foregoing description and accompanying figures. Such modifications fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Example 1

In this example, the disclosed combination was administered to broiler chickens to determine doses in which the disclosed combination can be administered without negatively affecting feed intake and at what level of administration toxicity occurs.

Approximately 50 broiler chickens were kept in pens (8 pens in total, with 50 birds per pen) and fed a composition comprising *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* (referred to in Examples 1-5 herein as “the composition” or the “*Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition”) at different doses. The doses used in this particular example included feed with 0 ppm of the composition, 125 ppm of the composition, 250 ppm of the composition, 500 ppm of the

composition, and 2,500 ppm of the composition. No disease challenge was administered to the pen. Performance measurements were conducted, food intake was assessed, and death incidence measured. The results obtained from this particular embodiment are illustrated graphically in FIGS. 1-3.

As illustrated in FIG. 1, performance (in the form of average weight and adjusted feed conversion) was first measured after 28 days, with doses of 250 ppm and 500 ppm providing better feed conversion than 0 ppm and/or 125 ppm doses. FIG. 2 illustrates results obtained from days 28-42 of the study, such results again indicating lower feed conversion numbers for doses of 250 ppm and 500 ppm than that achieved from feeding the birds feed only and/or feed including 125 ppm of the composition. FIG. 3 illustrates results obtained on the final day of the study (day 42); similar results were obtained. Accordingly, this particular embodiment establishes that there are no adverse effects in feed intake, feed conversion or body weights in birds that ingested up to 2500 ppm. The results also indicate that higher doses of the composition (*e.g.*, about 200 ppm to about 500 ppm) than that typically suggested amount in the art (*i.e.*, 125 or 150 ppm) can be administered to the animal without adverse effects.

Example 2

In this example, the live performance of male broiler chickens during a standard diet program with and without an embodiment of the disclosed combination was determined. In this embodiment, the combination comprised Virginiamycin and different levels of the composition, particularly 0 ppm, 150 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm, and further comprising Avatec 90. A disease challenge was presented in each pen by adding coccidial contaminated litter to the pen.

Results from this embodiment are provided in FIGS. 4-10. Body weight gain was measured on day 18 (FIG. 4), days 18-32 (FIG. 5), day 32 (FIG. 6), days 32-42 (FIG. 7), and on day 42 (FIG. 8) of feeding. FIGS. 9 and 10 illustrate results from days 0-32 and days 0-42, respectively. Virginiamycin was administered at two different dosage levels, 0 ppm and 22 ppm. As indicated in FIGS. 4-10, Virginiamycin improved feed conversion rates throughout the test. In embodiments where only the composition was administered, there was not a significant improvement in the adjusted feed/gain, but it did significantly affect bird weight gain throughout the tests. The results also establish that Virginiamycin and the composition provide an additive effect when used in combination. As illustrated in FIG. 9, the composition improved bird weight gain when administered at 150 ppm and 200 ppm and the overall bird weight gain response (illustrated in FIG. 10) corroborated that good responses were obtained using these two amounts of the composition. Table 1, below, provides the body weight gain (in grams) representing the growth response by dose

(using only the composition and no Virginiamycin) and feeding phase for each dose over the control embodiment for each embodiment.

Table 1

<i>Yucca schidigera</i> and <i>Quillaja saponaria</i> Composition (ppm)	Starter 0 - 18 d	Grower 18 – 32 d	Withdrawal 32 – 42 d	Total
150	50	28	11	89
200	63	29	2	94
250	52	21	25	98

Example 3

5 In this embodiment, the effects of an embodiment of the disclosed combination in broilers vaccinated for coccidiosis was determined. In this example, the combination comprised the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition, an antibiotic composition, and/or a vaccine composition. Also, the ability of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition to enhance the activity of the antibiotic (in this example, Virginiamycin) composition and/or the vaccine composition in coccidiosis-vaccinated birds was determined. In this embodiment, all birds were vaccinated for coccidiosis with CocciVac. The *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition was administered in doses of 0 ppm, 200 ppm, and 250 ppm. Virginiamycin also was administered to the broilers in doses of 0 ppm and 22 ppm. Feed conversion performance, the number of oocysts per gram of feces, and lesions following coccidial challenge were measured.

15 Results from this embodiment are illustrated in FIGS. 11-19. As illustrated in FIGS. 11-13, broilers that were administered the vaccine alone did not show the low feed conversion rates that broilers administered with the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition and/or Virginiamycin. FIGS. 11-13 also illustrate that broilers administered with a combination of the vaccine, the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition, and Virginiamycin exhibited the lowest feed conversion rates. Without being limited to a particular theory of operation, it is currently believed that higher levels of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition (e.g., at least 200 ppm to 500 ppm) promotes the effect of the vaccine while Virginiamycin controls bacterial growth, thereby providing an additive effect which results in an overall improvement in feed conversion efficiency.

25 The effect of a combination of the vaccine, the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition, and Virginiamycin on weight gain also was determined. FIGS. 14-16 illustrate these results. Additionally, the ability of coccidial organisms to reproduce in broilers administered a combination of vaccine, the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition, and

Virginiamycin also was tested. As indicated in FIG. 17, the number of oocysts (which results from reproduction of the coccidial organisms) was substantially reduced in broilers that had received the vaccine, the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition, and Virginiamycin. FIG. 17 also illustrates that combinations of the vaccine and the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition resulted in decreased oocysts as well.

In this embodiment, a challenge study was also conducted to determine immune potentiation. On day 21 of this embodiment, five birds from each pen were removed and challenged with a 3-species coccidial challenge. The birds were then placed in battery cages for seven days. At day 28, the birds were killed and lesion scored. It was hypothesized that if immune potentiation occurred, then lesions scores following the challenge study would be lower in birds that were administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition than birds that were not administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition and/or Virginiamycin. Surprisingly, however, lower lesions scores than those obtained with control birds (e.g., vaccine only) were not observed in birds that were administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition in amounts ranging from about 200 ppm to 500 ppm, alone or in combination, as illustrated in FIGS. 18 and 19. Without being limited to a particular theory of operation, it is currently believed that the higher lesion scores were obtained in birds that had been administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition and/or Virginiamycin than control birds because the birds that were administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition and/or Virginiamycin experienced lower levels of coccidia exposure prior to extraction from the pens. That is, birds administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition at amounts of about 200 ppm to about 500 ppm and/or Virginiamycin exhibited better anticoccidial capabilities than birds that were not administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition and/or Virginiamycin. The non-control birds therefore did not develop as much immunity to coccidia while in the pen as the control birds who were not administered the combination and therefore were more susceptible to coccidia and better able to develop more immunity while in the pen. The control birds therefore exhibited lower lesions scores once extracted from the pens as they had already developed immunity to the coccidial challenge. The anticoccidial effects of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition in amounts ranging from about 200 ppm to about 500 ppm, alone or in combination with Virginiamycin, are therefore corroborated with the data illustrated in FIGS. 18 and 19, as higher lesion scores are indicative of better coccidiosis control (i.e., less immunity). Results from these lesion scoring examples are provided in FIGS. 18 and 19.

Based on this example, it was determined that the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition, particularly at amounts of about 200 ppm to about 500 ppm, exerts clear anticoccidial effects in vaccinated broilers. There was an approximate 4- to 5-fold reduction in fecal oocyst count during the first 28 days in birds administered a combination of a vaccine and the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition. Also, the anticoccidial effects of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition was supported by the challenge study disclosed above, which clearly showed higher susceptibility to coccidial challenge in birds that were not administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition.

Example 4

In this particular embodiment, the compatibility of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition with Salinomycin was evaluated. The treatments included embodiments where no feed additive was provided (*e.g.*, none of the composition added), where 250 ppm of the composition was provided, where 66 ppm of Salinomycin was provided, and embodiments where 250 ppm of the composition and 66 ppm of Salinomycin were provided in combination. The anticoccidial effects and immune potentiation of each test embodiment were evaluated and the results are provided graphically in FIGS. 20-26.

As illustrated in FIGS. 20-23, the adjusted feed conversions of the birds were determined after 18 days, 28 days, and 42 days, respectively. The results show an improvement in feed conversion rate in birds administered the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition and Salinomycin in combination. A significant point difference in feed conversion rate was seen after each time period, as illustrated in FIGS. 20-23. Without being limited to a single theory of operation, it is currently believed that administering the composition in combination with Salinomycin increases the effectiveness of the Salinomycin in reducing the negative effects of coccidiosis (*e.g.*, poorer feed conversion rates). The results also illustrated an additive effect between the composition and the Salinomycin. Body weight gain also increased in birds that were administered a combination of the composition and Salinomycin as compared to birds that did not receive the combination (*e.g.*, birds administered feed only, birds administered the composition only, and birds administered Salinomycin only). These results are clearly illustrated in FIGS. 24-26.

The combination of the composition and Salinomycin also reduced the number of oocysts per gram of feces in broilers, as indicated in FIG. 27. A challenge study was also conducted to evaluate the potential for immune potentiation. Similar to the challenge study described in Example 3, 5 birds were removed from each pen after 21 days. These birds were challenged with a

three-species coccidial challenge and then placed in batter cages for seven days. On day 28, the birds were killed and lesion scored. This challenge study indicated independent anticoccidial effects of the composition and Salinomycin as both increased the susceptibility of broilers to coccidial challenge between days 21 and 28.

5

Example 5

In this particular embodiment, the effects of the composition and Salinomycin, independently, were evaluated. Lower amounts of the composition were tested, including the amount that is typically used by those in the art (i.e., 125 ppm). Salinomycin treatments used 44 ppm or 66 ppm Salinomycin. Non-infected birds that received no medication were used as a control (entry 1 of Table 2, below). Also, some birds were administered 66 ppm of Salinomycin, but were not infected (entry 7 of Table 2, below). The remaining birds were infected with 200,000 oocysts of field isolate of *E. acervulina*, which is a species of *Eimeria* that causes coccidiosis in poultry, particularly old poultry, and subjected to the treatments described below in entries 2-6 of Table 2. As indicated by the data provided in Table 2, no significant differences in body weights and/or adjusted feed conversion were observed at the lower levels of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition (abbreviated as “YQ composition” in Table 2) used in these tested embodiments.

Table 2

<i>E. acervulina</i> Treatment	Feed Consum.	Adj. Fd. Conv.	Avg. Wt. Gain	Lesion Score	OPG**
NM*, Noninfect	2.796 a	1.791 b	0.260 a	0.0 d	0
NM, Infect	2.531 bc	2.125 a	0.203 c	2.1 a	26780
YQ composition 100 ppm	2.441 c	2.125 a	0.194c	1.7 bc	24645
YQ composition 125 ppm	2.436 c	2.136 a	0.191 c	2.0 ab	22411
YQ composition 150 ppm	2.490 c	2.186 a	0.192 c	2.3 a	36301
Sal 44 ppm	2.804 a	1.946 b	0.241 ab	1.3 c	2734
Sal 66 ppm	2.692 ab	1.948 b	0.231 b	1.4 c	217

*NM = non-medicated treatments

** OPG = oocysts per gram of fecal material

Similar protocols were used to determine the effects of lower amounts of NFP (e.g., 100 ppm, 125 ppm, and 150 ppm) on birds infected with *E. maxima*, a common form of *Eimeria* found in commercial broilers. Infected birds were infected with 37,500 oocysts of field isolate of *E. maxima*. The infected birds were subjected to the treatments described below in entries 2-6 of Table 3. As indicated by the data provided in Table 3, no significant differences in body weights and/or adjusted feed conversion were observed at the lower levels of the *Yucca schidigera* and

25

Quillaja saponaria composition (abbreviated as “YQ composition” in Table 3) used in these tested embodiments.

Table 3

<i>E. maxima</i> Treatment	Feed Consum.	Adj. Fd. Conv.	Avg. Wt. Gain	Lesion Score	OPG
NM, Noninfect	2.796 a	1.791 c	0.260 a	0.0 e	0
NM, Infect	2.674 ab	2.225 a	0.201 c	1.9 ab	1884
YQ composition 100 ppm	2.638 bc	2.191 a	0.202 c	1.8 ab	11072
YQ composition 125 ppm	2.534 c	2.216 a	0.191 c	1.6 bc	335
YQ composition 150 ppm	2.611 bc	2.258 a	0.194 c	2.0 a	1100
Sal 44 ppm	2.718 ab	2.021 b	0.225 b	1.3 cd	4435
Sal 66 ppm	2.647 bc	1.960 b	0.230 b	1.2 d	167

*NM = non-medicated treatments

** OPG = oocysts per gram of fecal material

In another test embodiment, the effects of lower amounts of NFP (*e.g.*, 100 ppm, 125 ppm, and 150 ppm) on birds infected with *E. tenella*, a species of *Eimeria* that causes hemorrhagic cecal 5 coccidiosis in poultry, particularly young poultry. Infected birds were infected with 100,000 oocysts of field isolate of *E. tenella*. The infected birds were subjected to the treatments described below in entries 2-6 of Table 4. As indicated by the data provided in Table 4, no significant differences in body weights and/or adjusted feed conversion were observed at the lower levels of 10 the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition (abbreviated as “YQ composition” in Table 4) used in these tested embodiments.

Table 4

<i>E. tenella</i> Treatment	Feed Consum.	Adj. Fd. Conv.	Avg. Wt. Gain	Lesion Score	OPG
NM, Noninfect	2.796 a	1.791 c	0.260 a	0.0 d	0
NM, Infect	2.770 a	2.012 a	0.236 b	1.9 a	1984
YQ composition 100 ppm	2.692 a	2.017 a	0.226 b	1.3 b	617
YQ composition 125 ppm	2.757 a	1.999 a	0.231 b	1.5 b	11589
YQ composition 150 ppm	2.723 a	1.892 b	0.240 ab	1.6 ab	2267
Sal 44 ppm	2.787 a	1.929 ab	0.242 ab	0.8 c	800
Sal 66 ppm	2.671 a	1.863 bc	0.245 ab	0.6 c	150

*NM = non-medicated treatments

** OPG = oocysts per gram of fecal material

Accordingly, the results provided in this example establish that amounts of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition ranging from 100 ppm to 150 ppm are not as 15 effective in improving feed conversion rates of animals as are amounts of the *Yucca schidigera* and

Quillaja saponaria composition that range from about 200 ppm to about 500 ppm. The results also reflect that amounts of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition ranging from 100 ppm to 150 ppm do not have the same anticoccidial activity as those embodiments wherein about 200 ppm to about 500 ppm of the *Yucca schidigera* and *Quillaja saponaria* composition is used.

5

General Procedures for Examples 6-8

In the embodiments described below in Examples 6-8, the following conditions and methods were utilized. The test house was divided into pens of equal size, arranged along a central aisle. Subtracting out for equipment, the initial bird density was ~ 0.84 square ft/ bird. Each pen had 5 feet high side walls with bottom 1 1/2 feet being of solid wood to prevent bird migration. All flooring of each pen had approximately 4 inches of built-up litter.

The temperature of the building was monitored. Environmental conditions during the trial (temperature) were appropriate (optimum) to the age of the animals. Illumination was provided by fluorescent bulbs placed above the pens. The lighting scheme was 24 hours of light per day.

The diets were provided *ad libitum* in one tube-type feeder per pen. From day 1 until day 7, feed will also be supplied on a tray placed directly on the litter of each pen.

Standard floor pen management practices were used throughout the experiment. Animals and housing facilities were inspected twice daily, observing and recording the general health status, constant feed and water supply as well as temperature, removing all dead birds, and recognizing unexpected events.

All feeds were fed as crumbles/pellets. Quantities of all basal feed and test articles used to prepare treatment batches were documented. Each batch of feed was mixed and bagged separately. Each bag was identified with the study number, date of mix, type of feed, and the correct treatment number. Complete records of feed mixing, and test article inventories were maintained. A sample from the beginning, middle, and end of each treatment feed were mixed to form a composite sample. This sample of each treatment was retained until study end. All feed was weighed by pen. Starter feed was fed from Day 0 to 18. On Day 18, non-consumed starter was weighed and discarded. Grower feed was issued and fed until Day 28. On Day 28, non-consumed grower was weighed and discarded. Finisher feed was issued and fed until Day 42. On Day 42, non-consumed finisher was weighed and discarded.

Day of hatch male chicks were obtained from Cobb-Vantress hatchery, Cleveland, GA. The strain was Cobb 500. Breeder flock was recorded. 1760 chicks were allocated to the study. At the

hatchery, the birds received routine vaccinations. The birds were sexed at the hatchery. In Example 7, all chicks were spray vaccinated with conventional doses of Coccivac-B. Only healthy appearing chicks were used in the study. In examples 6 and 7, fifty-five males were allocated to each treatment pen by blocks. In example 8, fifty-two males were allocated to each treatment pen by blocks. No birds were replaced during the course of the study. Number and disposition of all birds not used for allocation were documented. Bird weights (kg) by pen were recorded at study initiation, Day 18, 28, and termination (Day 42).

On Days 18, 28, and 35, three birds per pen were sacrificed and coccidial lesion scored for degree of *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella* infection (Examples 6 and 7). The system of Johnson and Reid (1970) wherein 0 is normal and 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicate increasing severity of infection were used for lesion scoring. In Example 8, three birds per pen were sacrificed on days 18 and 28 and coccidial lesion scored for degree of *E. acervulina*, *E. maxima* and *E. tenella* infection. The system of Johnson and Reid (1970) wherein 0 is normal and 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicate increasing severity of infection were used for lesion scoring.

On Days 18 and 28 fresh fecal samples were collected from each pen (Examples 6 and 7). On Days 18 and 28, fresh fecal samples were collected from each pen (Example 8). These representative samples were tested to determine the degree of oocysts shedding/cycling. Oocysts per gram were determined for each sample.

Example 6

In this particular example, compositions were administered for different time periods during the life span of birds to determine preferred administration time periods for improved performance. Also studied were the control of field strains less sensitive to ionophore medication and the performance of composition embodiments alone or in combination with Salinomycin fed to broilers.

Birds were administered a diet comprising 250 mg of a composition embodiment comprising 90% *Quillaja saponaria* and 10% *Yucca schidigera* in combination with 66 ppm of Salinomycin for different time periods. In some embodiments, the composition embodiment was fed to the birds for the entire period between birth and death (typically days 0 to 42, referred to as a “full program”) or during intermediate time periods during the birds’ life spans, such as from days 0 to 28 (referred to as a “starter/grower program”), from days 29-42 (referred to as a “finisher program”), or from days 19-42 (referred to as a “grower/finisher program”). The birds were exposed to a coccidial challenge from day of age (*e.g.*, day 0). Numerical results are provided by Tables 5-7 and also are presented graphically by FIGS. 28-37.

Table 5

Day 18 Treatments	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Avg. Wt Gain
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	33.19b	1.445a	0.377a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	33.23b	1.445a	0.377a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	35.46a	1.474a	0.394a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	35.09ab	1.483a	0.391a
Day 28 Treatments	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Avg. Wt Gain
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	85.06a	1.652b	0.944a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	85.59a	1.649b	0.948a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	85.36a	1.701a	0.920a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	86.28a	1.676ab	0.941a
Day 42 Treatments	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Avg. Wt Gain
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	212.19a	1.807c	2.412a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	208.87a	1.837bc	2.376a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	206.71a	1.887a	2.295a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	205.66a	1.859ab	2.295a
“D” = days; letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences between observed values.			

Table 6

Day 18 Treatments	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Avg. Wt Gain
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	33.19b	1.445a	0.377a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	33.23b	1.445a	0.377a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	35.46a	1.474a	0.394a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	35.09ab	1.483a	0.391a
Day 28 Treatments	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Avg. Wt Gain
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	85.06a	1.652b	0.944a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	85.59a	1.649b	0.948a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	85.36a	1.701a	0.920a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	86.28a	1.676ab	0.941a
Day 42 Treatments	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Avg. Wt Gain
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	212.19a	1.807c	2.412a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	208.87a	1.837bc	2.376a

Table 6

3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	206.71a	1.887a	2.295a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	205.66a	1.859ab	2.295a

“D” = days; letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences between observed values.

Table 7**Lesions Day 18**

Treatments	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	AVG
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	2.4a	1.5a	0.2ab	1.4a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	2.3a	1.0a	0.4a	1.2a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	2.2a	1.4a	0.2b	1.3a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	2.4a	1.3a	0.3ab	1.3a

Lesions Day 28

Treatments	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	AVG
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	1.2a	0.2a	0.0a	0.4a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	1.1a	0.1a	0.0a	0.4a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	1.4a	0.2a	0.0a	0.5a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	1.4a	0.0a	0.0a	0.5a

Lesions Day 35

Treatments	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	AVG
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	0.3a	0.3a	0.2a	0.3a
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	0.3a	0.2a	0.0a	0.2a
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	0.1a	0.2a	0.3a	0.2a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	0.1a	0.2a	0.1a	0.1a

“D” = days; “E.A.” = *E. acervulina*; “E.M.” = *E. maxima*; “E.T.” = *E. tenella*;

letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on

statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences between observed values.

Table 8**Oocysts per gram Day 18**

Treatments	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	4992b	1374bc	528b	6893bc
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	3400b	1616c	352ab	5368c
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	7471a	2705a	1072a	11248a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	5394ab	2931ab	938a	9263ab

Oocysts per gram Day 28

Treatments	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-42	2789ab	209ab	402b	3400b
2. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D0-28	2295b	235b	302b	2831b
3. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D29-42	4255a	930a	796a	5980a
4. Sal 66 ppm + Composition 250 ppm D19-42	4020a	829ab	586a	5435a

Table 8

“D” = days; “E.A.” = *E. acervulina*; “E.M.” = *E. maxima*; “E.T.” = *E. tenella*;
 letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on
 statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences
 between observed values.

The data provided by Tables 5-8 indicate that the compositions and combinations disclosed herein are capable of providing significant and beneficial reductions in adjusted feed conversion rates, thus illustrating the benefits of that the compositions and combinations (*e.g.*, compositions and antibiotics, antimicrobials, and/or anticoccidials) can have on animal health and productivity. In some embodiments, a significant difference (*e.g.*, a reduction of 2% or higher) in the feed conversion rates of birds administered the composition for a full program was observed (see FIGS. 30-33). In some embodiments, using a full program of a composition/combination (*e.g.*, a composition and Salinomycin) resulted in a 5 point difference in feed conversion. See, for example, FIGS. 31 and 32. With reference to FIG. 31, a comparison of the results represented by bar 3100 (representing embodiments where no composition had been administered at the time of measurement) with bar 3102 (representing a full program) and/or bar 3104 (representing a starter/grower program) corroborates that feed conversion rates can be significantly improved using the composition in combination with a component capable of reducing the adverse effects of coccidial infection (*e.g.*, a component having activity against coccidia, such as Salinomycin). With reference to FIG. 32, improved feed conversion rates are even more pronounced at day 42 as can be seen by comparing bar 3200 (days 0-42) and bar 3202 (days 0-28). The data provided by this example illustrate that embodiments of the composition can enhance the activity of Salinomycin, and therefore can be effective with other antimicrobials, antibiotics, and/or anticoccidial agents.

The data also indicate that significant reductions in oocyst production were observed when the birds were fed the composition as compared to birds that did not receive any of the composition (see FIG. 28). Furthermore, birds receiving a full program of the composition exhibited significant decreases in oocyst production as indicated by FIG. 29 and Table 7. Additionally, the composition also did not exhibit any deleterious effects on body weight gain of the birds as evidenced by FIGS. 34-37.

Example 7

In this embodiment, the effects of a composition embodiment in different feeds and as a complete program were evaluated in combination with the use of a coccidiosis vaccine. The coccidiosis vaccine was administered to the birds at hatching in this example; however, the vaccine can be administered at other times during a bird's life cycle and even in combination with the

composition. The birds in this embodiment were raised for a 42 day growth period. A control group of birds was used, wherein the birds were vaccinated but were not fed the composition. Other groups included groups of birds fed 250 mg of a composition embodiment from day 0 to day 28 (starter/grower program), from day 29 to day 42 (finisher program), and from day 0 to day 42 (full program). Data from the embodiments described in this example are provided below in Tables 9-11 and also are illustrated graphically in FIGS. 38-45.

Table 9

Day 18	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Wt. Gain	
1. No Additive	34.69ab	1.473a	0.383a	
2. Composition D0-28	33.82ab	1.408ab	0.393a	
3. Composition D28-42	35.66a	1.470a	0.397a	
4. Composition D0-42	33.28b	1.400b	0.391a	
Day 28	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Wt. Gain	
1. No Additive	85.59ab	1.611a	0.977a	
2. Composition D0-28	81.09b	1.564a	0.976a	
3. Composition D28-42	86.30a	1.615a	0.975a	
4. Composition D0-42	81.77ab	1.571a	0.986a	
Day 42	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Wt. Gain	Mortality
1. No Additive	191.42a	1.818a	2.186a	8.2a
2. Composition D0-28	182.99a	1.772b	2.223a	10.9a
3. Composition D28-42	190.18a	1.763b	2.243a	7.6a
4. Composition D0-42	180.86a	1.737c	2.239a	10.6a

“D” = days; letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences between observed values.

Table 10

Day 21 OPG				
Treatment	E.A.	E.T.	E.M.	Total
1. No Additive	687a	335a	402a	1424a
2. Composition D0-28	109b	75a	151ab	335b
3. Composition D28-42	419ab	268a	260ab	946ab
4. Composition D0-42	142b	126a	67b	335b
Day 28 OPG				
Treatment	E.A.	E.T.	E.M.	Total
1. No Additive	7596a	7270a	3928a	18794a
2. Composition D0-28	4023a	4447a	1625a	10095b

Table 10

3. Composition D28-42	5712a	6214a	3216a	15142ab
4. Composition D0-42	3576a	5151a	1759a	10486b

“D” = days; “E.A.” = *E. acervulina*; “E.M.” = *E. maxima*; “E.T.” = *E. tenella*;
 letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on statistical analysis
 and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences
 between observed values.

Table 11**Day 21 Lesion Scores**

Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. No Additive	0.7a	0.2a	0.4a	0.4a
2. Composition D0-28	0.8a	0.3a	0.1a	0.4a
3. Composition D28-42	0.6a	0.3a	0.3a	0.4a
4. Composition D0-42	0.8a	0.4a	0.3a	0.5a

Day 28 Lesion Scores

Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. No Additive	0.3a	0.1a	0.0a	0.1a
2. Composition D0-28	0.3a	0.3a	0.0a	0.2a
3. Composition D28-42	0.4a	0.2a	0.0a	0.2a
4. Composition D0-42	0.4a	0.2a	0.0a	0.2a

Day 35 Lesion Scores

Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. No Additive	0.6a	0.4a	0.2a	0.4a
2. Composition D0-28	0.4a	0.3a	0.0a	0.3a
3. Composition D28-42	0.6a	0.4a	0.1a	0.3a
4. Composition D0-42	0.5a	0.3a	0.2a	0.3a

“D” = days; “E.A.” = *E. acervulina*; “E.M.” = *E. maxima*; “E.T.” = *E. tenella*;
 letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on statistical analysis
 and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences between observed values.

Example 8

In this example, the ability of exemplary compositions to improve bird performance under challenge conditions was determined. In some embodiments, an exemplary composition was administered alone and in other embodiments, it was administered in combination with Salinomycin. In some embodiments, the birds were not fed any additives (that is, neither the composition nor Salinomycin) and in other embodiments the birds were solely fed Salinomycin. The birds used in this example were exposed to ionophore tolerant coccidia in the litter of all pens, beginning from day of age. At day 18, Salinomycin alone did not improve performance. Both treatments with the composition (composition alone and composition and Salinomycin), however, exhibited statistically significant improvements in adjusted feed conversion rates, thus indicating

that the composition, alone or in combination with Salinomycin, can control coccidia and improve performance. In yet some embodiments, the combination of the composition and Salinomycin exhibited performance improvements at later stages (*e.g.*, after 28 days, even up to 42 days), indicating a synergistic relationship between the composition and the antibiotic. The oocyst data obtained from this example further corroborates the effectiveness of the composition and the combination of the composition and Salinomycin, as statistically significant reductions in oocyst production were observed. The results from this example further illustrate that the disclosed compositions and combinations are effective to better control coccidia that are partially resistant to ionophores.

Table 12

Day 18	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Wt. Gain	
1. No Feed Additive	25.29a	1.456a	0.294a	
2. Composition 250 ppm	25.02a	1.358bc	0.313a	
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	24.76a	1.420ab	0.294a	
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	25.42a	1.321c	0.328a	
Day 28	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Wt. Gain	
1. No Feed Additive	72.26a	1.712a	0.792b	
2. Composition 250 ppm	74.06a	1.641b	0.855a	
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	74.09a	1.619b	0.875a	
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	74.81a	1.566c	0.909a	
Day 42	Feed Intake	Adj. FCR	Wt. Gain	Mortality
1. No Feed Additive	177.32a	1.843a	2.009b	3.8ab
2. Composition 250 ppm	180.19a	1.796b	2.108a	4.9ab
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	175.68a	1.773bc	2.114a	6.5a
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	178.18a	1.747c	2.141a	3.5b

Table 13

Day 18 Lesion Scores				
Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. No Feed Additive	1.5a	1.1a	1.0a	1.2a
2. Composition 250 ppm	1.5a	0.8a	0.4b	0.9b
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	1.3a	0.7a	0.5b	0.8b
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	1.7a	0.9a	0.2b	0.9b
Day 28 Lesion Scores				
Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total

Table 13

1. No Feed Additive	1.5a	1.0a	0.8a	1.1a
2. Composition 250 ppm	0.8b	0.5b	0.2b	0.5b
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	1.2ab	0.5b	0.1b	0.6b
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	1.0b	0.3b	0.3b	0.6b

“E.A.” = *E. acervulina*; “E.M.” = *E. maxima*; “E.T.” = *E. tenella*;
 letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on
 statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences
 between observed values.

Table 14

Day 21 OPG				
Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. No Feed Additive	8191a	3719a	6332a	18241a
2. Composition 250 ppm	5025b	2864ab	3819b	11708b
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	2915bc	1910bc	5528a	10352b
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	1508c	553c	3719b	5779c
Day 28 OPG				
Treatment	E.A.	E.M.	E.T.	Total
1. No Feed Additive	6181a	2261a	5477a	13919a
2. Composition 250 ppm	5025b	1457ab	3467a	9950b
3. Salinomycin (SAL) 66 ppm	3819b	955b	3065ab	7839b
4. Composition 250 ppm + SAL 66ppm	1558c	704b	2161b	4422c

“E.A.” = *E. acervulina*; “E.M.” = *E. maxima*; “E.T.” = *E. tenella*;
 letters “a,” “b,” and “c” are used to indicate break points based on
 statistical analysis and thereby provide an indication of statistically significant differences
 between observed values.

The information provided by Tables 12-14 indicate, in some embodiments, that the disclosed compositions can be used in combination with an antibiotic, antimicrobial, and/or anticoccidial agent to improve performance even in animals that have developed ionophore resistance.

Overview of Several Embodiments

In some embodiments disclosed herein, the combination can comprise 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or a combination thereof; and a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or combinations thereof; wherein the combination is formulated for administration to a chicken or turkey; or greater than 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm of the first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or a combination thereof; and the second composition; wherein the combination is formulated for administration to an animal other than a chicken or turkey.

In some embodiments, the combination is formulated for avian other than chicken or turkey, livestock, aquaculture species, domesticated animals, ruminants, or ungulates. In some embodiments the chicken is a broiler chicken.

5 In some embodiments, the first composition is formulated for administration to an animal other than a chicken or turkey and the amount of the first composition ranges from 50 ppm to 5,000 ppm. In some embodiments, the first composition is formulated for administration to an animal other than a chicken or turkey and the amount of the first composition ranges from 50 ppm to 2,500 ppm.

10 In any or all of the above embodiments, the first composition comprises a mixture of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the second composition comprises 10 ppm to 30 ppm Virginiamycin.

15 In any or all of the above embodiments, the second composition comprises 25 ppm to 90 ppm Salinomycin.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the combination can comprise a third composition comprising a vaccine. In some embodiments, the vaccine is a coccidiosis vaccine comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or
20 combinations thereof.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the *Quillaja saponaria* is a *Quillaja saponaria* plant extract, the *Yucca schidigera* is a *Yucca schidigera* plant extract, or both. In some embodiments, the *Quillaja saponaria* plant extract comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol or any combination thereof. In some embodiments, the *Yucca schidigera*
25 plant extract comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol or any combination thereof.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the first and second compositions are admixed to form an admixed composition.

30 In any or all of the above embodiments, the first composition, the second composition, and third composition are admixed to form an admixed composition. In some embodiments, the admixed composition is further admixed with a feedstuff to form a feedstuff admixture. In some embodiments, the components of the admixed composition, the feedstuff admixture, or both, are sized, concentrated, or diluted to facilitate admixing, facilitate administration to an animal, or combinations thereof.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the combination can further comprise a vitamin, a trace mineral, a bulking agent, a carrier, a colorant, a taste enhancer, or any combination thereof.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the combination can further comprise corn, soybean meal, wheat, barley, rye, canola, corn oil, limestone, salt, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), dicalcium phosphate, sodium sesquicarbonate, methionine source, lysine source, L-threonine, choline, or any combination thereof.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the combination is administered to an animal that has been or is at risk of being exposed to coccidia. In some embodiments, the coccidia are ionophore-resistant coccidia.

In some embodiments, the combination comprises 200 ppm to 300 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or a combination thereof; and 10 ppm to 70 ppm of an antibiotic, antimicrobial, anticoccidial, or combination thereof; and wherein the combination is formulated for administration to a domestic fowl.

Also disclosed herein are embodiments of methods comprising administering a combination as disclosed herein to an animal at least once daily from day of age and for a time period sufficient to promote a beneficial health effect. In some embodiments, the combination comprises 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or a combination thereof; and a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or a combination thereof, and wherein the combination is administered to a chicken or turkey. In some embodiments, the combination comprises greater than 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or a combination thereof; and a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or combinations thereof, and wherein the combination is administered to an animal other than a chicken or turkey.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the first composition comprises a mixture of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the first and second compositions are administered substantially simultaneously.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the first and second compositions are administered sequentially, in any order.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the method can further comprise administering the first composition and the second composition in combination with a feedstuff.

In some embodiments, the combination is administered to a chicken or turkey and the feedstuff is provided in an amount ranging from at least 7 lbs to 10 lbs of a feedstuff per chicken or turkey. In some embodiments, the first composition, the second composition, and the feedstuff are administered substantially simultaneously. In some embodiment, the first composition, the second composition, and the feedstuff are administered sequentially, in any order.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the method comprises administering a third composition comprising a coccidiosis vaccine comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the first composition, second composition, third composition, and the feedstuff are administered substantially simultaneously. In some embodiments, the first composition, second composition, third composition, and the feedstuff are administered sequentially, in any order.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the animal other than a chicken or turkey is an avian other than a chicken or turkey, a mammal, a ruminant, an ungulate, or an aquaculture species. In some embodiments, the chicken is a broiler meat-type chicken.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the animal has a lower feed conversion rate relative to an animal not administered the combination. In some embodiments, the feed conversion rate is improved by at least 0.5% to at least 5%.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the administration of the combination to the animal has a beneficial effect on the health of the animal relative to an animal not administered the combination. In some embodiments, the beneficial effect on the health of the animal is a beneficial effect on the digestive system of the animal. In some embodiments, the method comprises improving feed conversion rate in animal in a commercial feed operation by administering at least once daily a mixture comprising a feedstuff, an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or a combination thereof, and 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or both, wherein the mixture improves the animal's feed conversion rate by greater than 0.5% up to at least 5% relative to an animal that is not administered the mixture. In some embodiments, the first composition comprises a mixture of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*.

Also disclosed herein are embodiments of a method for making a combination, comprising providing a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria*, *Yucca schidigera*, or both; providing a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or a

combination thereof; and combining the first and second compositions. In some embodiments, the amount of the first composition ranges from greater than 0 ppm to 5,000 ppm. In some embodiments, the amount of the first composition ranges from 50 ppm to 5,000 ppm.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the *Quillaja saponaria* is a *Quillaja saponaria* plant extract, the *Yucca schidigera* is a *Yucca schidigera* plant extract, or both. In some embodiments, the *Quillaja saponaria* plant extract comprises at least one saponin, the *Yucca schidigera* plant extract comprises at least one saponin, or both.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the first composition comprises a mixture of *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the method further comprises admixing the combination with a feedstuff to form an admixed feedstuff. In some embodiments, the method further comprises formulating the first and/or second compositions for mixture with the feedstuff to provide a substantially homogeneous admixed feedstuff.

In any or all of the above embodiments, the method further comprises combining the first composition, the second composition, or both with a third composition comprising a vaccine. In some embodiments, the first composition, second composition, and third composition are admixed simultaneously or sequentially.

In view of the many possible embodiments to which the principles of the present disclosure may be applied, it should be recognized that the illustrated embodiments are only preferred examples of the disclosure and should not be taken as limiting the scope of the claimed invention. We claim as our invention all that comes within the scope and spirit of the following claims.

A reference herein to a patent document or any other matter identified as prior art, is not to be taken as an admission that the document or other matter was known or that the information it contains was part of the common general knowledge as at the priority date of any of the claims

The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows:

1. A combination, comprising:

(i) 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; wherein the combination is formulated for administration to a chicken or turkey and wherein the combination provides a beneficial health effect when administered to the chicken or turkey, optionally wherein the chicken is a broiler chicken, a laying hen, or a Cornish game hen; or

(ii) 10 ppm to 5,000 ppm of the first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and the second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; wherein the combination is formulated for administration to an animal selected from an avian species other than a chicken or turkey, optionally a goose, a duck, a quail, a partridge, a pheasant, a guinea-fowl, an ostrich, an emu, a swan, or a pigeon; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate; and wherein the combination provides a beneficial health effect when administered to the animal.

2. The combination of claim 1, wherein the first composition is formulated for administration to the avian species other than a chicken or turkey; the livestock; the aquaculture species; the domesticated animal; the ruminant; or the ungulate; and the amount of the first composition ranges from 50 ppm to 5,000 ppm or 50 ppm to 2,500 ppm.

3. The combination of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the second composition comprises 10 ppm to 30 ppm Virginiamycin and/or 90 ppm Salinomycin, optionally wherein

(a) the vaccine is a coccidiosis vaccine comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or combinations thereof

(b) the *Quillaja saponaria* is a *Quillaja saponaria* plant extract and the *Yucca schidigera* is a *Yucca schidigera* plant extract;

(c) the *Quillaja saponaria* is processed *Quillaja* plant material and the *Yucca schidigera* is processed *Yucca* plant material; and/or

(d) the combination further comprises a vitamin, a trace mineral, a bulking agent, a carrier, a colorant, a taste enhancer, corn, soybean meal, wheat, barley, rye, canola, corn oil, limestone, salt, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), dicalcium phosphate, sodium sesquicarbonate, methionine source, lysine source, L-threonine, choline, or any combination thereof.

4. The combination of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the first and second compositions are admixed to form an admixed composition, optionally wherein the admixed composition is further admixed with a feedstuff to form a feedstuff admixture and further optionally wherein components of the admixed composition, the feedstuff admixture, or both, are sized, concentrated, or diluted to facilitate admixing, facilitate administration to an animal, or combinations thereof.

5. The combination of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the combination is administered to a chicken or a turkey that has been or is at risk of being exposed to coccidia, or an avian species other than a chicken or turkey that has been or is at risk of being exposed to coccidia, optionally wherein the coccidia are ionophore-resistant coccidia.

6. The combination of claim 1, wherein the combination is formulated for administration to a chicken and comprises 200 ppm to 500 ppm of the first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera*; and 10 ppm to 70 ppm of an antibiotic, antimicrobial, anticoccidial, or combination thereof.

7. A method, comprising administering the combination according to any one of claims 1 to 6 to an animal at least once daily after hatching or from birth and for a time period sufficient to promote a beneficial health effect in the animal, optionally wherein

(a) the first and second compositions of the combination are administered substantially simultaneously or sequentially, in any order, optionally further comprising administering the first composition and the second composition in combination with a feedstuff substantially simultaneously or sequentially, in any order; and/or

(b) wherein the beneficial health effect comprises reducing the feed conversion ratio of the animal relative to a feed conversion ratio of an animal not administered the combination, optionally wherein the beneficial effect comprises improved coccidiosis control in the animal.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the method comprises improving a feed conversion ratio in an avian species in a commercial feed operation by administering at least once daily a combination comprising a feedstuff, an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or a combination thereof, and 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera*, wherein the combination improves the feed conversion ratio by greater than 0.5% up to at least 5% relative to a feed conversion ratio of an avian species that is not administered the combination.

9. A method for making a combination, comprising:

providing a first composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*, and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof;

providing a second composition comprising an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, or a combination thereof;

combining the first and second compositions; and

(i) formulating the combination for administration to a chicken or turkey to thereby provide a beneficial health effect when administered to the chicken or the turkey by providing the first composition in an amount ranging from 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm; or

(ii) formulating the combination for administration to an animal selected from an avian species other than a chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate to thereby provide a beneficial health effect when administered to the animal by providing the first composition in an amount ranging from 10 ppm to 5,000 ppm; optionally further comprising admixing the combination with a feedstuff to form an admixed feedstuff; formulating the first and/or second compositions for mixture with the feedstuff to provide a substantially homogeneous admixed feedstuff; and/or combining the first composition, the second composition, or both with a third composition comprising a vaccine.

10. A composition formulated for administration to a chicken or turkey, wherein the composition comprises:

200 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof, optionally wherein the composition comprises 200 ppm to 500 ppm of the *Quillaja saponaria* and the *Yucca schidigera*; and

an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; optionally wherein the chicken is a broiler chicken, a laying hen, or a Cornish game hen.

11. A composition formulated for administration to an animal selected from an avian species other than chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate, wherein the composition comprises:

10 ppm to 5,000 ppm of a composition comprising *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* and wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and/or the *Yucca schidigera* comprises at least one saponin, polyphenol, antioxidant, resveratrol, or any combination thereof; and

an antimicrobial agent, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or combinations thereof; and wherein the composition provides a beneficial health effect when administered to the animal.

12. The composition of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera* is present in a ratio ranging from 70:30 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera* to 90:10 *Quillaja saponaria*:*Yucca schidigera*, optionally wherein

(a) the composition comprises 10 ppm to 30 ppm Virginiamycin and/or 25 ppm to 90 ppm Salinomycin;

(b) the composition further comprises a vaccine, a vitamin, a trace mineral, a bulking agent, a carrier, a colorant, a taste enhancer, corn, soybean meal, wheat, barley, rye, canola, corn oil, limestone, salt, distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS), dicalcium phosphate, sodium sesquicarbonate, methionine source, lysine source, L-threonine, choline, or any combination thereof;

(c) the vaccine is a coccidiosis vaccine comprising oocysts derived from *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria mivati*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria tenella*, *Eimeria necatrix*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria praecox*, *Eimeria brunetti*, *Eimeria hagani*, or combinations thereof; and/or

(d) the composition is further admixed with a feedstuff to form a feedstuff admixture, optionally wherein components of the composition, the feedstuff admixture, or both, are sized, concentrated, or diluted to facilitate admixing, facilitate administration to an animal, or combinations thereof.

13. The composition of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the composition is formulated for administration to a chicken or a turkey that has been or is at risk of being exposed to coccidia, or an avian species other than a chicken or turkey that has been or is at risk of being exposed to coccidia, optionally wherein the coccidia are ionophore-resistant coccidia.

14. The composition of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the *Quillaja saponaria* is processed *Quillaja* plant material and the *Yucca schidigera* is processed *Yucca* plant material and/or the *Quillaja saponaria* is a *Quillaja saponaria* plant extract and the *Yucca schidigera* is a *Yucca schidigera* plant extract.

15. A method, comprising administering a composition according to claim 10 to a chicken or turkey at least once daily after hatching or from birth and for a time period sufficient to promote a beneficial health effect in the chicken or the turkey; optionally

(a) further comprising administering the composition in combination with a feedstuff substantially simultaneously or sequentially, in any order; and/or

(b) wherein the beneficial health effect comprises reducing the feed conversion ratio of the chicken, turkey or animal relative to a feed conversion ratio of a chicken, turkey or animal not administered the composition, optionally wherein the beneficial effect comprises improved coccidiosis control in the chicken, turkey or animal.

16. A method, comprising administering a composition according to claim 11 to an animal selected from an avian species other than chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate at least once daily after hatching or from birth and for a time period sufficient to promote a beneficial health effect in the animal; optionally

(a) further comprising administering the composition in combination with a feedstuff substantially simultaneously or sequentially, in any order; and/or

(b) wherein the beneficial health effect comprises reducing the feed conversion ratio of the chicken, turkey or animal relative to a feed conversion ratio of a chicken, turkey or animal not administered the composition, optionally wherein the beneficial effect comprises improved coccidiosis control in the chicken, turkey or animal.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the method comprises improving a feed conversion ratio in an avian species in a commercial feed operation by administering at least once daily the composition comprising a feedstuff, an antimicrobial, an antibiotic, an anticoccidial agent, a vaccine, or a combination thereof, and 200 ppm to 5,000 ppm *Quillaja saponaria* and *Yucca schidigera*, wherein the composition improves the feed conversion ratio by greater than 0.5% up to at least 5% relative to a feed conversion ratio of an avian species that is not administered the composition.

18. Use of the combination according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament to promote a beneficial health effect in an animal, wherein the medicament is administered to the animal at least once daily after hatching or from birth.

19. Use of the composition according to claim 10 in the manufacture of a medicament to promote a beneficial health effect in a chicken or turkey, wherein the medicament is administered to the chicken or turkey at least once daily after hatching or from birth.

20. Use of the composition according to claim 11 in the manufacture of a medicament to promote a beneficial health effect in an animal selected from an avian species other than chicken or turkey; livestock; an aquaculture species; a domesticated animal; a ruminant; or an ungulate, wherein the medicament is administered to the animal at least once daily after hatching or from birth.

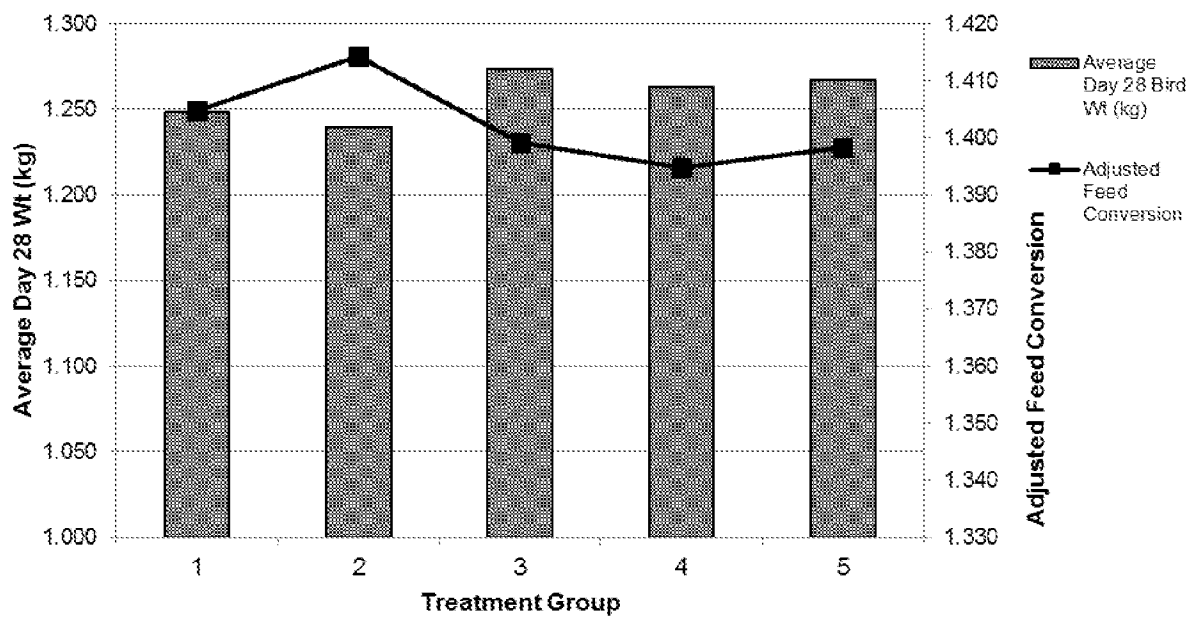


FIG. 1

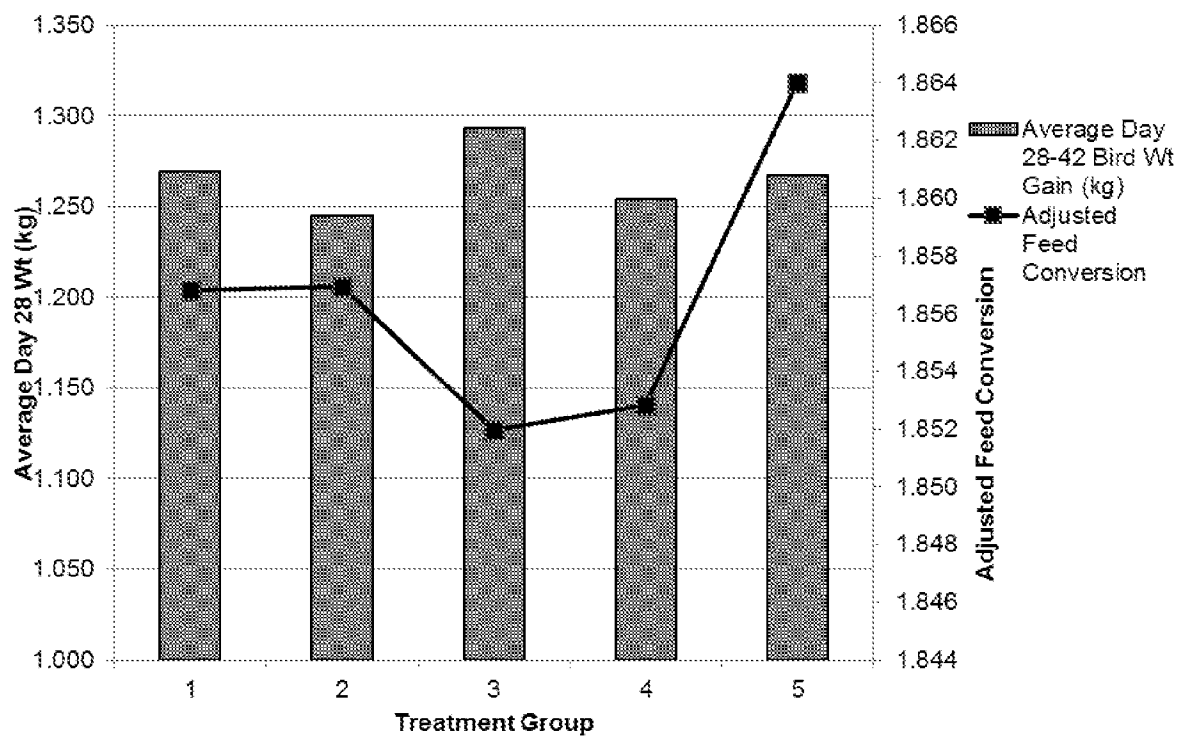


FIG. 2

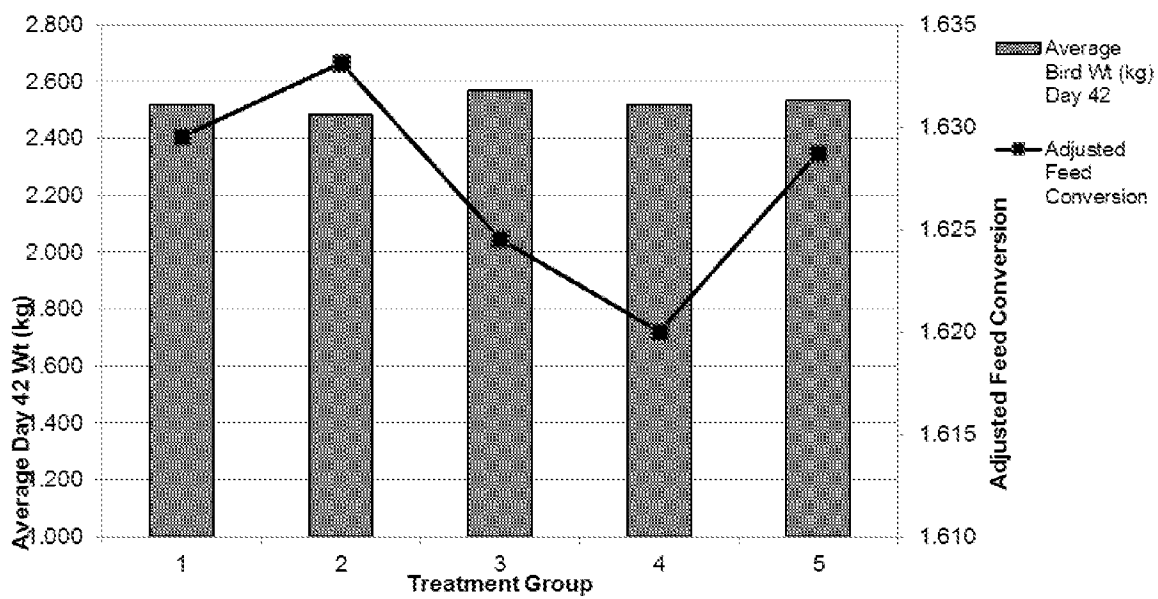


FIG. 3

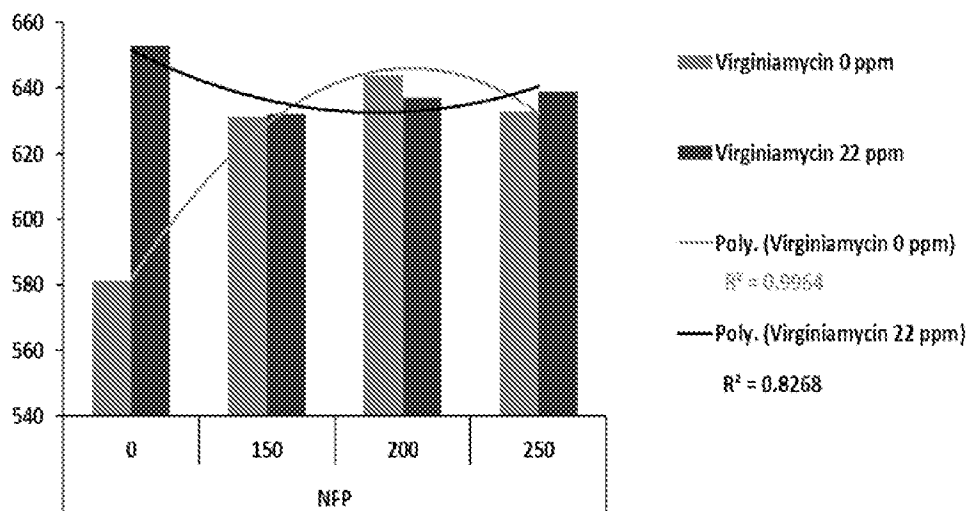


FIG. 4

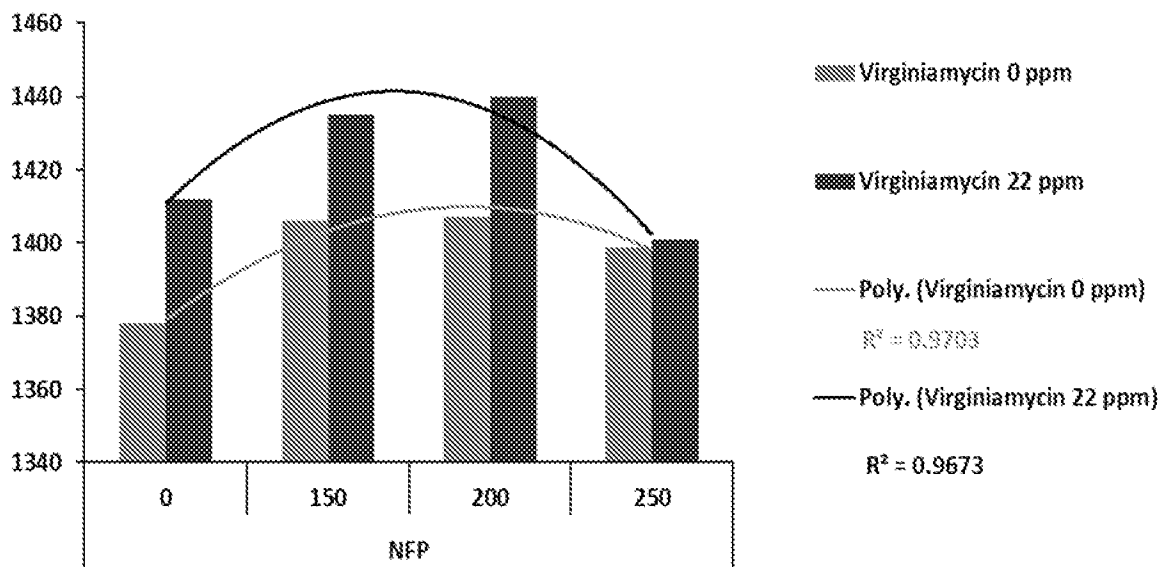


FIG. 5

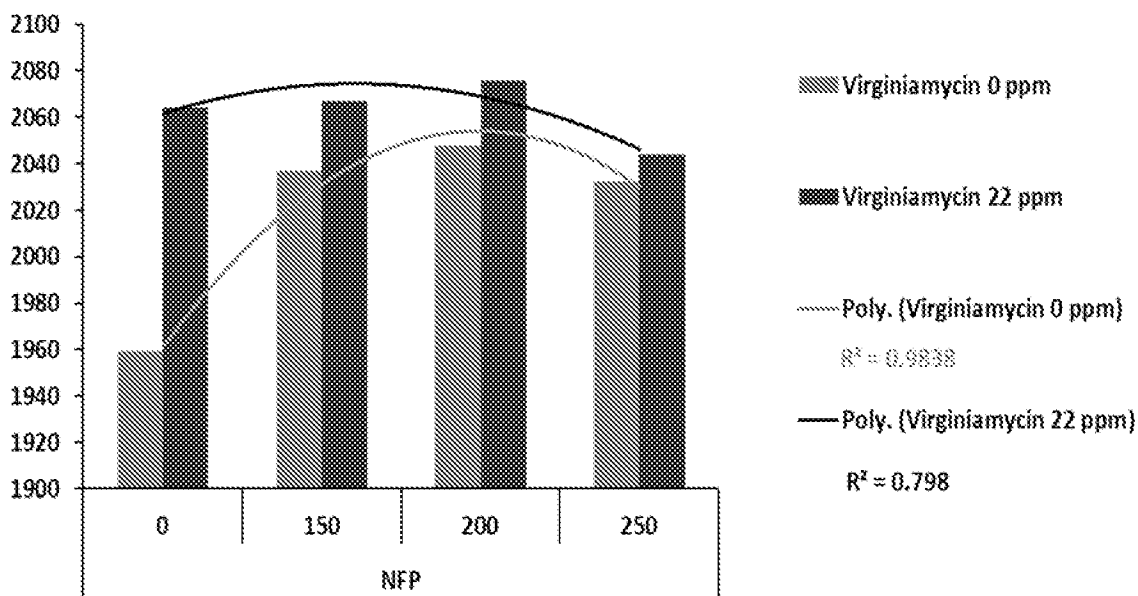


FIG. 6

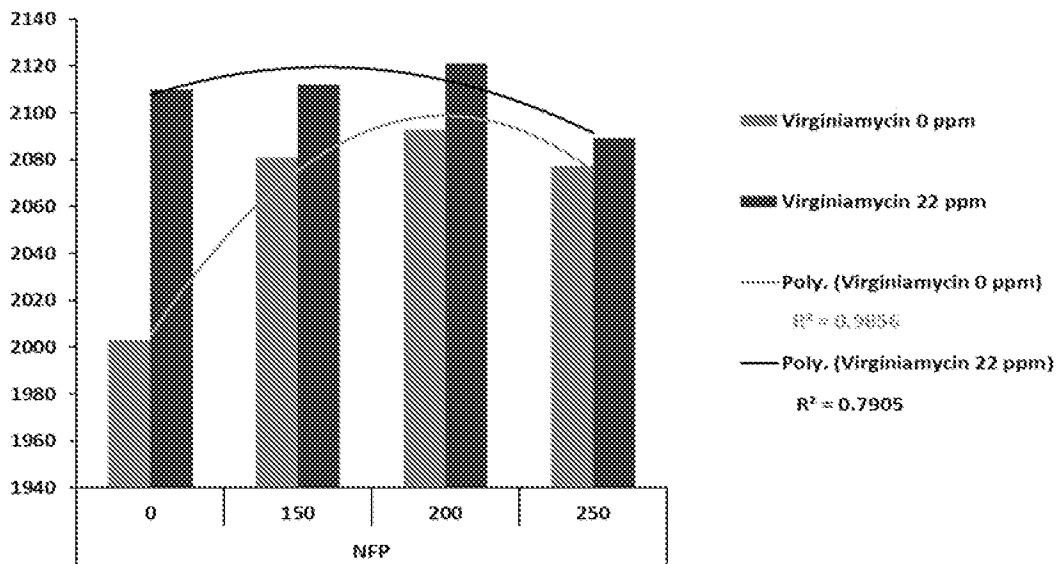


FIG. 7

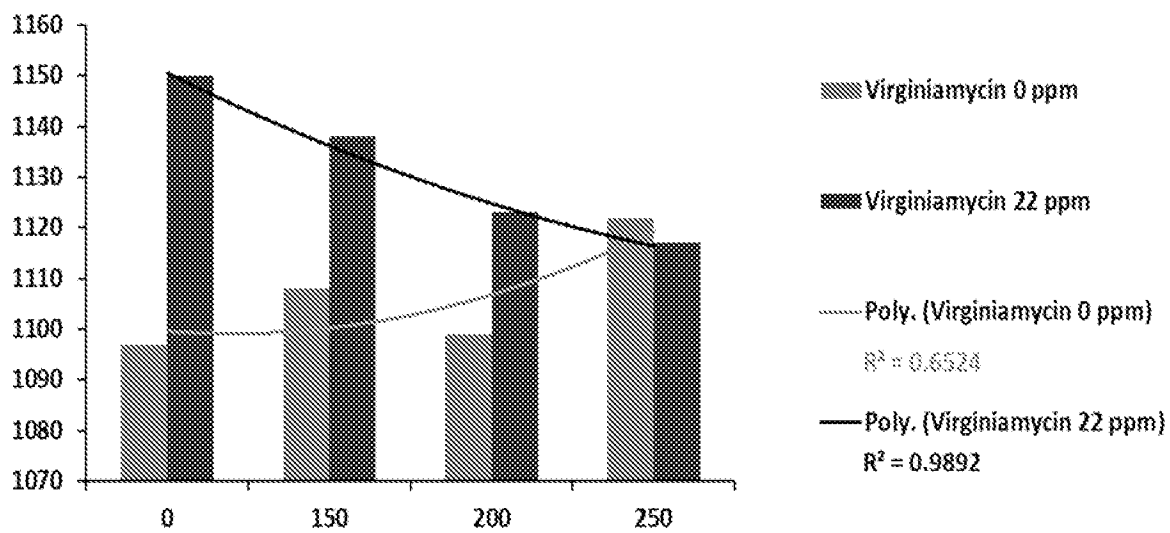


FIG. 8

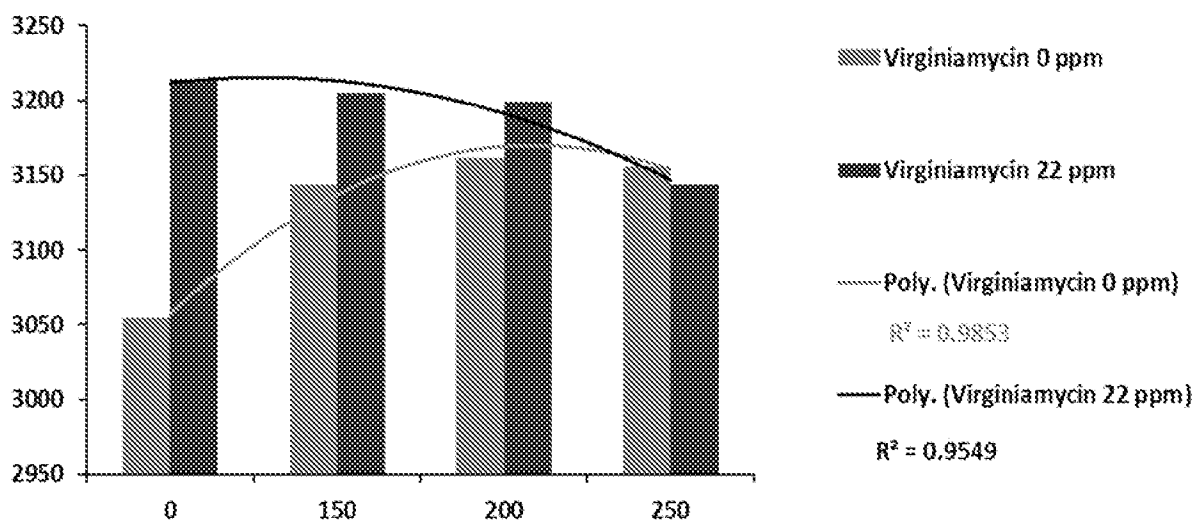


FIG. 9

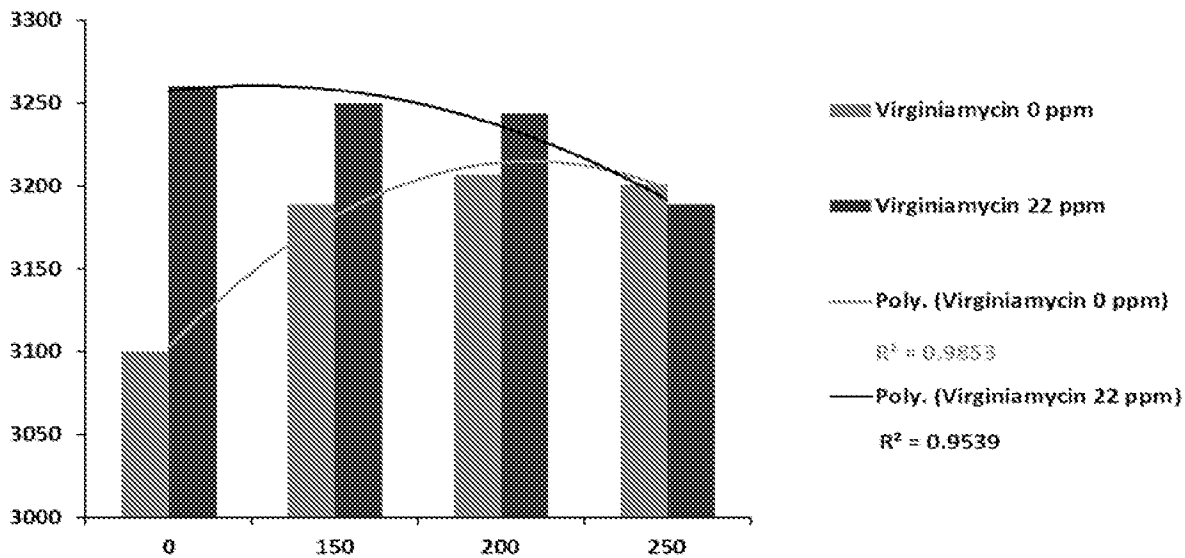


FIG. 10

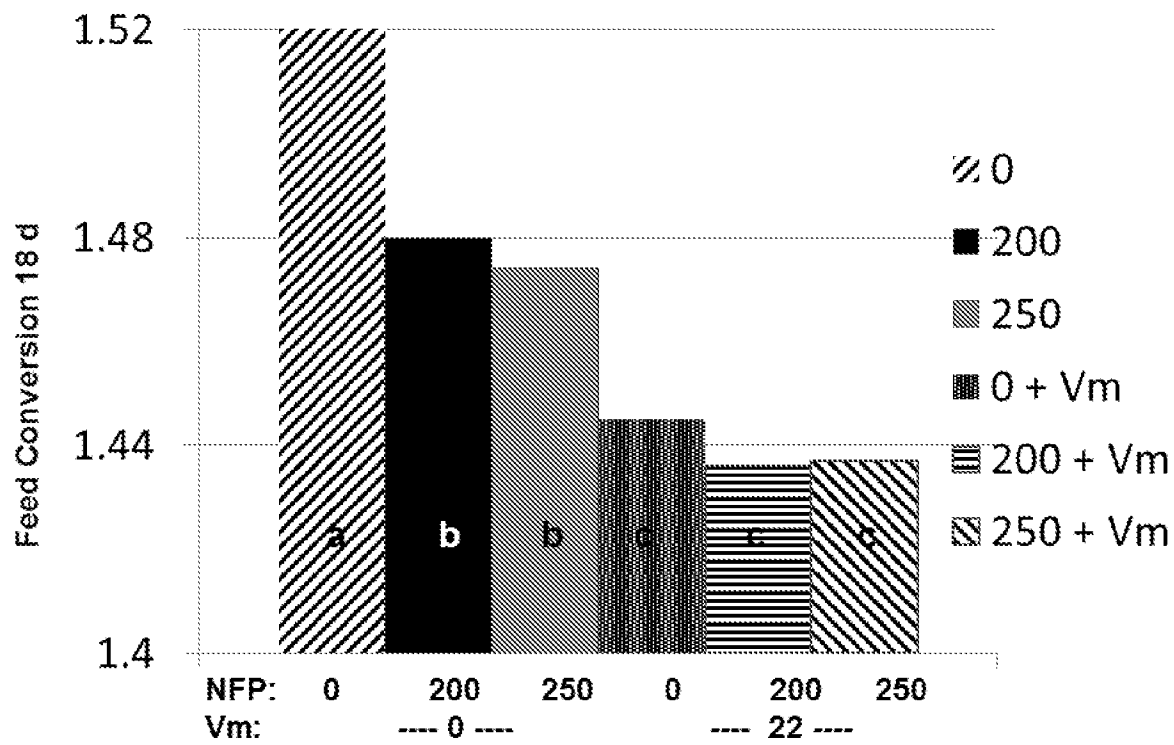


FIG. 11

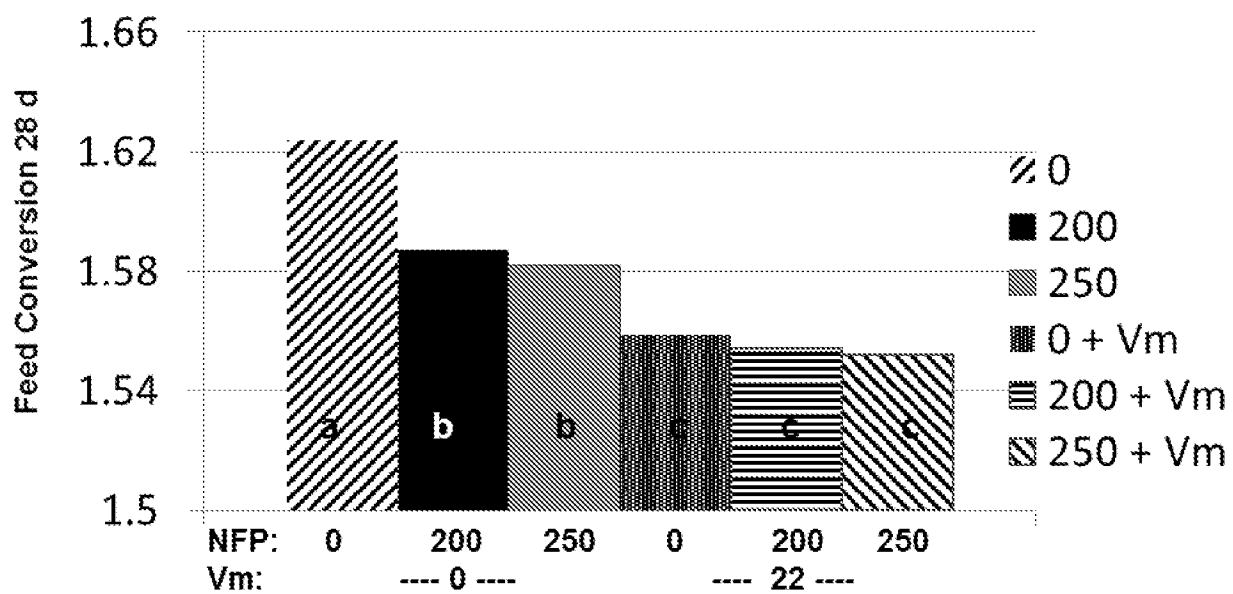


FIG. 12

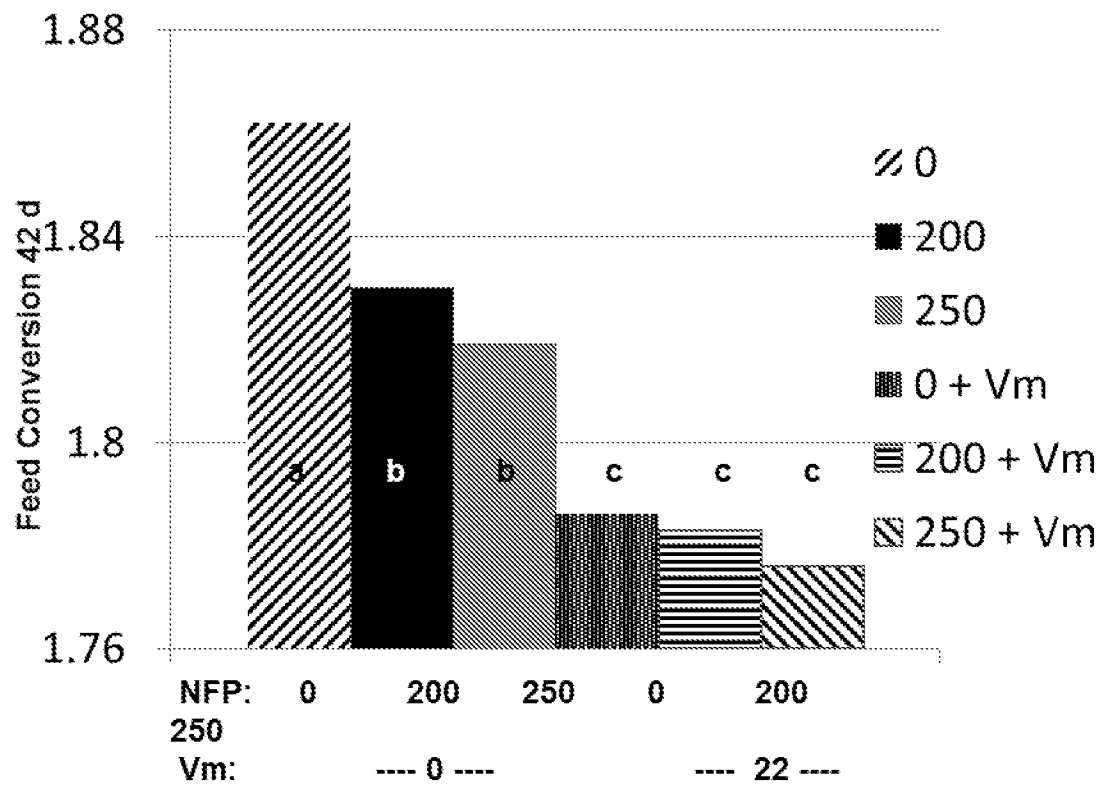


FIG. 13

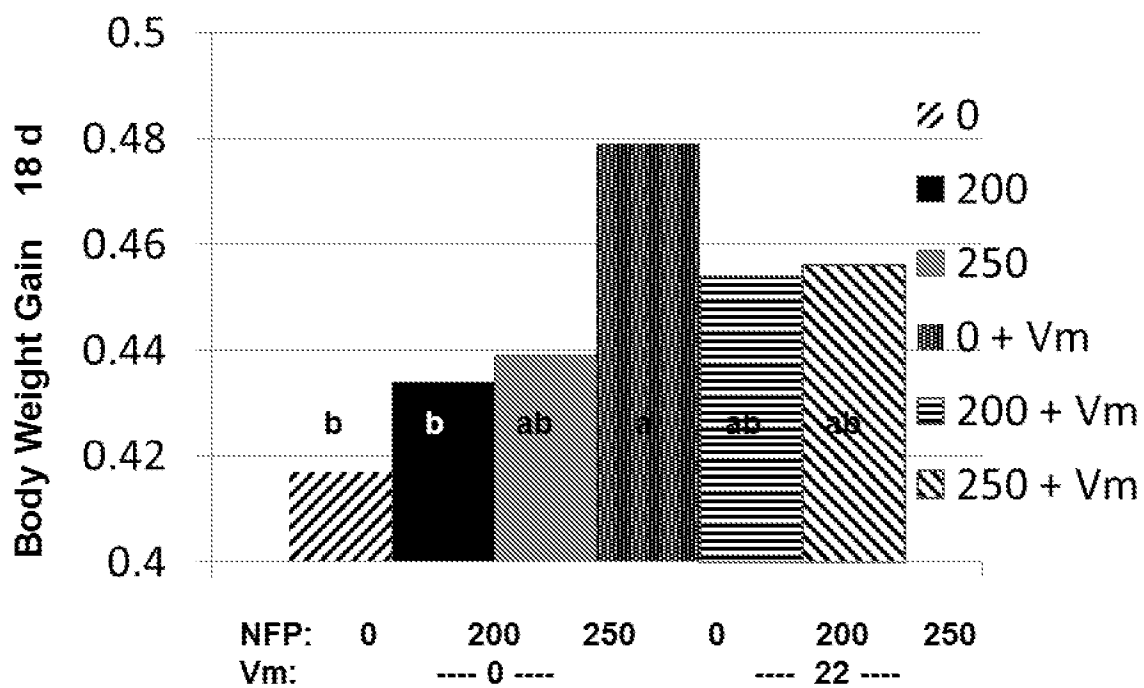


FIG. 14

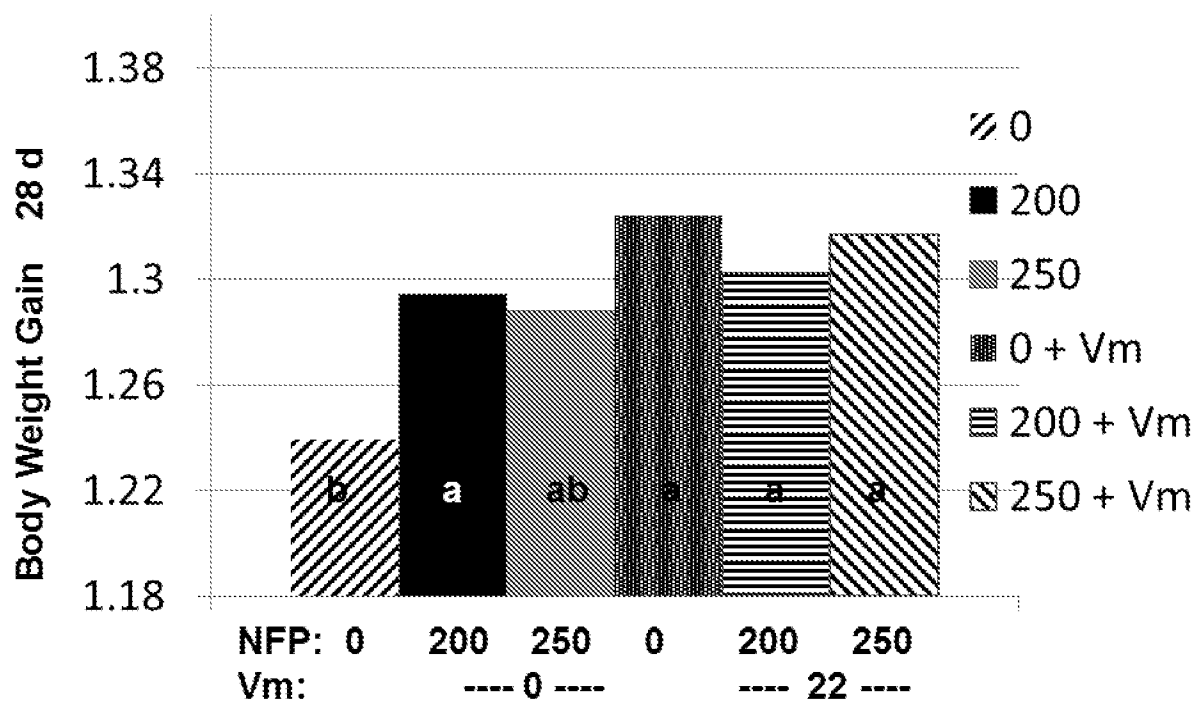


FIG. 15

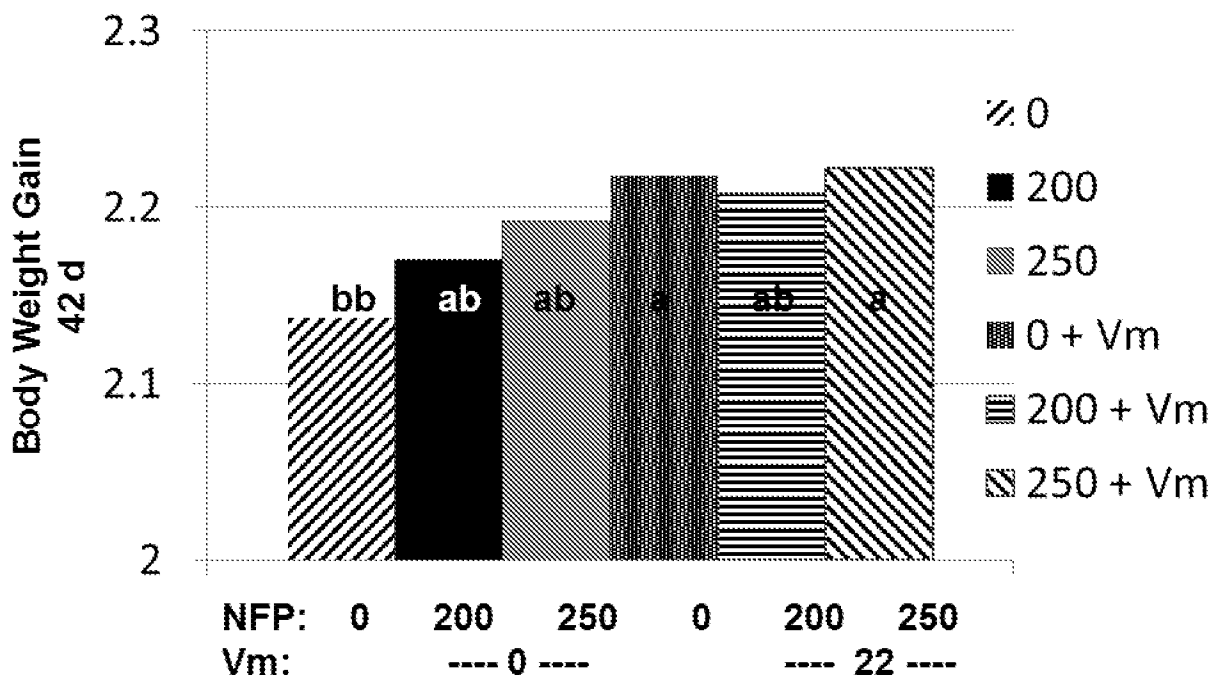


FIG. 16

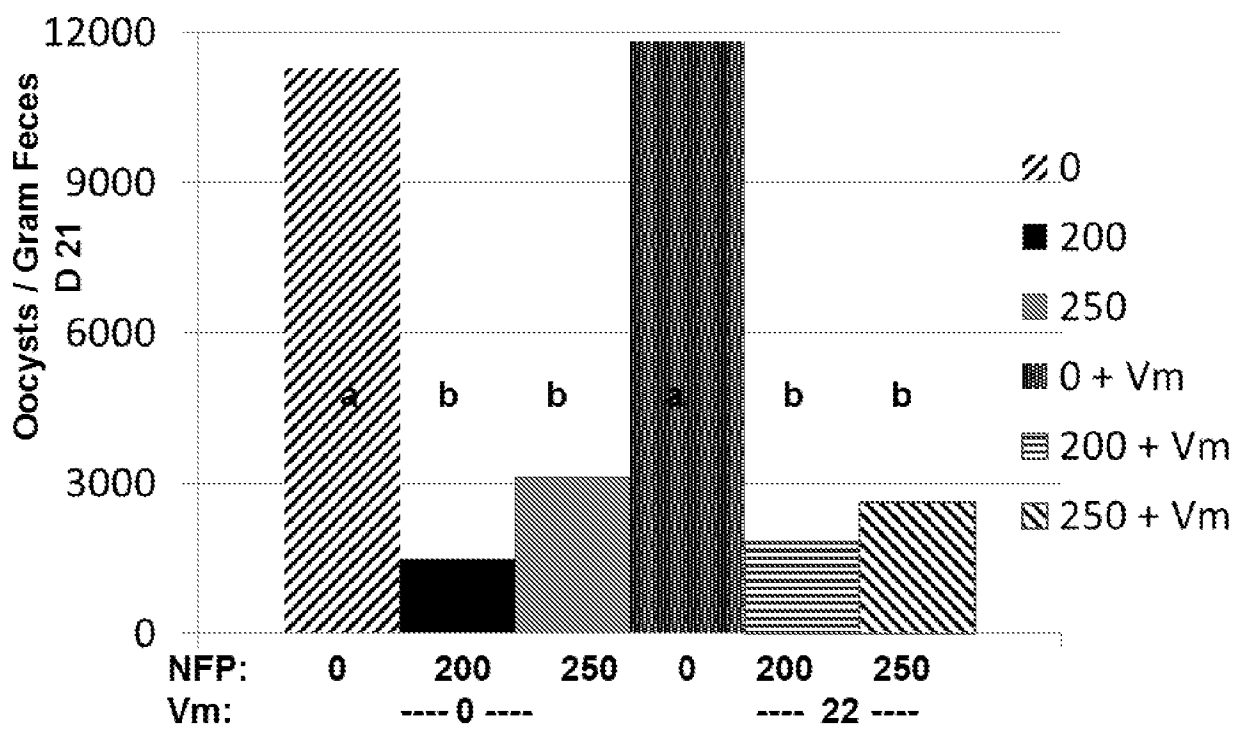


FIG. 17

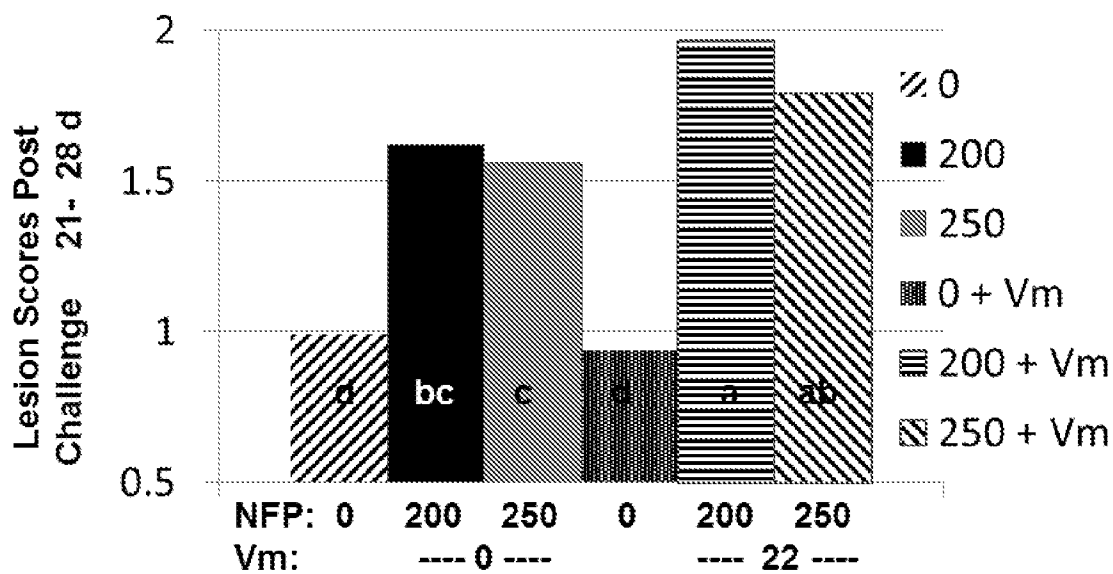


FIG. 18

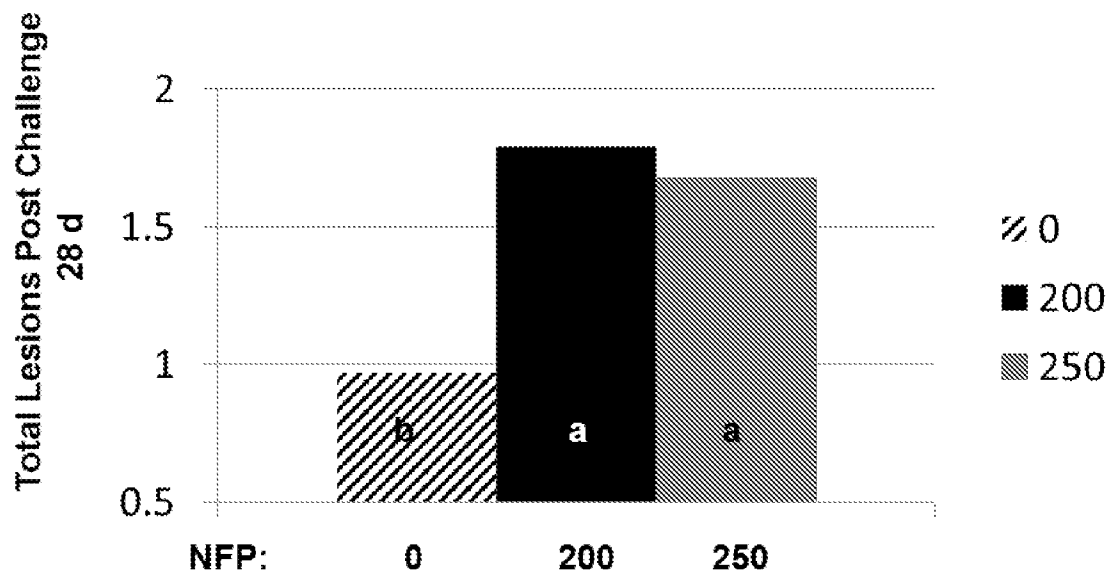


FIG. 19

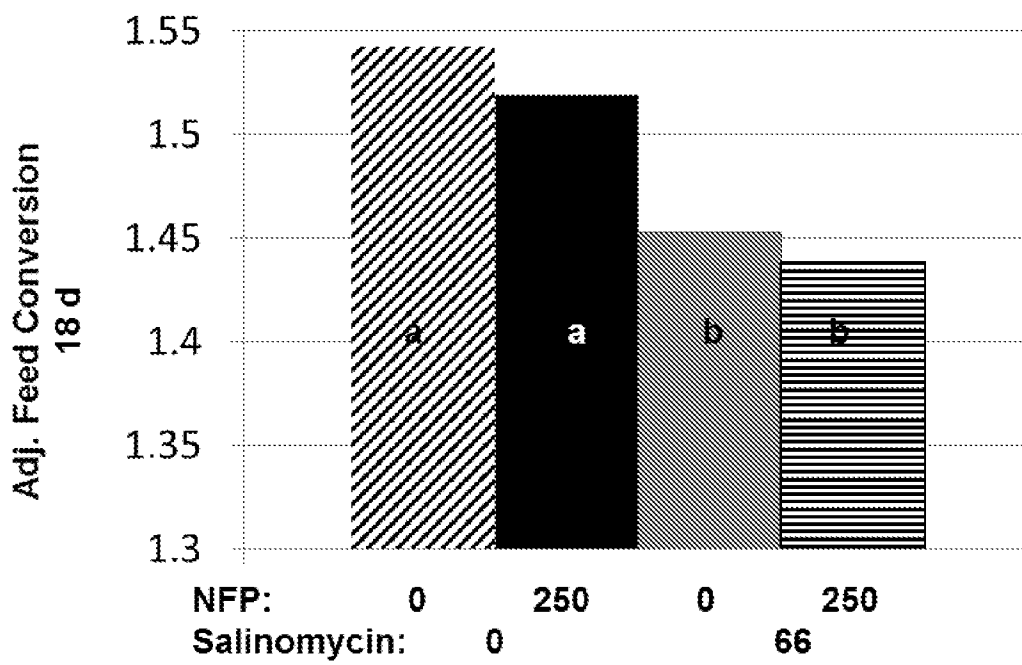


FIG. 20

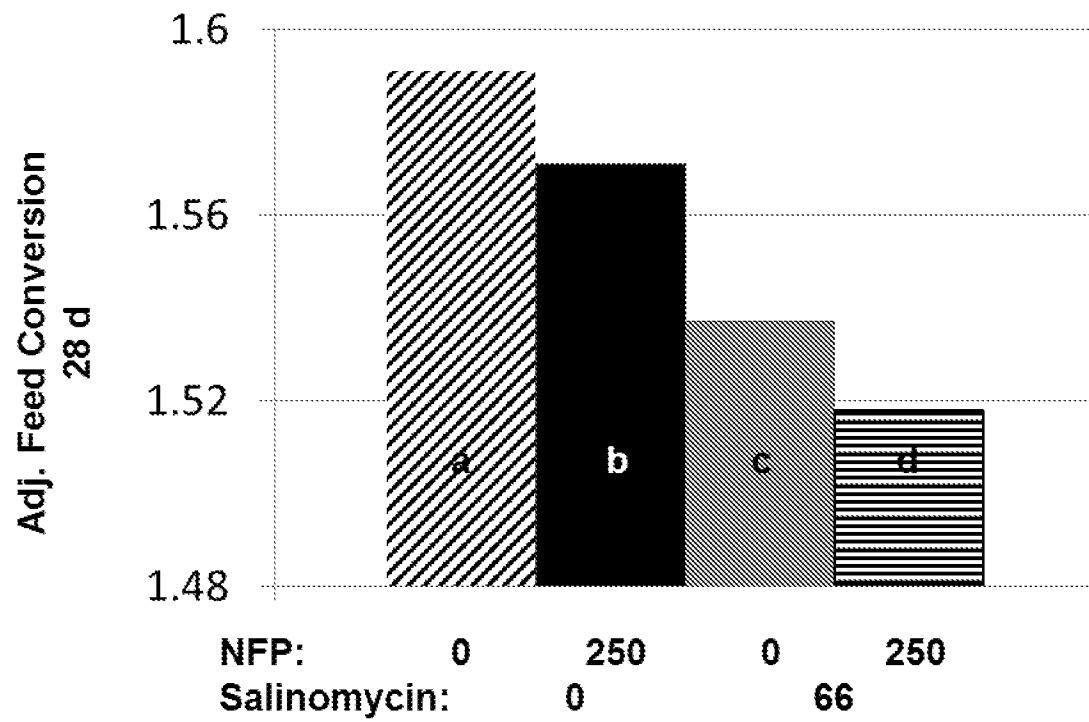


FIG. 21

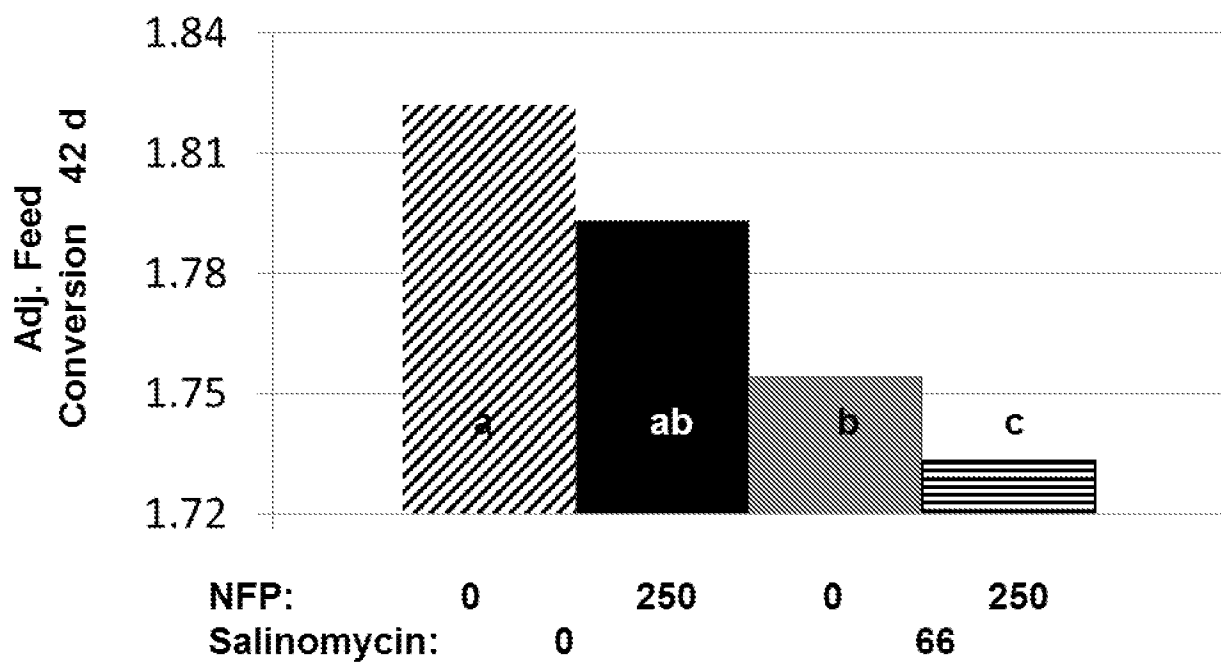


FIG. 22

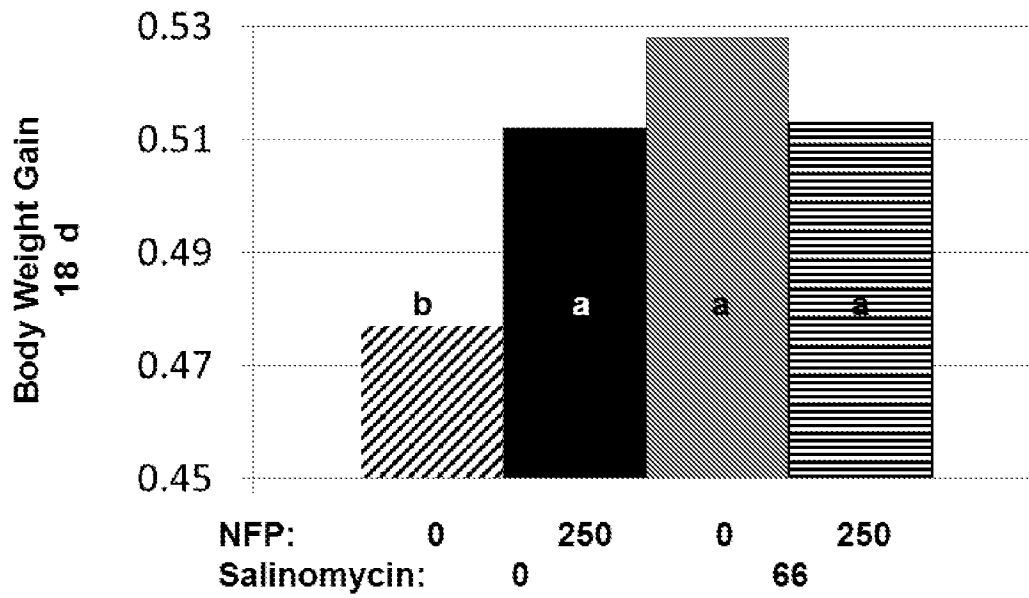


FIG. 23

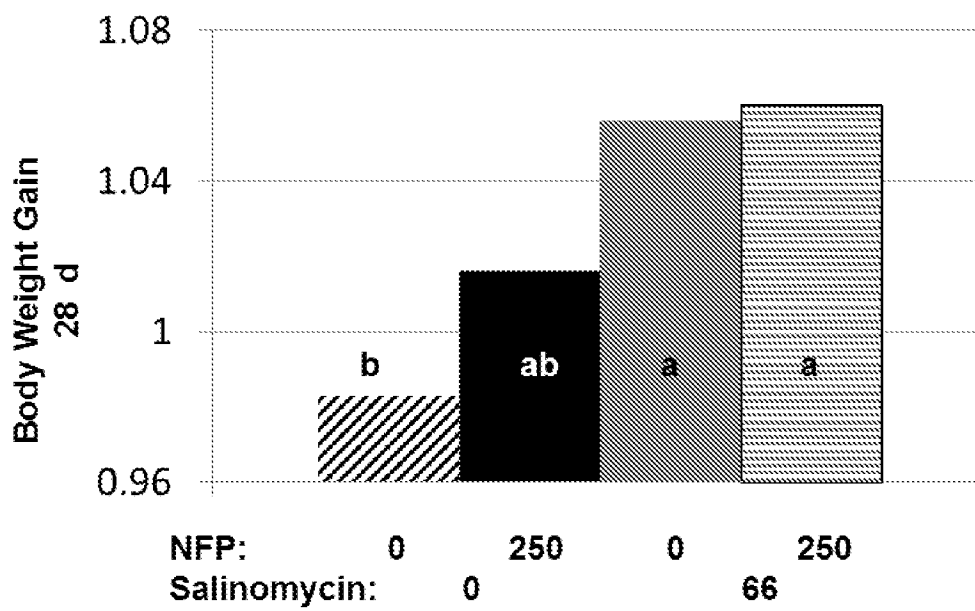


FIG. 24

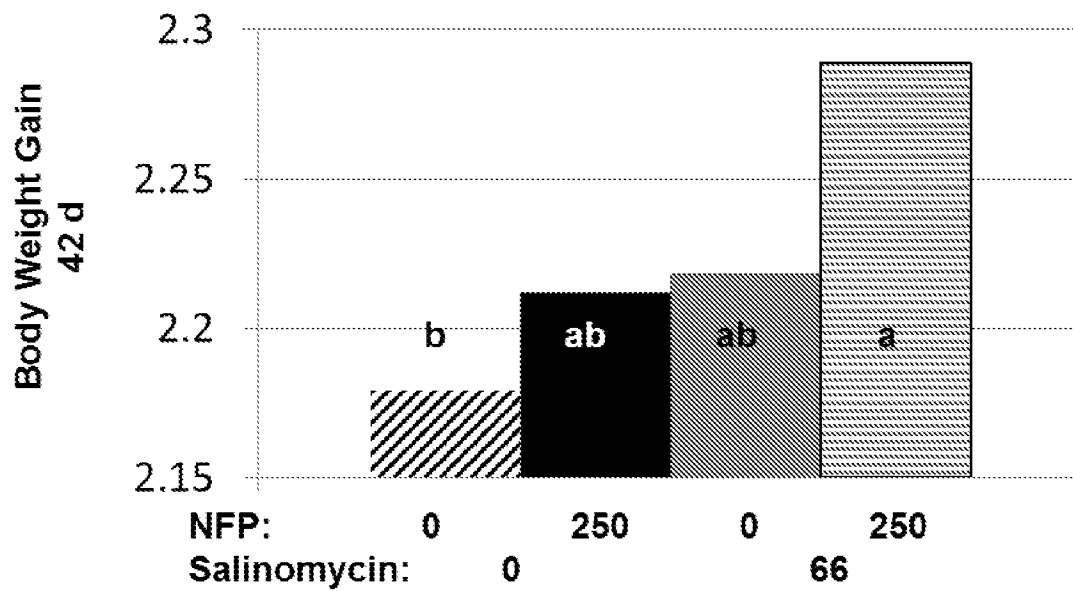


FIG. 25

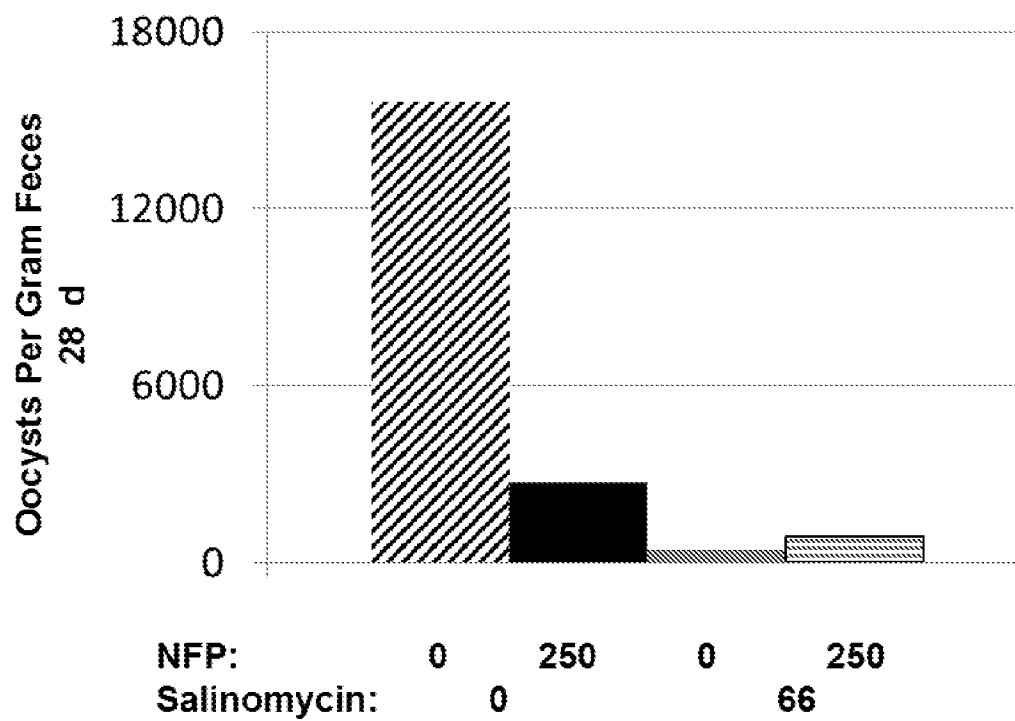


FIG. 26

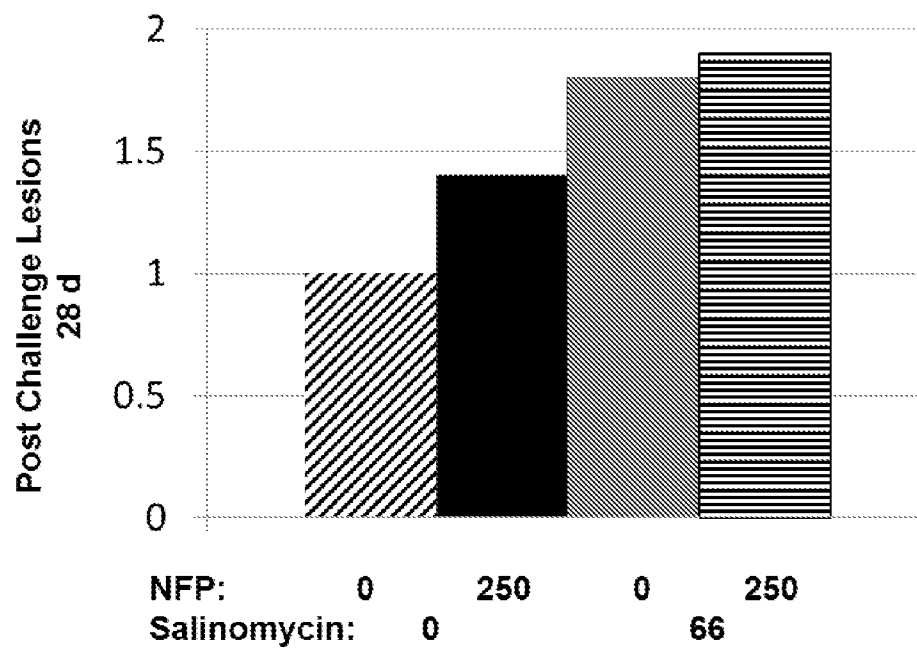


FIG. 27

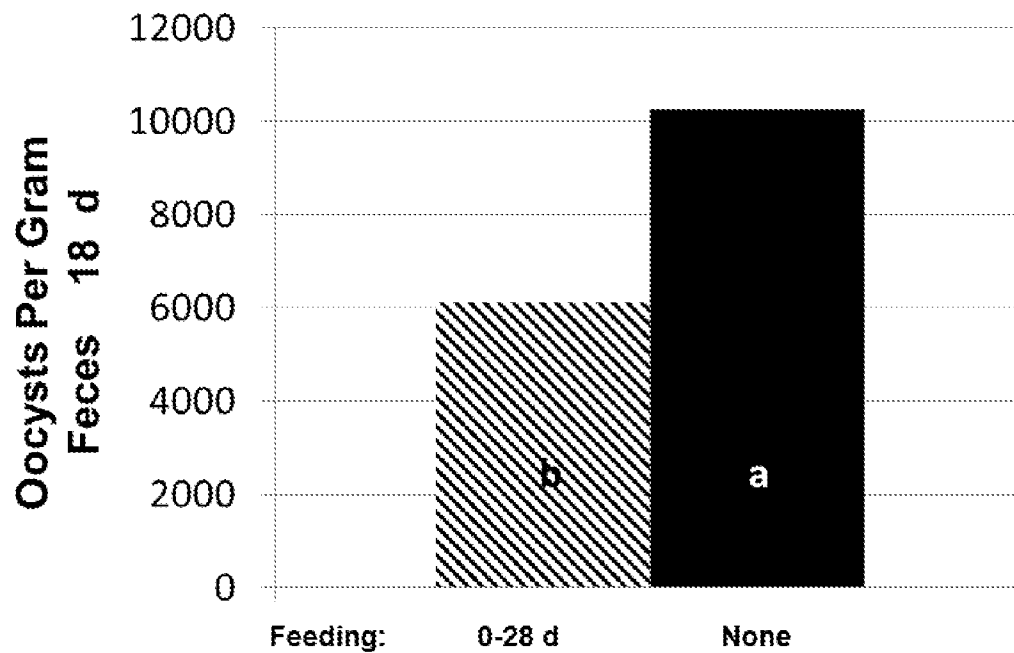


FIG. 28

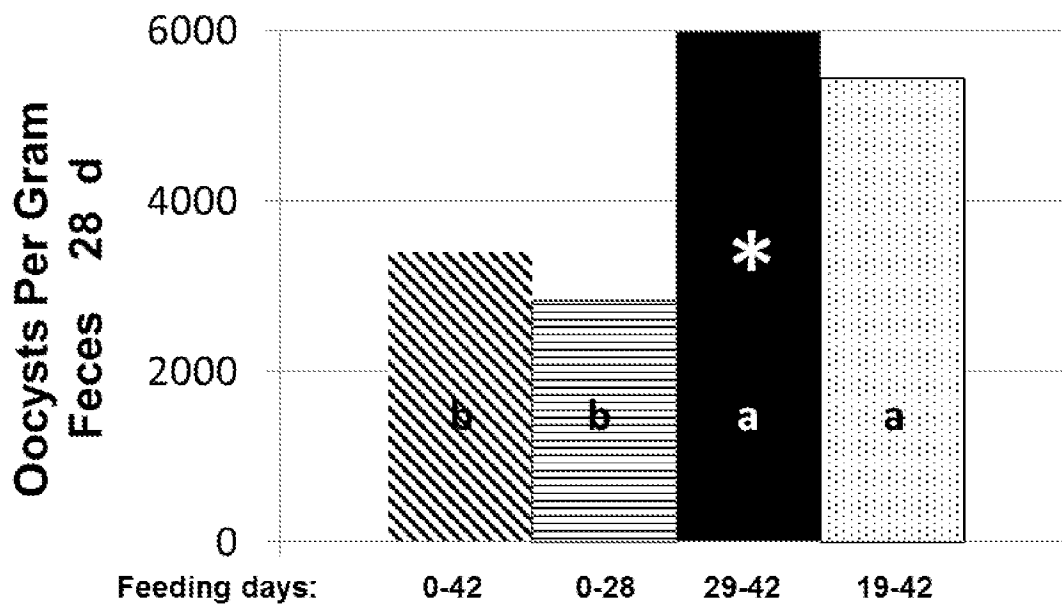


FIG. 29

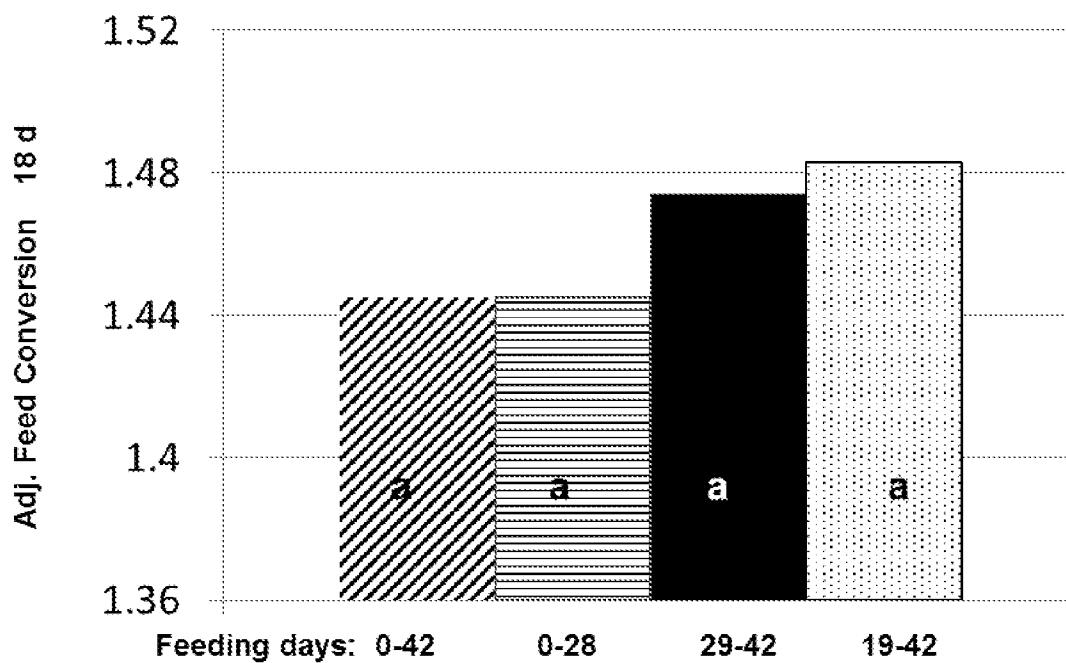


FIG. 30

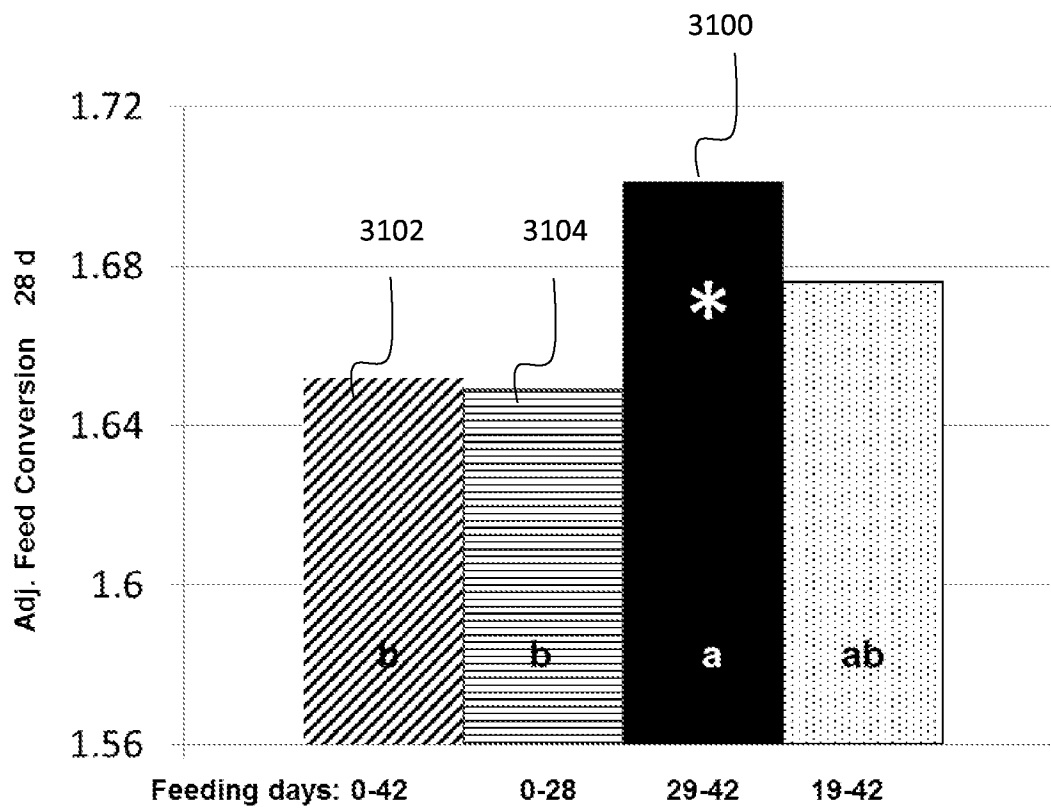


FIG. 31

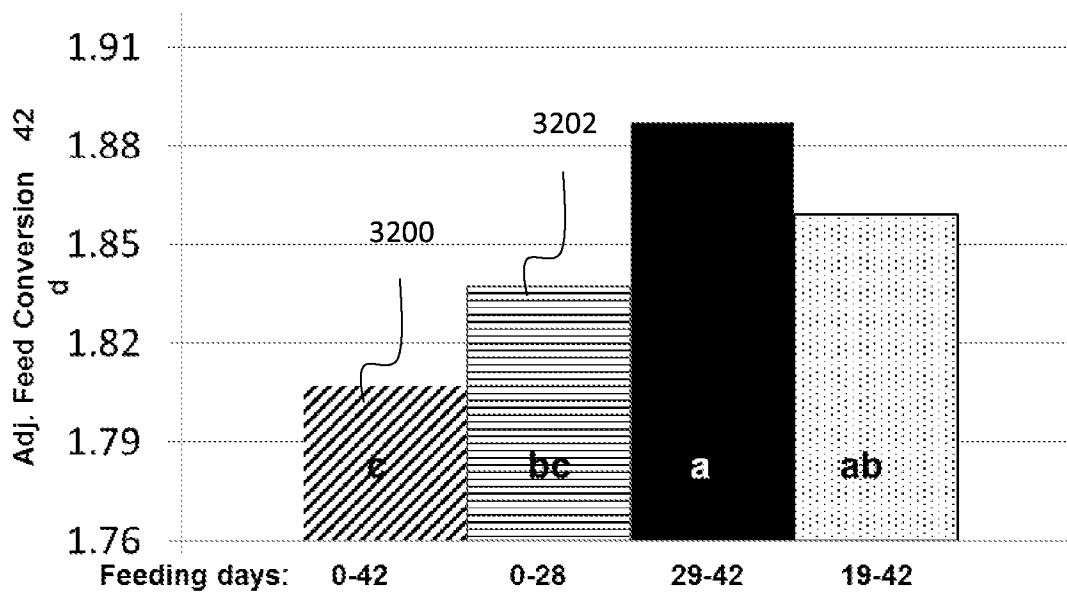


FIG. 32

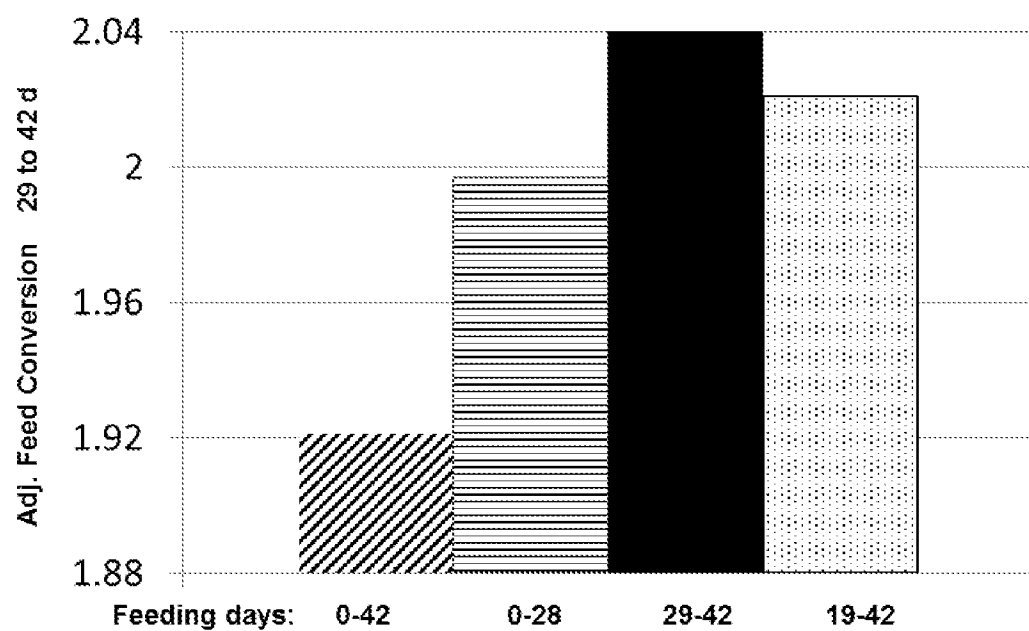


FIG. 33

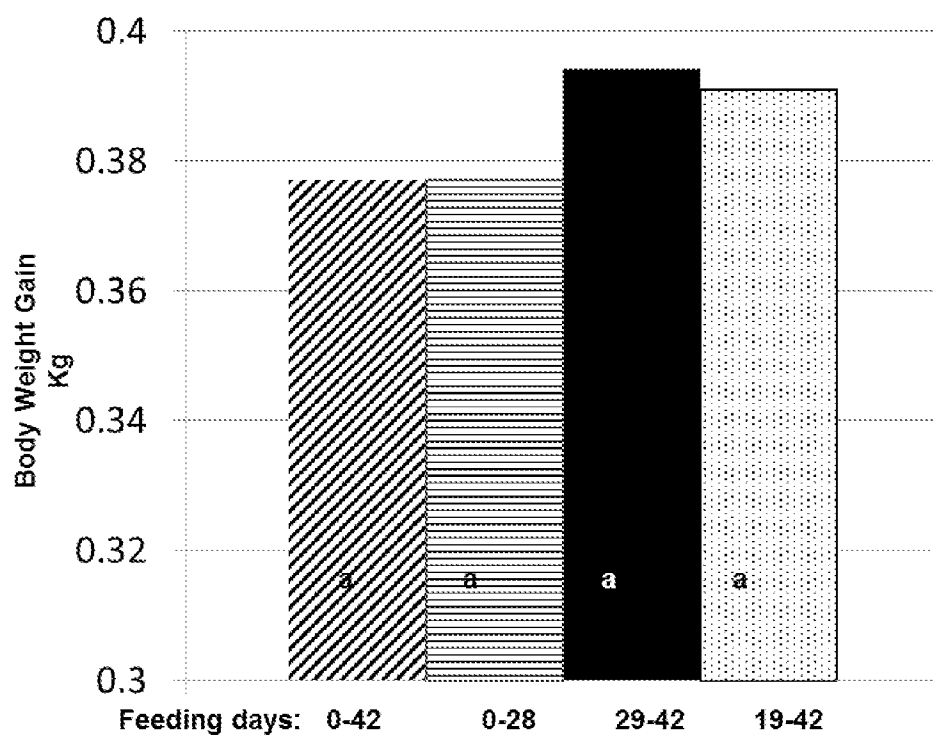


FIG. 34

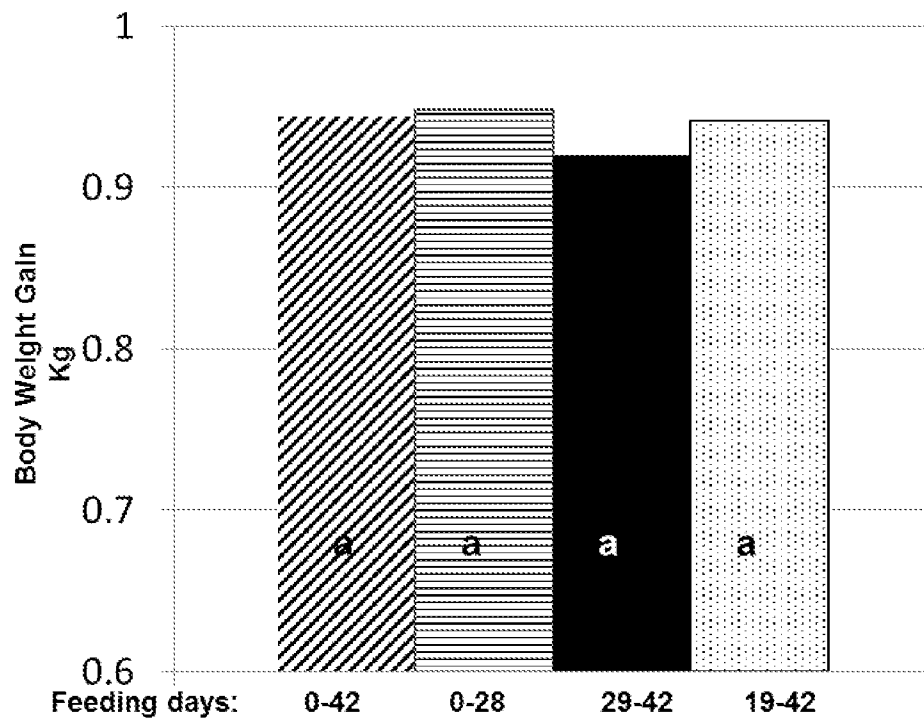


FIG. 35

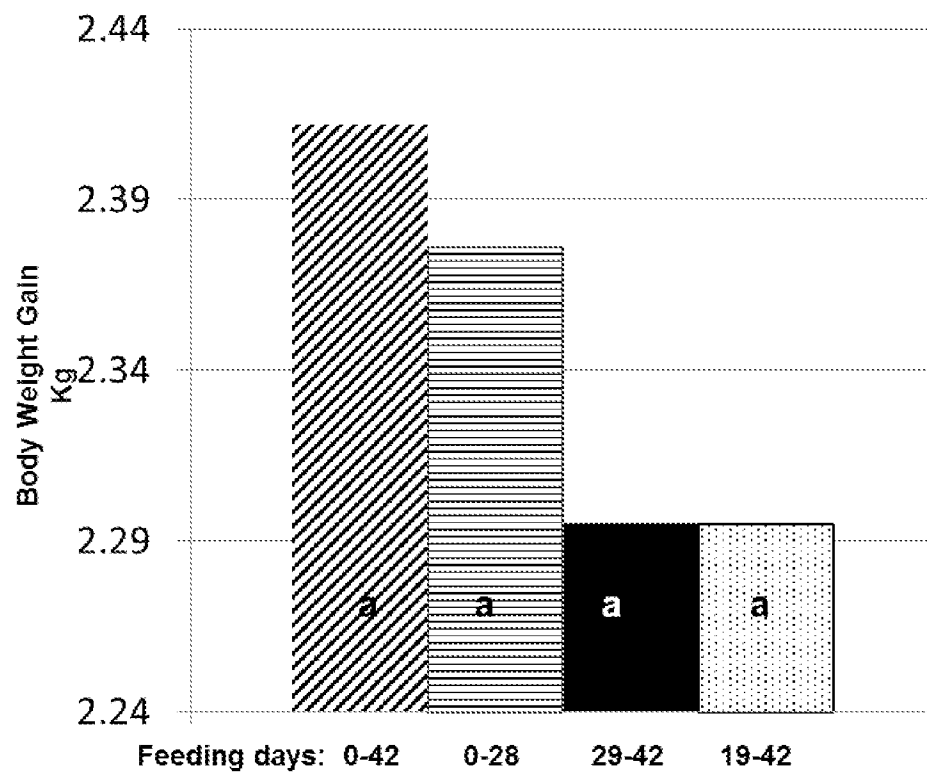


FIG. 36

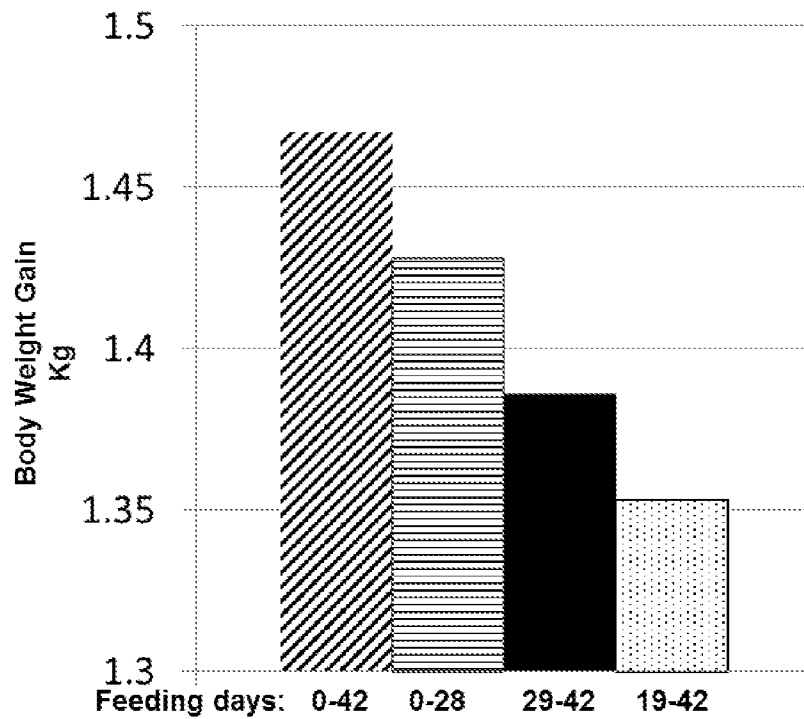


FIG. 37

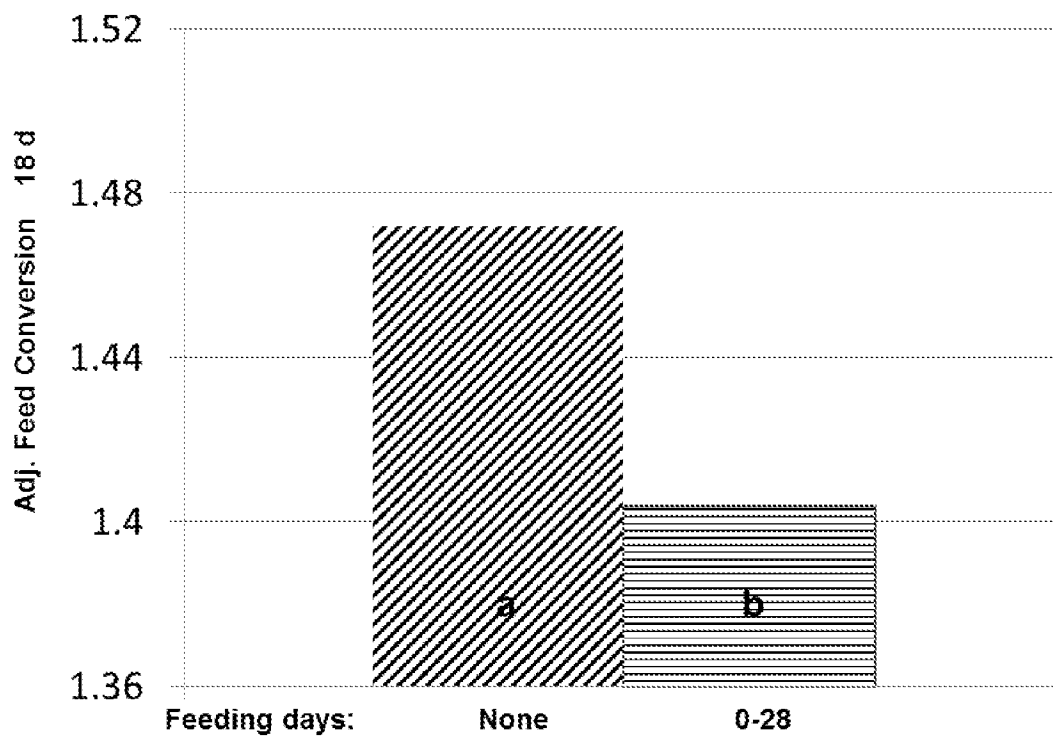


FIG. 38

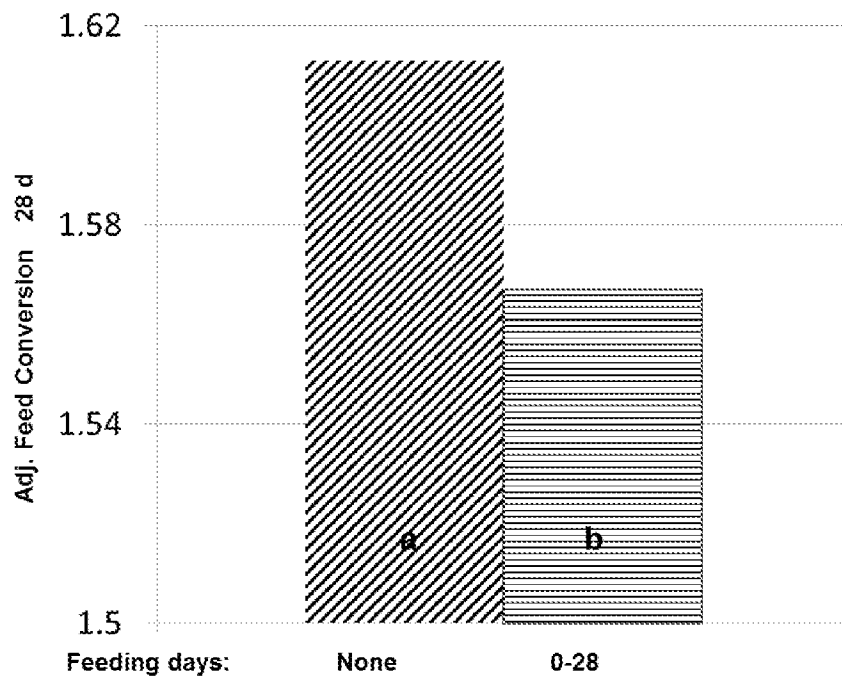


FIG. 39

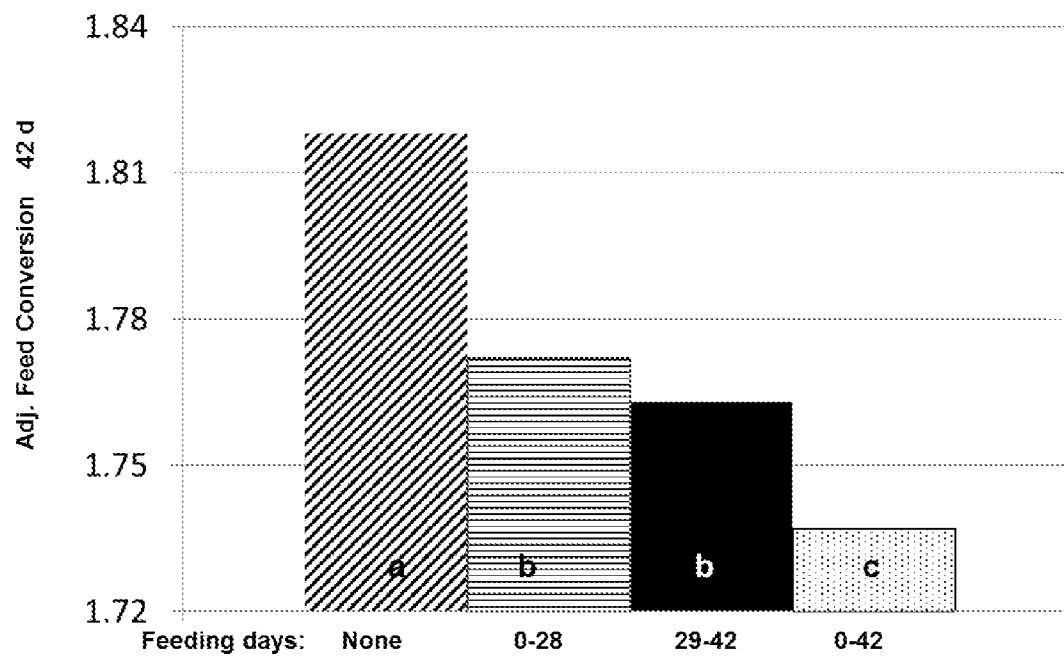


FIG. 40

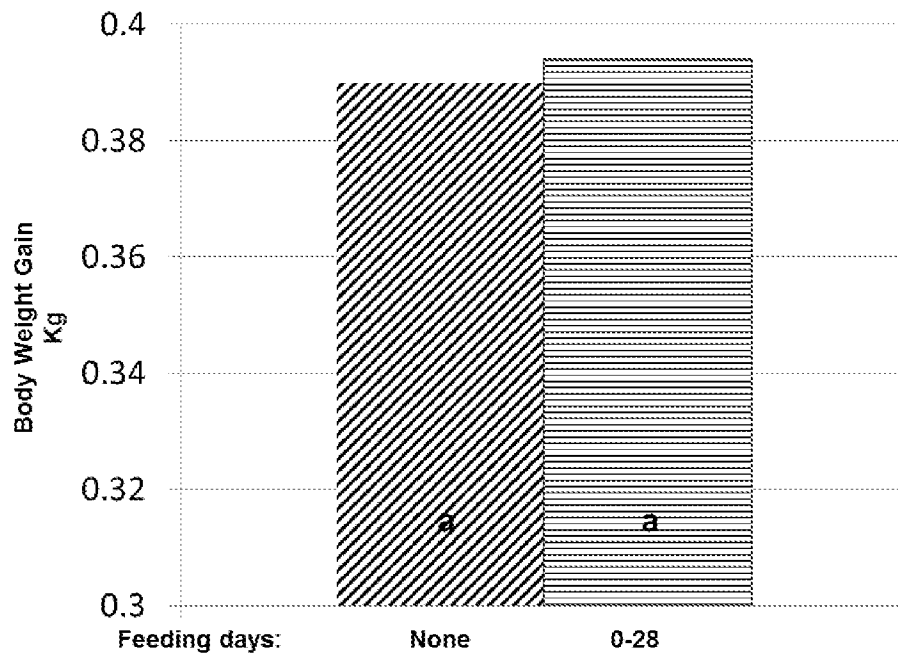


FIG. 41

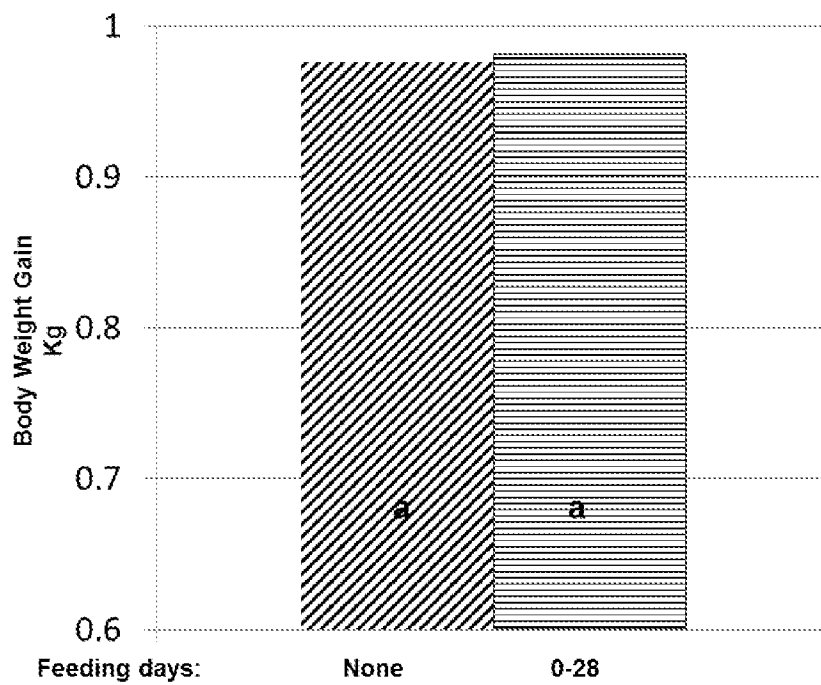


FIG. 42

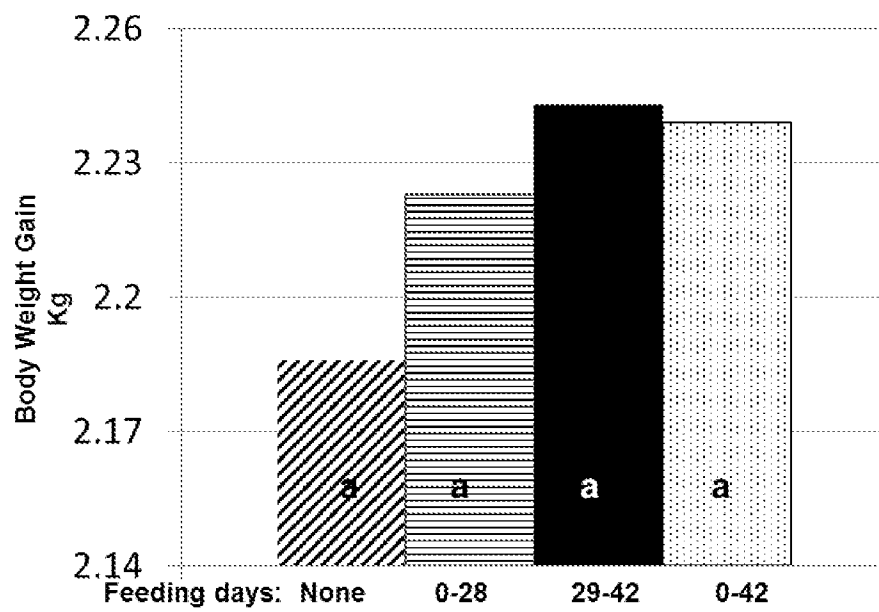


FIG. 43

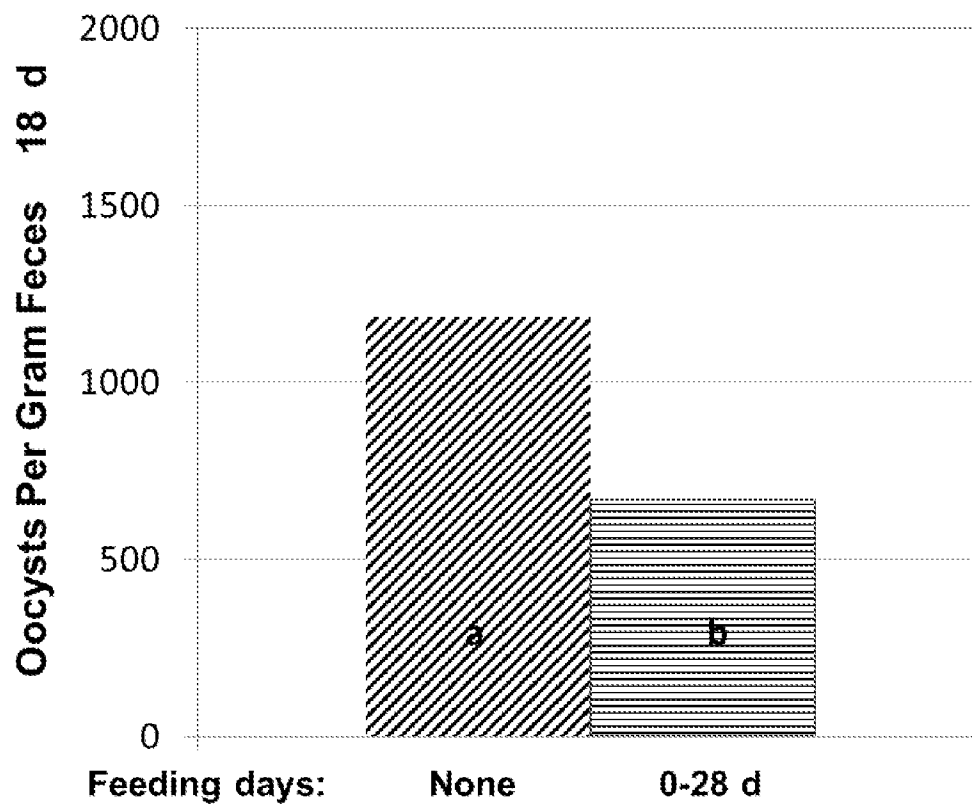


FIG. 44

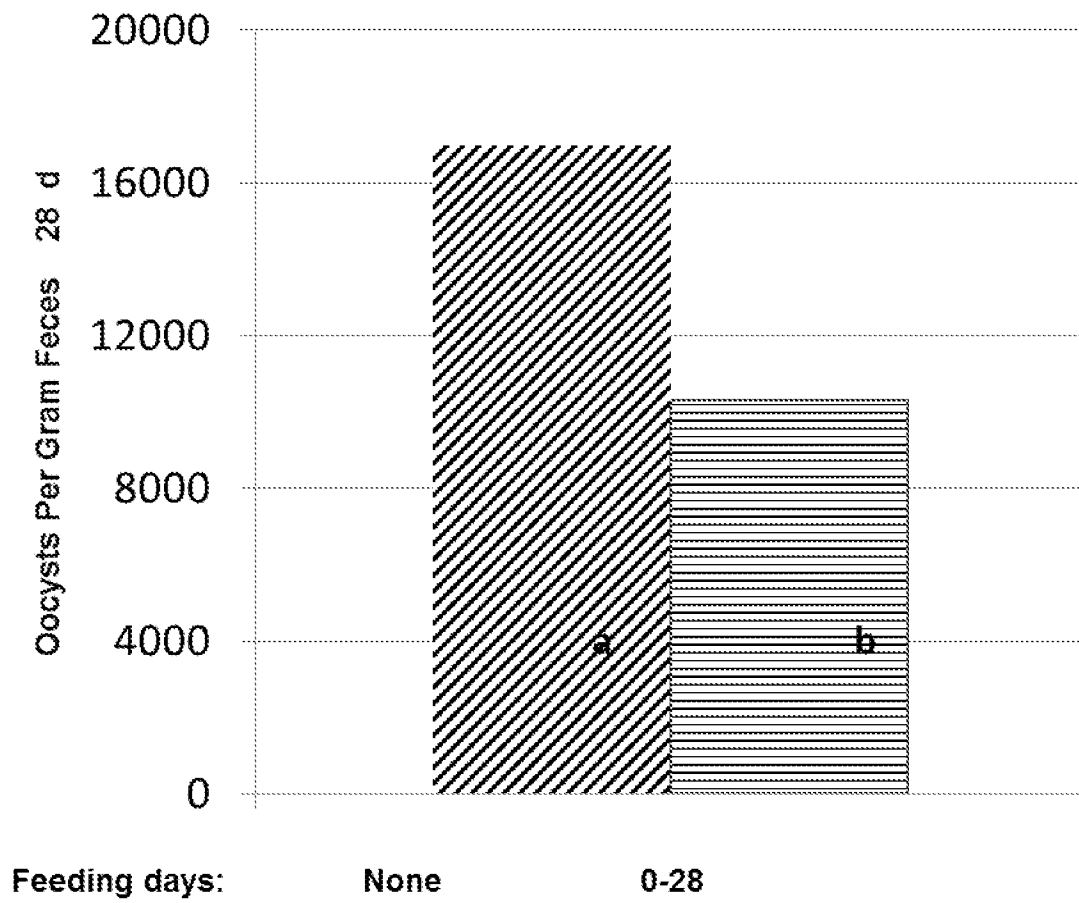


FIG. 45