

## *Control of Parasitic Worms in Poultry*

For nearly two years Mount Sylvia Diatomite has been conducting a series of field trials in commercial free-range layer flocks investigating the efficacy of various Mount Sylvia Diatomite products against the most common and troublesome of poultry parasites, roundworm and red mite.

Conducting the trials on behalf of Mount Sylvia, Michael Sommerlad of "Poultry Works" said 'that whilst there is a significant body of anecdotal evidence to support the effectiveness of diatomaceous earth in these applications, little if any research had been conducted in this country to support the claims. For this reason, Mount Sylvia instigated a series of field trials to collect data for appropriate statistical analysis. These latest trial results have demonstrated that when fed to the birds at 5% of total ration, "Molodri" has the capacity to significantly reduce the number of roundworm eggs being excreted by the birds, indicating a reduction in overall worm numbers'.

Molodri is a blend of molasses and fine diatomite, a product mined by Mount Sylvia Diatomite near Gatton in Queensland. It is dark grey in colour, and looks (and tastes) like powdered molasses. Michael Sommerlad notes that "it appears that the birds fed with the "Molodri" treated ration also had improved feed efficiency and overall egg shell quality, however further research is required to accurately quantify these observations".

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