were obtained with dietary MOS, although there was no significant effect on mortality (0.18% lower).

Overall, beneficial responses of broiler chickens fed dietary MOS were observed in 82% of comparisons for bodyweight, in 74% of comparisons for feed conversion ratio and in 53% of comparisons for mortality.

The great variability in mortality from trial to trial and the known modes of action of MOS, including enhancing immune response and binding pathogens, largely explain why chickens probably need to be studied to quantify any improvements associated with MOS supplementation.

REFERENCES

By IAN ELLIOTT
President Barack Obama’s top trade official used his first visit to World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, last week to outline a new approach to try to finally con- clude the long-delayed Doha Round trade negotiations.

The trade negotiations have been stalled since last December. Those govern- ments were not able to reach an agreement on the modalities or methods they would use to make open domestic markets to agricultural and industrial products.

“We should all be willing to consider changes to the process that could put the negotiations on a more di- rect path to success,” U.S. Trade Representative Kirk told WTO delegates May 13. “The U.S. does not believe we should throw out the baby with the bathwater or change its underly- ing mandate. We also don’t believe we should throw out all of the hard work that’s been done. We seek to build on the progress we’ve made and find the best way for- ward, and we collectively need to find our path to address the remain- ing issues."

One new approach float- ed by some is to skip over the “modalities” phase and move directly to negotiating specific text rather than trying to come up with a text that works for all individual coun- tries — known as “scheduling.” Those cuts would then be incorporated into each nation’s schedule, which would be an integral part of any final deal.

Kirk said the Obama Ad- ministration is not “locked in” to any particular negoti- ating process. “We are suggesting that we have to be open to all possi- bilities,” Kirk said.

While he seemed to favor a more active role for the U.S., Kirk was clear that the new U.S. government holds many of the same views as the Bush Administration when it comes to measuring the success of the WTO negotia- tions.

He said the Obama Admin- istration is “committed to a successful conclusion” to the round. Kirk said a successful conclusion will require in- creased market access from richer developing countries like China, India, Brazil and South Africa. This would be of particular benefit to the poorest countries.

He also said this means a balanced and ambitious agreement with meaningful liberalization for all countries that are required for those of us who choose to seek lead- ership here at WTO,” Kirk told reporters.

He said the Obama Admin- istration is now review- ing how it wants to proceed in WTO talks. Kirk’s visit to Geneva last week was part of that review, which “was bumped up to the level of our National Economic Coun- cil,” he said.

“The first stage was our re- view within the U.S. The next stage — which will be our continued engagement with our partners here at Geneva — is to continue to engage our partners now and over the next several weeks to see if we can’t col- lectively come up with some common themes and maybe find that thread that helps us get to the next stage.”