Reaching Unlimited Potential

An Update from the President

Hy-Line has a rich history of innovation, and we continue to wave that banner proudly.

We invest a significant portion of our annual turn-over in research efforts, making it one of the most important investments for our future.

We have a great responsibility to meet diverse global demand. We must deliver, in a timely manner, the laying hens producing outstanding performance. Our commitment to innovative research and development has never wavered. It is a solid foundation that is producing accelerated genetic progress.

Hy-Line Accelerates Genetic Progress Across All Lines

“We are achieving progress in all lines faster than has ever been seen before,” noted Dr. Danny Lubritz, research and development director for Hy-Line International, in a recent discussion regarding Hy-Line’s intensified efforts in genetic selections. “We are making significant strategic changes in the Hy-Line breeding program to accelerate the rate of genetic progress.”

Hy-Line’s team of geneticists is making the genetic engine more powerful and more efficient. In fact, the recent pure line selections have documented a considerably higher response than achieved in previous years. We have narrowed the scope of genetic traits we analyze and, ultimately, use to select the next pure line generations, with the goal to achieve increased egg numbers, persistency, shell strength, egg weight and feed efficiency.

(L-R) Hy-Line’s team of geneticists: Dr. Ania Wolc, Genomics Geneticist; Dr. Petek Settar, Applied Geneticist; Dr. Danny Lubritz, Director of Research & Development; Dr. Jesus Arango, Statistical Geneticist; and Dr. Janet Fulton, Molecular Geneticist.

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Selection Intensity – Hy-Line increased its selection intensity by increasing the elite population. The expansion of the Dr. Dennis Casey Farm allows Hy-Line to place more pedigree birds from which to identify top performing individuals to keep as breeders of the next generation. Selection intensity will be amplified even more when Hy-Line’s third research farm is completed in 2019.

Accuracy – Accuracy increased by applying genomics to all commercial lines. Genomic (DNA) data, combined with pedigree data and phenotypes, provide us with the ability to make precise selections. Rather than selecting a family of males based solely on the performance of their sisters, Hy-Line directly identifies elite individual males through genetic values and genotypes. This ensures Hy-Line selects genetically superior males to sire the next generation of pure line birds.

Genetic Variance – Hy-Line discovered untapped opportunity to gain egg numbers beyond 60 weeks by extending the single-cycle lay data to 90 weeks. This increased genetic variance allows selections for birds with the highest rate of persistency late into lay.

Generation Interval – Genomics allows us to shorten the generation interval and more rapidly accrue genetic progress. We collect blood samples from all male chicks at a day-of-age in the hatchery. Then we isolate DNA from their blood and have it genotyped. Individual genotypes and genomic breeding values are available to us within 12 weeks-of-age. This means we now make more frequent selections and use pedigree males at 25 weeks-of-age instead of waiting to 55 weeks-of-age.

Faster, Better Progress

We are achieving progress in all lines faster than has ever been seen before.

– Dr. Danny Lubritz

Genetic Progress = Selection Intensity \times Accuracy \times Genetic Variance

Generation Interval
Genetic Progress Enhanced by Research Farm Expansion

Hy-Line is significantly expanding its research and development farm capacity to meet heightened demand for Hy-Line layers around the world. In November, Hy-Line completed a $2.5 million expansion of the Dr. Dennis Casey Research Farm, increasing the farm capacity by 50 percent. With this major investment, Hy-Line now extends the evaluation of top pedigree birds for genetic selections. “We are making significant strategic changes in the Hy-Line breeding program to accelerate the rate of genetic progress,” said Dr. Danny Lubritz, Director of Research and Development for Hy-Line. “Egg production and egg shell quality show higher genetic variation at older ages, so this information will help ensure continued genetic progress in persistency and shell strength.” The farm expansion also increases the population of research birds from which to identify the top performing individuals to keep as breeders for the next generation. As a result of improved selection intensity, Hy-Line varieties are gaining increased egg numbers, persistency, shell strength, egg weight and feed efficiency. “In the coming years, fast progress in persistency will result in much better egg output. The competitive advantage in livability will result in a much higher output of eggs per hen housed.” Generation after generation, producers will continue to capitalize on the superior genetics of Hy-Line layers.

Major Investment to Supplement Genetic Gains

Developing layer genetics is Hy-Line’s core business. Success breeds success. This industry requires a very significant capital-intensive investment, a large reservoir of pedigree line breeding hens, and years of hard work to establish a market. “In 2018, we will fortify our place as the largest supplier of laying hen genetics with a major investment in a new, state-of-the-art research farm,” said Dr. Danny Lubritz, research and development director for Hy-Line International. “This third farm will amplify the selection intensity by increasing the pedigree population from which to identify the top performing individuals to keep as breeders of the next generation.” Hy-Line International invests a significant amount of annual turn-over in research efforts, making it one of the most significant investments for our future. This new farm adds to the arsenal of top research facilities and field test sites contributing data to accelerated genetic progress across all lines. Selection intensity refers to the percentage of birds chosen for each generation relative to the number of birds placed. “As a genetics company, it is vital to identify future market trends and proactively implement procedures within the breeding program to meet and exceed these constantly changing market requirements,” noted Dr. Lubritz.
Hy-Line Around the Globe

Central America and Dominican Republic: Successful W-80 Launch

Hy-Line International and Criaves, S.A. de C.V., the exclusive distributor of Hy-Line day-old chicks to the Central American market, hosted a recent seminar to introduce the new W-80 layer to the market which produces 15.2 million chicks annually.

Additionally, eight Hy-Line distributors in the Dominican Republic gathered to launch the W-80 in this Caribbean market which produces 5.8 million day-old chicks annually.

The Hy-Line W-80 layer is a robust white layer with leading characteristics of superior persistency of production and ability to adapt to variations in environment, feed rations, and production systems.

Hy-Line International Regional Business Manager for Sub-Saharan and Eastern Africa, Dr. Daniel Valbuena, Latin America Regional Business Manager, presented the latest information on the new W-80 white egg layer. Dr. Jesus Arango, Statistical Geneticist, shared the progress of Hy-Line’s superior genetics. Vitor Arantes, Hy-Line Nutritionist, made a presentation on proper feeding and nutrition of Hy-Line layers for optimum results.

Tanzania: Poultry Training Center Educates Farmers

Hy-Line customer Silverland Farm Tanzania has been conducting a basic poultry training program for farmers in their newly established training center. The one-week program trains 10 farmers at a time, and includes food and boarding. So far, the training center has had more than 10 groups complete the training.

Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Regional Business Manager for Sub-Saharan and Eastern Africa, visited the center and presented participants with a certificate and a Hy-Line cap.

Hy-Line and Topman Farms Limited, Hy-Line’s distributor in Ghana, teamed up to conduct two seminars in late November: one in Dormaa, and the other in Sunyani. Combined, the two days of informative sessions provided nearly 300 participants with valuable, region-specific information about chick management, vaccination techniques, feed and nutrition, and biosecurity.

In November, Hy-Line held a seminar in Istanbul, Turkey, in conjunction with Hy-Line distributor Morghak Company, for a group of 30 key customers.

The two-day seminar included presentations about Morghak Company, as well as achieving top performance with management, nutrition, and breeding of Hy-Line birds. Other topics included an overview of the North Africa and Middle East layer markets, biosecurity, and group roundtable discussions.

Tanzania: Poultry Training Center Educates Farmers

New Hy-Line customer CP Thailand recently hosted a seminar for more than 170 team members. Participants learned about genetic advancements and successful management of the Hy-Line Brown.

Hy-Line joined forces with CP Thailand, the world’s largest feed mill and Thailand’s largest layer chick hatchery, to achieve monumental market share with the Hy-Line Brown in Southeast Asia.

In mid-2016, CP Thailand made the switch to place solely Hy-Line Brown GP in their operations after 25 years with a competitor layer brand. Because of the efficient egg production and deep brown color, the company recognized the profitability. These Hy-Line Brown layers were placed in their new grandparent stock farm.

Ghana: Seminars Provide Insight

Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Hy-Line International Regional Business Manager for Sub-Saharan and Eastern Africa, gives a presentation on chick management in Ghana.

Turkey: Hy-Line and Morghak Company Host Seminar in Istanbul

Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Hy-Line International Regional Business Manager for Sub-Saharan and Eastern Africa, listens intently to the Hy-Line seminar presentations.

Participants at the Istanbul seminar.

Sujeewa Lokuwaduge (center), Hy-Line International Regional Business Manager for Sub-Saharan and Eastern Africa, with participants from the Silverland Farm Tanzania training program.

OP Thailand team members, including Madame Phatanee, Managing Director, listen intently to the Hy-Line seminar presentations.

Participants at the Dominican Republic seminar.

Dr. Jesus Arango, Hy-Line International Statistical Geneticist, leads a session at the Criaves, S.A. de C.V. seminar.

(TOP) Dr. Mohamed Sobhani, Managing Director of Morghak Company; Amine El Ghissassi, Hy-Line International Regional Business Manager for North and West Africa and the Middle East; and Jonathan Cade, President of Hy-Line International.
Hy-Line recently hosted a key global distributor conference for Hy-Line customers around the world. The successful two-day Hy-Line International Global Distributor Conference held in Beijing, China attracted more than 140 key leaders from nearly 40 countries. The participants received the latest updates regarding Hy-Line, heard from top industry experts in the global feed and egg industries, and networked with fellow distributors.

“It is vitally important to bring our valued Hy-Line customers, who are global leaders in the layer industry, together to learn, ask questions and gain resources to make their businesses even more profitable,” said Jonathan Cade, president of Hy-Line International.

Participants also enjoyed visits to the unrivaled Great Wall and Forbidden City in the 3,000-year-old capital of China.