A HORA DO OVO®

the magazine for egg production

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2025 International Quail Farming Symposium

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Quail farming takes its place

A deep dive into the promising world of quail farming is what A Hora do Ovo experienced on October 30th and 31st, at the beautiful campus of the Universidade de São Paulo (USP) in Pirassununga. Along with Teresa Godoy, my work partner at the magazine, website, and social media of A Hora do Ovo, the most traditional brand in specialized journalism focused on laying poultry within this powerful poultry segment, I intensely experienced the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium.

We witnessed how much quail egg production is growing in Brazil and how our genetics brands improve these remarkable little birds, true "factories" of small, tasty, and nutritious eggs, appreciated both here and abroad.

You will see that there is a world of news in the coming pages of this magazine: new international markets interested in Brazilian quail eggs and genetics; developments in specific nutrition for quails, improved equipment for housing them, selecting and packaging their eggs; studies using artificial intelligence to leverage the entire process and successful experiences in meat quails.

What we saw in Pirassununga is that, far beyond the crises, growth and business opportunities, research supporting large-scale production, and a foreign market attentive to our export possibilities have not ceased to flourish. This is why I love working for the egg sector, which always surpasses expectations, grows, flourishes, and resists.

Dear readers, we have so many possibilities in 2026! I believe in a crisis-proof growth outlook. Crises will come, as is always certain in Brazil. But we will remain to navigate and grow through them. Together, A Hora do Ovo and the poultry industry.

Come on, 2026! Thank you, 2025!

ELENITA MONTEIRO
Editor of A Hora do Ovo, at the beautiful USP campus in Pirassununga (SP).

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Foto: Elenita Monteiro/A Hora do Ovo

International Quail Farming Symposium marks a new phase of innovation and global integration

The event was held again, after an eight-year recess, and consolidated Brazil as a world reference in science and technology applied to quail production.


WILLIAM SHUHEI FUJIKURA, Fujikura CEO

After eight years without being held, with a pandemic in the way, the International Quail Farming Symposium—along with the VII Brazilian Quail Farming Congress—once again brought together researchers, business owners, and producers from Brazil and the world. It was a vibrant meeting held on October 30th and 31st that marked the resumption of integration between academia and the production sector.

Promoted by Fujikura Quail Genetics in partnership with GEMA/USP, NECTA/UFLA, and GETA/UFPB, the meeting highlighted the cooperation between academia and the production sector as the basis for the scientific advancement of quail farming. Held for the first time at USP in

The VIII International Quail Farming Symposium gathered about 200 participants in the amphitheater of USP in Pirassununga (SP), including producers, scientists, researchers, technicians from the poultry industry, and veterinary medicine and animal science students. It was an important and very well-organized reunion to share knowledge and debate the challenges of producing this protein, which is so rich and nutritious for Brazilians.

Pirassununga (SP), the symposium gathered about 200 professionals, including poultry farmers and technicians from the Brazilian poultry chain, and presented a modern and dynamic format, with representatives from Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Portugal, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Paraguay, in addition to several Brazilian regions.

At the opening of the event, Fujikura CEO, William Shuhei Fujikura, emphasized the symbolic importance of this resumption of the event for greater impulse to Brazilian quail farming. “Brazilian quail farming has relevance, scale, identity, and global potential. This symposium shows that the sector returned more mature, more connected, and more international,” he stated. “It was a reunion with science and with the soul of quail farming.”

The lectures showed a sector in full transformation: from precision nutrition and smart management to automation and the use of artificial intelligence on farms, covering advances in bird feeding, the presence of artificial intelligence with sensors and algorithms already classifying eggs with 96% accuracy, automation as a path to efficiency, standardization, and productivity, and the challenges of the segment, with the creation of germplasm banks to guarantee the “Brazilian quail” for the future.

With the presence of international speakers and Brazilian sector leaders, the event also celebrated the history and culture of the activity, with the traditional quail-based dinner, a symbol of a sector that unites innovation, tradition, and flavor.

As summarized by William Fujikura, host of the event, “everyone left the symposium bigger than they arrived.”

A partnership of results

Together, academia, industry, and research made possible the return of the Quail Farming Symposium, a success that is an achievement for the entire Brazilian production segment.

Wiliam Pagliarin, William Fujikura, Ricardo Pereira, Antonio Gilberto Bertechini and Fernando Perazzo

The realization of the Brazilian quail farming event at USP in Pirassununga (SP), on October 30th and 31st, symbolized the union between academia and the production sector and marked the international reconnection of the segment after the post-pandemic period.

"This union allowed each area to collaborate with its knowledge and potential, demonstrating that, united, science, research, and the production sector maintain a connection with results for everyone," analyzed Prof. Ricardo Pereira, from the School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at USP in Pirassununga.

The experienced Prof. Fernando Perazzo, from the Federal University of Paraíba, said he was satisfied with the results of the meeting. "It demonstrated the possibility for everyone to collaborate with their experience for a leap that quail farming deserves," considered Perazzo.

A heavyweight and highly respected name in the Brazilian and international quail farming scene, Prof. Antonio Gilberto Bertechini, from the Federal University of Lavras - UFLA (MG), creator of the original Symposium project and conductor of the event for eight editions - said that the 2025 Symposium gathered all audiences. According to Bertechini, both the program and the public participation were noteworthy, with activities that integrated everyone.

Wiliam Pagliarin, Production and Sales Manager at Fujikura Quail Genetics, one of the event enthusiasts, considered that "they were intense days, but very light at the same time." For him, the Fujikura team excelled, focusing and uniting to "unite and transform." William Shuhei Fujikura, CEO of Fujikura Quail Genetics, said that the event was beyond a reunion of professionals; it was a rebirth that deserves to be celebrated by everyone who integrated this rich partnership of ideas and realization. "May the symposium inspire new ideas, new partnerships, and new horizons," considered Fujikura.

The USP Pirassununga team (responsible for the technical part of the lectures and auditorium), the Fujikura Quail Genetics and PodAves teams (responsible for conducting the presentations), and professors Bertechini and Perazzo: the professionalization behind the success.

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Research, market, and the challenge of communicating the value of the quail egg

Professor Antonio Gilberto Bertechini, from UFLA, outlined a panorama of the sector and defended: it is time to show the nutritional value and market potential of the quail egg.

With more than 40 years dedicated to poultry farming, Professor Antonio Gilberto Bertechini, from the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA), brought a vibrant lecture, full of data, history, and provocations, to the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium. Under the theme Quail Production: Scenarios, Challenges, and Paths for the Future, he showed that Brazilian quail farming is experiencing a moment of recovery and technical maturation, but still needs to overcome image and sectoral organization barriers. "We need to produce food, and quality food," said the researcher, recalling that the sector strongly felt the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. "The crisis drastically reduced quail housing, especially among small and medium producers. Now, the challenge is to recover and grow."

Bertechini emphasized that the Brazilian quail egg market is promising, with pent-up demand, especially in the area of pickled eggs, driven by the resumption of restaurants and self-services. "The trend is the growth of the pickled egg, which helps balance the market and stabilize prices," he argued.

He also cited studies by the international consultancy Food Trends, which indicate that the

"We need to work on demand and show that there is consumption for the quail egg."

modern consumer is increasingly demanding, seeking practicality, health, and sustainability. "People want fast, safe food with a purpose. It is fast food at home, but with health."

THE STRENGTH OF SMALL PRODUCERS

Currently, Brazil has about 25 to 26 million quails housed, according to estimates presented by the professor. "If it weren't for the crisis, we would have already surpassed 30 million," he observed. For him, this is the new goal: "We need to hit 30 million in the next five years. And we have room for that."

Bertechini recalled that small and medium producers are essential for this recovery. "They are the ones who form the basis of quail farming. The large producer is automated, the medium one has a family structure, and the small one maintains quality. If they do not return, our production falls."

During the debate, the professor reinforced that many of these producers still hesitate to resume the activity after the uncertainties of the pandemic period. "There is a lack of confidence in the market. That is why we need to work on demand and show that there is consumption for the quail egg."

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND PRODUCTION BOTTLENECKS

The researcher also pointed out critical points in management and nutrition. According to him, the brooding and rearing phase is the heart of quail farming, so carelessness during this period compromises the entire production cycle. "It is necessary to breed birds with adequate bone density, uniform, and well-developed. Otherwise, mortality increases."

Other factors highlighted were inefficiency in storage and the cost of feed, which can represent up to 70% of the total production cost. The oscillation in corn and soy prices, added to the increase in the cost of additives and labor, pressures the profitability of the farms. "Brazilian entrepreneurs are heroes. The 'Brazil cost' is too heavy," he stated.

Even facing difficulties, Bertechini sees the

"The path is to continue improving the management and rearing of the birds. There is always room for enhancement."

sector advancing in genetics, equipment, and technology. "Quail farming today is industrial, technical, and has a lot of room to grow," he affirmed. He highlighted the potential of meat quails and the increase in quail meat export by Europe, citing Santa Catarina as an example of a region with good performance in this niche.
For the professor, one of the central points is improving communication with the consumer. "We fail to showcase the quail egg as food with high biological value. It is extremely rich in nutrients, and it still has three times more DHA (the essential fatty acid for brain development) than the chicken egg," he explained.
In a good-humored tone, Bertechini argued that consumption should start in schools. "If children had quail eggs in their school lunch, we would already have a smarter generation. In Japan, where egg consumption is high, the average IQ is 113; in Brazil, it is 87. The egg makes a big difference," he said.

PICKLED EGGS AND DIGITAL MARKETING

During the debate, a producer questioned whether the term "preserved egg" (ovo em conserva) might be driving away consumers. Bertechini agreed: "There is, indeed, resistance to the word 'pickled egg'. We may need to rethink the name, work on communication. The product is great; the problem is the prejudice associated with the term."
The professor advocated the use of digital marketing and educational campaigns, inspired by the work of the Brazilian Egg Institute (Instituto Ovos Brasil). "It takes time, but it works. It is necessary to talk, explain, show the product and its nutritional properties. The change needs to be permanent."
The professor reaffirmed that quail farming is experiencing a promising moment of recovery. "Farms are more technical, equipment has evolved, and research is being conducted. The path is to continue improving the management and rearing of the birds. There is always room for enhancement." For him, the consolidation of Brazilian quail farming depends on three axes: technical professionalization, valuing small producers, and communication with the consumer. "Quail egg production is an industrial activity. It is science, it is technology, and it is the future," he concluded.

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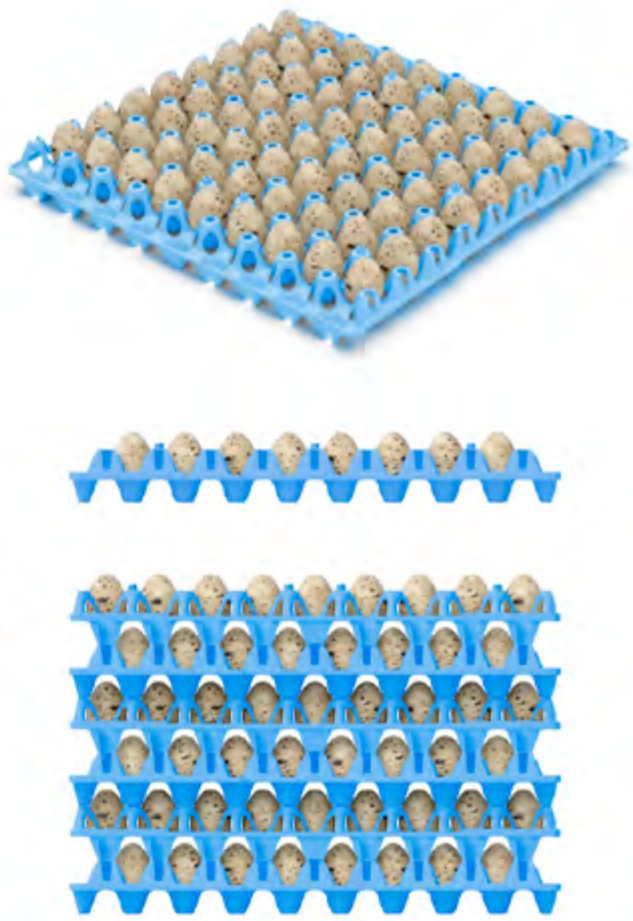

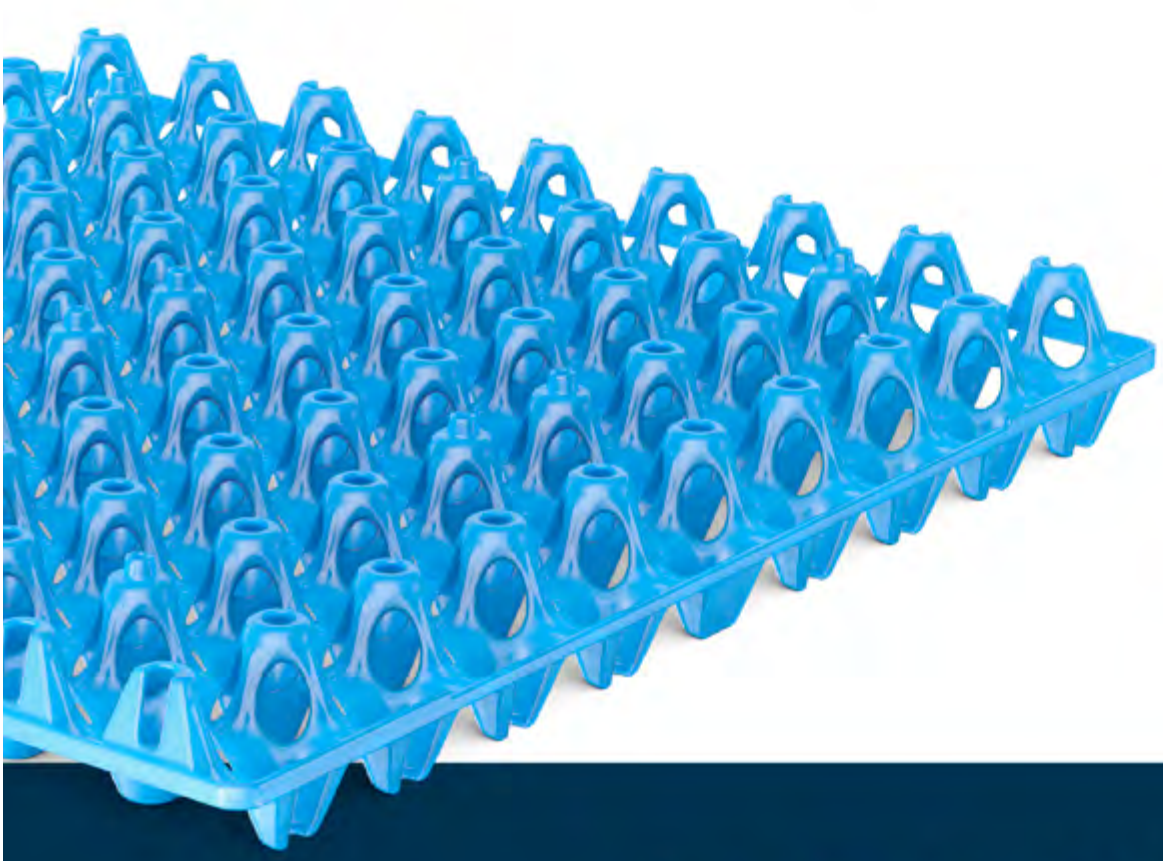

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Science and planning against bacterial challenges in quail farming

Lucas Ferreira Batista, from Inata Biológicos, presented vaccination as an essential biosecurity tool and advocated, at the Quail Farming Symposium, for the use of autogenous vaccines as a personalized solution for farms.

"The secret is not just to vaccinate; it is knowing why and when to vaccinate." With this statement, veterinarian Lucas Ferreira Batista, from Inata Biológicos, opened his lecture on vaccination as a strategy for the control of bacterial challenges at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium.

With experience in avian diagnosis and epidemiology, Lucas emphasized that the future of quail health involves data, planning, and personalized vaccines.

Lucas recalled that quail farming is growing rapidly in Brazil, but still lacks solid epidemiological data on bacterial diseases.

"We know little about the prevalence of diseases. And the first step to control is knowing what is actually circulating on the farms," he stated.

According to him, many bacterial and viral infections show similar symptoms, which requires precise laboratory diagnosis before any intervention.

Among the main field agents cited are Escherichia coli, Salmonella gallinarum, Avibacterium paragallinarum (infectious coryza), and Mycoplasma spp.

VACCINATION IS PART OF BIOSECURITY

The speaker reinforced that vaccination must be seen as an integral part of biosecurity programs and not just an emergency response. "Vaccinating

"Health is an investment, not a cost. A disease can shut down a farm. Prevention guarantees the future."

is prevention. It is different from treating. When we introduce antibiotics, we are already reacting to the problem. The vaccine, on the contrary, prevents the problem," he said. He highlighted, however, that the sector still has a limitation of vaccines specifically registered for quails in Brazil. "We need to develop specific products for the species, with local and better-adapted strains. This is fundamental for the sustainability of the production system."

AUTOGENOUS VACCINES: CUSTOMIZATION AND AGILITY

As an alternative, Lucas presented autogenous vaccines, produced from bacterial or viral isolates collected on the farm itself. "They are precision tools: custom-made for each property, with the agent that is actually causing the problem," he explained.

Autogenous vaccines follow MAPA Normative Instruction No. 31/2003, are always inactivated, and restricted to the farm of origin.

"The process is rigorous: it includes agent isolation, purity, harmlessness, sterility, and efficacy tests. It is a regulated, safe technology with extremely high epidemiological value."

Lucas compared commercial vaccines with autogenous ones: the former use worldwide standard strains and take 3 to 5 years for registration, while autogenous vaccines are produced on demand and can be quickly adjusted according to local variants.

"There is no risk of dissemination because they are inactivated vaccines. And the Ministry of Agriculture releases each production within up to 48 hours after the request."

During the debate, Lucas presented striking figures: the economic return from vaccination can reach 40 times the investment, especially when compared to the therapeutic use of antibiotics. "The vaccine is 30 to 40 times cheaper than antibiotic treatment. And besides being more economical, it addresses the cause, not the effect. Antibiotics are putting out a fire; vaccines are preventing the fire." He also reported field cases where the introduction of a single vaccine increased the average laying rate by 9%. "Health is an investment, not a cost. A disease can shut down a farm. Prevention guarantees the future."

PLANNING TO PROTECT

Concluding the lecture, Lucas reinforced that the success of vaccination depends on epidemiological planning and active monitoring.

"There is no miracle vaccine. Seroconversion time, formulation adjustment, and application time require strategy. This is what differentiates those who control challenges from those who only react to them."

Precision nutrition and innovation: THE FUTURE OF QUAIL FARMING LIES IN APPLIED SCIENCE

Professor Fernando Perazzo, from UFPB, presented the latest trends in quail nutrition at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium and highlighted: it is time to update tables, test additives, and produce based on data.

With 30 years dedicated to poultry farming, Professor Fernando Perazzo, from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), presented a dense and decisive topic during the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium: the new frontiers of quail nutrition. He covered everything from the comparison between Japanese and European quails to the use of additives and latest-generation nutritional plans.

"Every quail is a machine for producing eggs, and like any machine, it needs the right fuel and precise maintenance," he stated.

Perazzo opened his lecture by recalling why quail farming is growing: early production, longevity, efficiency, and low cost of space and labor. "At 35 to 38 days, the quail is already laying. No other bird delivers so much, so early, and with such quality."

He compared data between quails and commercial layers, highlighting that the quail has a greater proportion of egg weight in relation to its body, in addition to superior carcass yield compared to chicken. "It is a small animal, but with extremely high zootechnical performance. This demands high-precision nutrition."

UPDATING TABLES IS ESSENTIAL

The researcher presented an overview of the nutritional tables available in Brazil, reaching the new Brazilian tables launched in 2024, which now include specific data for European quails. "It's no longer possible to formulate feed based on old references. Genetics have evolved, birds have changed, and nutrition needs to keep up with this change," he warned.

Recent experiments at UFPB indicate that the

"We have genetics, universities, and producers who believe in science. The future of quail farming lies in the integration between research and practice."

best nutritional plan for European quails is from 1 to 35 days, and no longer 42 days. "Seven days of difference represents a lot on a farm. And by 35 days, the reproductive system is already developing; prolonging this period is a waste," he explained.

FROM DIGESTIBLE AMINO ACIDS TO MODERN ADDITIVES

Perazzo emphasized the importance of formulating diets based on digestible amino acids and not just on crude protein. "It's like comparing a light salad with a heavy feijoada; both provide nourishment, but the performance is completely different."

According to him, the key is to balance lysine, methionine, threonine, and valine to ensure rapid and sustained growth.

The professor also presented research results with symbiotic additives, which stimulate beneficial gut bacteria and improve nutrient digestibility.

"The results are expressive: improved microbiota, increased intestinal health, more egg mass, and greater shell strength, including in birds over 100 weeks old."

Another highlighted innovation was split feeding, a nutritional system that provides two different feed formulations—one in the morning and one in the afternoon—adjusting nutrients according to the bird's physiological cycle. "In the morning, the quail needs energy and protein; in the afternoon, it needs calcium to form the shell. When only one feed is offered all day long, some nutrients are wasted, and the cost goes up," he explained.

The results of UFPB experiments show that the moderate split feeding system increased gross margin by up to 18% compared to the control. "The cost of the second silo easily pays for itself. It is simple technology, but with an enormous return," he stated.

APPLIED RESEARCH AND NEW DIRECTIONS

The professor also presented ongoing studies on superdosed phytase, the interaction between nutrition and ambient temperature, and the use of vegetable extracts and insect flours in alternative diets. "We are testing the newest things in the world and publishing in high-impact journals so that science reaches the farm," he said.

In closing, Perazzo reinforced Brazil's role as a powerhouse in research and production: "We have genetics, universities, and producers who believe in science. The future of quail farming lies in the integration between research and practice."

Cláudio Franco, from Vaccinar, highlighted the importance of nutrition during the brooding and rearing phase to ensure weight, uniformity, and productivity.

A true “high-performance machine”, THE JAPANESE QUAIL NEEDS “HIGH-OCTANE FUEL” FROM DAY ONE

“The Japanese quail is a high-performance machine, and like any machine, it needs the best possible fuel.” This is how Cláudio Franco, technical manager of products and services at Vaccinar, defined the challenge of correctly nourishing quails from the first day of life.

Master in Animal Production from UFMG and with 14 years of experience at the company, he presented the lecture The importance of Japanese quail nutrition from the first day of life at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, a practical manual on the impact of initial feeding on the productive life of the bird.

Cláudio began his speech by highlighting that productive success starts in the first weeks. “The quail is born with 7 grams and reaches 160 grams in just 42 days. It’s a Formula 1 race: if you make a mistake at the start, you won’t reach the podium.”

According to him, about 70% of the nutrients consumed by the bird go to maintaining the organism, only 15% are allocated to production, and another 15% to growth. “Any deviation in this balance means a direct loss in egg production,” he explained.

The focus, therefore, is on brooding and rearing, phases in which the “machine” that will sustain laying is formed. Scientific

"The focus of nutrition is to build the quail's 'engine' in the first two weeks. Everything that comes after depends on this start."

works, he cited, show a direct correlation between weight at 42 days and productive performance: quails that reach more than 140 grams at this age present more intense and regular laying.

THE PHYSIOLOGY THAT DEMANDS PRECISION

With an accelerated metabolism and heart rate between 300 and 600 beats per minute, the quail is, according to Cláudio, an animal that "does not forgive failures." He reinforced that early intestinal development is crucial: "The intestine is the largest immunological organ of the bird. If it is not formed well, performance will never be full."

Among the recommended practices, the nutritionist highlighted the provision of high-quality pre-starter feed and the use of functional additives - such as enzymes, probiotics, and mycotoxin adsorbents — to protect the gastrointestinal tract.

PELLETED FEED: MORE GAIN, LESS LOSS

Cláudio presented field data showing that the use of pelleted feed in the first seven days can ensure up to 13.8% more weight at 42 days and better uniformity among the birds. "Pelleted feed eliminates particle selection and improves digestibility. The result is an engine running smoothly from the beginning."

The numbers are impressive: in a batch of 100,000 quails, the improvement in viability can represent 2,300 more birds at the end of rearing, equivalent to more than a thousand more cases of eggs per cycle.

IDEAL PROTEIN AND INGREDIENT QUALITY

The specialist advocated the use of the ideal protein concept, with fine-tuning of amino acids such as lysine, threonine, and arginine. "Reducing crude protein does not mean losing performance. It means optimizing the utilization of nutrients and reducing nitrogen excretion, which improves the farm environment and the sustainability of the system."

Cláudio also warned about the risks of mycotoxin contamination, highlighting the high prevalence of fumonisins in ingredients such as corn and DDG. "Those who don't monitor, feed the problem. Mycotoxins are silent, but they undermine performance and immunity."

For him, the future of quail farming involves the combination of science, precision nutrition, and animal welfare. "The five freedoms of welfare — adequate feeding, comfort, absence of fear and disease, and natural behavior — translate into productivity. The bird that feels well, produces well." Concluding the lecture, Cláudio reinforced the synthesis of his work: "The focus of nutrition is to build the quail's 'engine' in the first two weeks. Everything that comes after depends on this start."

Núttria technical consultant, Eduardo Scarpa Filho, compares quail rearing to a Formula 1 race and warns: the start - the rearing phase - defines the entire productive performance.

The first 35 days decide the "race": nutrition and rearing management are the keys to success in quail farming

Technical consultant Eduardo Scarpa Filho, from Núttria, opened his lecture at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, in Pirassununga (SP), with an unusual but accurate comparison: "The quail is a Formula 1. The first lap - or better yet, the first 35 days of life - decide the outcome of the race."

Specialist in nutrition and management, Scarpa previously worked with Cláudio Franco, from Vaccinar, and participated in the development of pelleted feed for quails. His lecture, which followed the theme of nutrition in the first days of the quail's life, highlighted that productive success depends on the balance between feeding, water, uniformity, and constant technical monitoring.

For the consultant, the rearing phase is the most critical point of the cycle. "If there is no attention during this period, the batch will have neither a production peak nor sustainability. The birds may start producing, but they fall shortly after," he warned.

He detailed the physiological development of the Japanese quail: the digestive system matures up to the 10th day; the bone system, from the 2nd to the 35th; and the reproductive system, starting from the 15th day. "It is an organism that needs precision. A quail that leaves the rearing phase poorly does not recover in laying."

"The quail responds quickly, both positively and negatively. Detected a failure? Correct it. You can't wait for the problem to become the standard."

WATER: THE FORGOTTEN NUTRIENT

Scarpa drew attention to a point frequently neglected on farms: water quality and temperature. "We can formulate the best feed in the world, but if the water is hot or in insufficient volume, weight gain will plummet."

According to him, the ideal water temperature should be between 15°C e 25°C, and the supply must be constant, with an adequate number of drinkers and correct pressure in nipple systems. "Water is the cheapest and most important nutrient. And it is the first to be forgotten."

WEIGHT AND UNIFORMITY: DATA THAT TELL STORIES

The consultant emphasized that weight and uniformity are not just numbers, but indicators of nutritional and management efficiency. "Two batches may have an average of 120 grams, but completely different behaviors. One with 96% uniformity and the other with 79%. The first will have a full production peak; the second, prolapse and mortality," he explained.

He presented a field case where the solution was to adjust the diet for a pre-laying phase, reducing calcium and increasing energy and protein, in addition to controlling light to uniformize the batch. "It is an intervention that costs time and money, but avoids much greater losses. Non-uniform batches are synonymous with loss."

For Scarpa, weekly weight monitoring until the 12th week is essential. "The quail needs to continue gaining 30 to 40 grams after 42 days. Deficient diets or delays in this phase result in abrupt drops in production," he highlighted.

He reinforced that corrections must be immediate. "The quail responds quickly, both positively and negatively. Detected a failure? Correct it. You can't wait for the problem to become the standard."

Concluding the lecture, Scarpa returned to his analogy with motorsports: "In Formula 1, the race can be decided on the first turn. In quail farming, it is decided in the rearing phase. That is where the batch's performance, longevity, and profit are built."

Packed auditorium, qualified audience, full attention to the program

Producers, technicians, veterinarians and animal scientists, researchers, professors and students — an audience of nearly 200 people followed the schedule of the 8th International Quail Farming Symposium in Pirassununga (SP).

It was two intense days with lectures that truly captivated the participants. Check out some highlights.

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USP Researcher warns of the urgency of creating quail germplasm banks in Brazil

Ricardo José Garcia Pereira highlighted the importance of conserving the quail genetic heritage and advocated for the creation of a national preservation program.

"Genetic material is the most vulnerable treasure in poultry farming."
With this phrase, Professor Ricardo José Garcia Pereira, from the University of São Paulo (USP), summarized the spirit of his lecture at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, held at USP in Pirassununga (SP). The researcher, who holds a PhD from the university and a post-doctorate from the University of Michigan (USA), presented the theme Formation of germplasm banks in quails: importance, challenges, and perspectives, and showed that the science of genetic preservation is as strategic as management, nutrition, and health.

Ricardo Pereira began by explaining that the formation of quail lineages took decades of genetic and zootechnical work, from the 12th century, when the first quails were domesticated, until modern breeding programs began in the early 20th century.
"Everything we have achieved in productivity, conversion, and yield is the result of generations and generations of selection. And this heritage is under constant risk," he warned.
He cited diseases such as Marek's, Gumboro, Newcastle, infectious bronchitis, and avian influenza as recurrent threats that

"If a serious sanitary crisis hits the sector, we could lose something that does not exist anywhere else in the world."

can decimate flocks and, with them, unique genetic lineages. "A virus can erase in days what took a century to build," he stated.

BIOSECURITY AND COMPARTMENTALIZATION

The professor explained how large global genetics companies already work with compartmentalization, a system that divides the genetic pyramid (great-grandparents, grandparents, matrices, and production) into independent and traceable units, to contain outbreaks without destroying the entire base.

"It is a way to guarantee biosecurity. But even so, it is not enough. It is necessary to have safety copies of this genetic material in other locations, isolated from biological risk," he said.

This is where germplasm banks come in, which can store genetic material in two forms: live (in vivo), with flocks maintained under isolation, and frozen (in vitro), in liquid nitrogen tanks with semen, germ cells, and gonad fragments.

Unlike mammals, which already have consolidated technology for freezing semen, ova, and embryos, birds have major limitations. "The bird's egg cell is the yolk itself, full of vitellus. This prevents efficient freezing. And quail spermatozoa - three times longer and with thousands of mitochondria - fragments easily during the cryogenic process," the researcher explained. These characteristics make the freezing of quail gametes a technical challenge, but science is advancing. Ricardo showed studies with spermatogonial stem cells and PGCs (primordial germ cells) that can preserve material from males and females, in addition to research with fragments of ovaries and testicles, and even with fibroblasts collected from feathers and embryos.

"These are complex techniques, but every advance is genetic insurance for the future. Genetics is an investment of generations; we cannot treat it as disposable."

WHY BRAZIL NEEDS TO ACT NOW

The professor recalled that countries like the United States, China, and Thailand already have national programs for the conservation of avian germplasm, while Brazil still lacks structured initiatives aimed at quail farming.

"Brazil is a world reference in chicken and eggs, but it cannot remain vulnerable in quails. There are lineages developed here, with unique characteristics of adaptation and productivity. If a serious sanitary crisis hits the sector, we could lose something that does not exist anywhere else in the world."

He proposed the creation of a national working group, integrating universities, genetics companies, and MAPA to design a plan for infrastructure, funding, and conservation protocols. "Preserving is planning the future of production," he warned.

Concluding, the professor was categorical: "Avian flu reminded us that biosecurity is survival. The next step is to ensure that the genetic material of Brazilian quails has a place to survive, even if the flock disappears."

Automation and egg quality: the dual challenge for expanding quail egg consumption

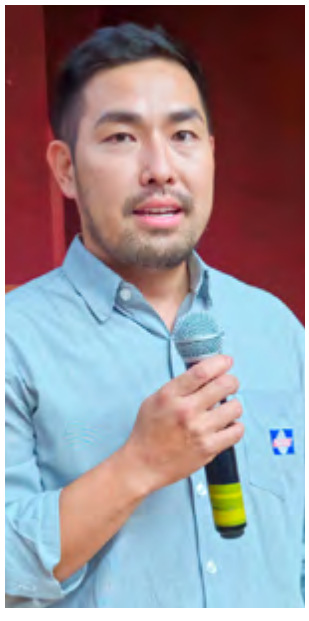
Yamasa engineer, Alberto Yamasaki, highlights the product's potential and shows how adequate automation planning can reduce labor on farms by up to 60%.

"Automation is efficiency, but it is also standardization." With this phrase, the engineering manager at Yamasa, Alberto Yamasaki, opened his lecture at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, held on October 30th and 31st at USP in Pirassununga (SP). Alberto shared the experience of a company with 60 years of history - founded by his family - and a pioneer in the manufacturing of automatic packing machines for quail eggs. According to him, automation is today the safest way to face the bottleneck of labor shortage in poultry farming, a global problem. "It's not just Brazil that suffers from this. In the United States and Canada, for example, the cost and scarcity of workers are permanent challenges," he commented.

PLANNING IS AUTOMATING

Presenting comparative technical data, Yamasaki emphasized that the biggest mistake producers make is building the sheds and only then thinking about the equipment. "Automation starts with planning. The ideal is to design the poultry house already with the flow of conveyors, storage areas, and electrical points planned for the equipment. This avoids rework and expensive adaptations," Alberto indicated.

He explained that, when well planned, automation allows for a reduction of up to 60% in labor starting in the first month of operation. But, in addition to the costs, a very important benefit is product standardization. "The egg is an irregular product. Each person may have a different perception of what a 'good' egg is. Automation eliminates this subjectivity, ensuring



"Automation starts with planning. The ideal is to design the equipment already with the flow of conveyors, storage areas, and electrical points planned for the equipment. This avoids rework and expensive adaptations."

consistent quality," he demonstrated. Standardization directly impacts brand image and market negotiation. "Like mineral water, the egg also needs brand strategy and consistency. A product with uniform quality wins and retains the customer," said Alberto Yamasaki.

Among the technical examples presented, the engineer highlighted the importance of correctly defining the packaging, especially in quail farming, where trays vary between 6 and 30 eggs. "The type of packaging directly influences the machine's efficiency. A difference in the number of lines can reduce production capacity by up to 40%," he explained.

He also recommended attention to electrical and hydraulic infrastructure, noting that Yamasa's packing machines have low energy consumption (around 1 kW) and require small, but mandatory, drains and air compressors for optimal operation.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON THE HORIZON

The speaker also presented examples of automation applied to farms in Canada, the United States, Belarus, and Peru, with features such as UV lamps to reduce microbial load and systems for tracking efficiency and digital integration with stocks and productivity in real-time.

During the debate, producers raised the need to develop a quail egg washer alongside the packing machine, similar to those used in the chicken egg industry. Today, quail eggs are not washed, only brushed during grading. Alberto Yamasaki confirmed that Yamasa is studying the project but emphasized the technical difficulties. "The quail egg is very light, it easily comes out of position during washing. We have already tested some solutions and are also advancing on a crack detector, which should be launched soon," he anticipated.

A producer in the audience reinforced the urgency of innovation: "Since we are inspected by the Ministry, all dirty eggs must be discarded, which generates considerable losses." The speaker replied that the company would commit to this issue.

Belarus and Brazil: partnership between JSC Soligorsk and Brazilian companies strengthens international quail farming

Director of JSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm, Svetlana Katovich, highlighted the successful partnership between Belarus and Brazil, which resulted in technological and productive advances in the sector.

The emotion and strong accent of Director Svetlana Katovich, from JSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm, in Belarus, captivated the audience of the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium. "Belarus and Brazil have no borders," she said, right at the beginning of the lecture, opening a report that combined technique, history, and friendship.

With more than 18 years of experience in the company, Svetlana presented the theme Belarus and Brazil without borders, showing how cooperation between the two countries has transformed quail production in her country.

A BRIDGE BUILT BY COOPERATION

Svetlana recounted that everything began in December 2022, when the director of Soligorsk, Inna Tolgacheva, and the director of partner company Agrovo, Michael Langeder, visited Brazil for the first time.

"We found not just technology, but partners and friends," she said, citing the Brazilian companies Yamasa, Fujikura, Kilbra, and Artabas, which became a fundamental part of the farm's modernization project.

"When I met William and Victor Fujikura and


Fabrizio Geroto, from Artabas


Rafael Carlos Pinto, from Kilbra


Katia Yamasaki, from Yamasa

"Our numbers show that Brazilian knowledge and the dedication of our team formed a perfect combination. We learned a lot and improved even more."

BRAZILIAN PARTNERS OF SOLIGORSK, IN BELARUS: Artabas, Kilbra, and Yamasa contributed their technologies to strengthen Brazil's ties with international quail farming.

the Yamasa team, my heart was happy. This collaboration changed our work and our future," she stated, visibly moved.

RESULTS THAT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

JSC Soligorsk Poultry Farm, one of the largest quail producers in Belarus, recently began operating a new farm with a capacity for 9,000 quails. The project was built with Brazilian equipment, including incubation, ventilation, and automation systems supplied by the partner companies.

The results, presented by Svetlana, are impressive:

- 93% viability in the young phase and 98,5% in adult birds.
- Average weight of 148 grams at 35 days, surpassing the standard of 145 grams.
- Initial weight of 7 grams and consistent gain until the end of rearing.

"These numbers show that Brazilian knowledge and the dedication of our team formed a perfect combination. We learned a lot and improved even more," she affirmed.

The partnership also included continuous technical consultation with the Fujikura Genetics and Yamasa teams, who monitored the project development in Belarus.

Svetlana highlighted that Soligorsk began adopting more precise incubation processes, improved temperature and humidity management, and continuous monitoring of egg and chick quality.

"We failed on the first attempt, but with guidance and cooperation, we achieved success. Brazilian technology proved to be efficient, and our team proved capable of applying it with excellence," she said.

A MESSAGE OF UNITY

Concluding her presentation, Svetlana cited a phrase that touched the audience: "Our voices are of friendship. Our heart is at peace, and our life, in honor." She received loud applause, in one of the most symbolic moments of the symposium, which reinforced the spirit of international integration in quail farming.

Caption: "Our numbers show that Brazilian knowledge and the dedication of our team formed a perfect combination. We learned a lot and improved even more."

The CEO of Villa Germânia and president of ACAV presented a historical and market overview of quail meat in Brazil, and affirmed that the country has the productive and technological basis to dominate the sector.

Brazil has the potential to be a world leader in meat quail production, argues Marcondes Moser

The agricultural engineer Marcondes Moser, president of the Santa Catarina Poultry Association (ACAV) and CEO of Villa Germânia/ Good Alimentos, opened his lecture at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium with a flavorful provocation: "Life in agribusiness is only fun because it is full of challenges. If there are no problems, it loses its grace."

And it was in this tone — light, but technical — that he led a lesson on Brazilian meat quail farming, its origins, challenges, and future prospects.

Moser began by rescuing the history of quail consumption in Brazil, which dates back to the 1950s. According to him, the custom came with the Italian immigrants in the South, who replaced small game birds with quail in the recipe for the traditional menarosto, a typical dish of the region.

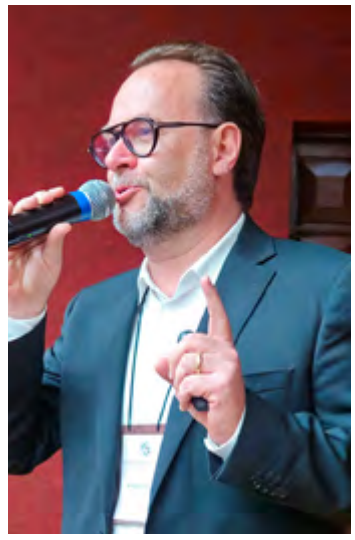
"It is a bird that carries a cultural value, of celebration. Meat or egg, what we produce is food, and food is about gathering," he said.

With humor, he recalled the popular influence that also helped consolidate consumption: "The Northeast embraced the quail with the strength of Luiz Gonzaga, who sang the aphrodisiac virtues of the egg. From then on, the myth turned into marketing."

THE BIRTH OF GOOD ALIMENTOS

Next, the executive presented the case of Good Alimentos, a company in the XWR Investimentos group, responsible for the industrialization and export of quail meat. Founded in 2012, Good was created with the

"Brazil has grains, technology, and talent. What is missing is turning this into scale and visibility. The quail is the new frontier of gourmet protein."



objective of occupying the space left by Perdigão, a pioneer in the sector, but which ended its quail operation in 2017.

Located in Coronel Freitas (SC), the unit is today the largest quail slaughterhouse in the Americas, with 40 hectares of area, 13 fattening sheds, and an abatement capacity of up to 20,000 birds per day.

The system is fully integrated and traceable, with high biosecurity and sanitary barriers on two levels. "All the eggs are in the same basket, literally. So, health is a matter of survival," he explained.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Good operates with 100% vegetable feed - a requirement for halal slaughter - and has been achieving consistent advances in genetics, nutrition, and animal welfare. "The quail responds quickly. Working with it is seeing genetics and nutrition converse in real-time," he stated.

The company achieved 81% hatchability in the hatchery, maintains floor fattening, and has a semi-automated slaughter structure, with expansion plans for 100,000 birds per shift.

Since 2023, the slaughterhouse has been enabled to export to the Middle East, Japan, and Singapore, with planned expansion to Europe and China. "Everything that is difficult to produce and is expensive, we are willing to produce. This is the logic of gourmet protein," emphasized Moser.

COMPETITIVENESS AND THE FUTURE OF MEAT QUAIL FARMING

In his economic analysis, the CEO showed why Brazil has unique strategic advantages: grain availability, competitive cost, and expertise in proteins. "We are the world's largest chicken exporter and the largest producer of halal meat on the planet. Why can't we also be the largest in quail?" he challenged.

The data reinforce the optimism: the country has an average feed cost of around US$370 per ton, a feed conversion ratio of 2,1 to 3,2, and genetic utilization in line with the best European matrices.

Today, the domestic market consumes about 300 annual tons, a number similar to the exported volume, highlighting the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya, Angola, and Japan.

Moser advocated for strengthening domestic consumption, developing ready-made products and differentiated cuts, and greater investment in research, innovation, and bilateral sanitary agreements.

"Brazil has grains, technology, and talent. What is missing is turning this into scale and visibility. The quail is the new frontier of gourmet protein."

Dinner was a relaxed moment of the Symposium with the flavor of *menarosto*

The International Symposium program featured a get-together dinner that included the Italian dish Menarosto on the menu, prepared with quail meat and offered by Villa Germânia, a tribute to the immigrant heritage that gave rise to the activity in the South of the country.

The participants of the International Quail Farming Symposium were able to socialize on the evening of October 30th, in Pirassununga (SP), when the menarosto was prepared and served.

In the preparation of menarosto, the bird is slowly roasted on a rotating spit over embers, without direct contact with the flame. This ensures uniform and succulent cooking. In the Venetian dialect of Italy, “menare” means to rotate/turn, and “rosto” means roasted.

From the desert to the table: quail farming in the Middle East and the strength of Saudi innovation

In a lecture, Dr. Raed Fanous, from Astra Farms, presented the quail production model in Saudi Arabia, a high-technology operation built right in the desert.

"When the temperature reaches 45°C outside, our quails continue producing under total environmental control and biosecurity. This is science, discipline, and purpose."

With this phrase, Dr. Raed Fanous, senior global consultant at Astra Farms, opened one of the most impactful lectures of the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium. With a calm and firm speech, the Saudi executive showed how the country transformed an arid territory into a model of technological efficiency and food security.

Astra Farms, a company in the Astra Group, was founded in 1970 by the visionary Sabih Al-Masri. The objective was audacious: to produce quality food and proteins right in the desert of northern Saudi Arabia, in the Tabuk region. What started as a small farm became, over five decades, an operation with 3,300 hectares, more than 800 employees, and fully automated production systems. "The desert was seen as an obstacle. We saw it as an opportunity," said Fanous.

Today, the Astra Group is a diversified conglomerate, with a presence in food, agriculture, energy, health, hospitality, and chemical sectors, but maintains its roots in the agribusiness industry. "Astra Farms is the heart of the group; it was what gave rise to everything."

HALAL PRODUCTION AND RIGOROUS PROTOCOLS

The speaker explained that Astra's entire production process is halal certified, in compliance with Islamic Sharia (the system of Islamic law that serves as a comprehensive code of conduct, moral guidance, and legal system for Muslims). The birds are managed with controlled welfare, lighting, and stunning protocols, following international standards of safety and traceability.

"We treat every stage with respect for the animal and the faith. We follow ISO 22000:2018 and BRCGS 9 certifications, which are requirements

"We produce in the desert because we believe in science and technology. The impossible is only what we haven't tried to do yet."

for exporting animal protein to other countries," he highlighted.

In addition to in natura meat, the company processes seasoned and ready-to-cook products, expanding the portfolio to serve both the domestic and export markets. Astra currently seeks to expand its presence in the Gulf, Asia, and North Africa, facing, however, commercial and political barriers. "It is not just trade; it is diplomacy. Some markets close for political reasons, and that requires patience and strategy."

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN THE DESERT

Fanous detailed the four major challenges faced by quail farming in the Middle East: thermal stress, water scarcity, nutrition cost, and biosecurity.

With temperatures exceeding 45°C, the environment imposes severe limits on the thermal comfort of the birds. "Ventilation and climate control are vital. We work with multiple sensors and digital temperature and humidity control to prevent mortality and maintain constant production."

Water, scarce and subject to high evaporation, is monitored with water meters in all production lines, making it possible to identify consumption anomalies and prevent early failures.

Nutrition, in turn, depends on imported inputs, mainly Brazilian corn and soy. "Brazil is essential for us. It is our main grain supplier," the executive stated, emphasizing the need for stable partnerships.

The fourth challenge is biosecurity, maintained through a rigid system of barriers, training, and access control. "No product leaves without being inspected by the government. The Saudi Food and Drug Authority visits, collects samples, and only then authorizes export. It is an extremely rigorous system."

MARKET AND OPPORTUNITY

The consultant recalled that the global quail meat market is small, but high value. "While chicken costs about 2 thousand dollars per ton, quail reaches 6 or 7 thousand. It is a gourmet protein, and that is what we are building: quality, not volume."

He emphasized the need to educate the consumer. "People still do not know the nutritional benefits of quail meat, which is rich in vitamin E and essential amino acids. It is a noble protein that needs to be communicated."

Concluding his speech, Fanous reinforced the role of innovation: "We produce in the desert because we believe in science and technology. The impossible is only what we haven't tried to do yet."

How artificial intelligence is already transforming quail farming

Researcher Victor Nakaguchi presented the applications of computer vision and artificial intelligence in egg management and grading, revealing the beginning of a new era of automation in production.

"If a human being can see, the machine can see too."

This phrase by researcher Victor Nakaguchi synthesizes the spirit of his lecture, one of the most anticipated at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium. With accessible language and enthusiasm, he showed how artificial intelligence can revolutionize the sector, from grading machines to farm management, including freshness analysis and even measuring bird stress.

Graduating in Agronomy from USP, with a master's degree and doctoral candidacy in Agricultural Sciences, Nakaguchi began by explaining the "state of the art" of AI in 2025. "AI is the union of three pillars: Big Data (large-scale data), high processing capacity, and machine learning algorithms," he summarized. With graphics cards reaching 22,000 processing cores and increasingly sophisticated algorithms, he explained that the technology has left the laboratory and reached the sheds.

MACHINES THAT SEE

His research focuses on computer vision, a sub-area of AI that allows machines to interpret images like the human eye, but with mathematical precision.

"In quail farming, almost all operations depend on human vision: sexing, selection, incubation, grading. If we automate vision, we automate the process," he explained.

Nakaguchi presented a prototype of a modular system capable of grading eggs by size with up to 96% accuracy, using only cameras and

"AI does not replace the human being. It expands what we can see and understand. The future of quail farming is seeing better and acting with more precision."

algorithms. The system processes 1,400 eggs per hour with a single module and can be expanded with more cameras to reach tens of thousands of units.

The researcher also developed an unprecedented method to evaluate the freshness level of eggs without breaking them, using radiometric thermal cameras. "With the contrast between cold and heat, we can visualize the air chamber and identify the age of the egg. It is possible to measure this precisely, in real time, while the egg passes through the conveyor belt," he explained.

With this system, it is possible to grade eggs according to shelf life and the type of final product: "the fresher, the better for in natura consumption; the older, the ideal for preservation," he exemplified.

ROBOTS ON THE FARM

Innovation goes beyond the laboratory. Nakaguchi presented the concept of the GEMIA platform, a mobile robotic arm that travels through cages, collects eggs, and sends real-time data on size, defects, and even the birds' conditions. "With this, we can track the origin of each egg and make specific interventions. It is precision management, from the nest to the data," he said.

Despite the advancement, Victor acknowledged the challenges: high hardware costs (monopolized by NVIDIA), scarcity of thermal sensors, and lack of trained professionals.

"I am an agricultural engineer, and I had to learn to program, model in 3D, and operate printers. The future is interdisciplinary: a single background no longer exists," he stated.

AUDIENCE INTERACTION

The audience reacted with enthusiasm and curiosity to Victor's lecture. A producer in the audience reported that his farm processes one million peeled eggs per day and asked if AI could already automate this selection.

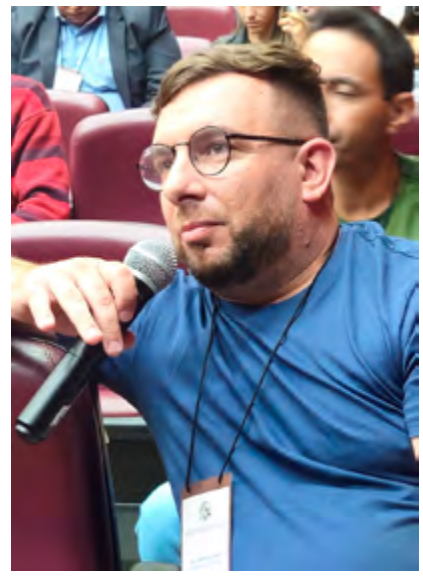
Victor replied naturally: "If the human eye sees, the machine sees. And, in the case of white eggs, the challenge is even simpler."

Professor Antônio Bertechini, from UFLA, present in the audience, suggested that the system could also measure bird stress based on egg pigmentation. Victor accepted the idea with excitement: "If each egg has unique pigmentation, it is like a fingerprint. We can reach the point of identifying the quail individually."

In closing, he left a philosophical provocation: "AI does not replace the human being. It expands what we can see and understand. The future of quail farming is seeing better and acting with more precision."

The debates featured the qualified participation of producers and technicians

The speakers at the International Quail Farming Symposium had the opportunity to answer several questions from the audience — both producers and professionals from the poultry sector — demonstrating a very strong level of interaction.



All of this energized and added weight to the 8th International Quail Farming Symposium in Pirassununga (SP). The engagement of the audience showed the level of commitment that producers and technicians have to the quail industry.

The interaction was, in fact, one of the highlights among the participants, with a clear connection between academia, the market, and industry.

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Planning, technology, and control: the three pillars of efficiency in modern quail farming

Elton Oliveira, Engineering and Commercial Manager at Artabas, highlighted in his lecture the importance of technical design and automation to reduce stress and increase the profitability of quail farms.

With 23 years of experience in general engineering project development and six years in poultry engineering, Elton Oliveira, engineering and commercial manager at Artabas, demonstrated at the VIII International Quail Symposium that the secret to productivity lies not only in the equipment but also in technical planning and the integration of engineering, management, and genetics.

"There is no perfect project if it doesn't stem from the conversation between those who will manufacture and those who will use it," emphasized the engineer, noting that each region and each type of quail requires a specific design of the aviary. "The project that works in the South is not the same as that in the Northeast. We need to discuss this before construction begins."

FROM HATCHING TO LAYING: ENGINEERING APPLIED TO THE PRODUCTIVITY

During the lecture, Elton presented different models of brooders and vertical systems for rearing and production, highlighting the advantages and limitations of each configuration. According to him, the main objective is to reduce stress, a factor directly linked to decreased productivity and lower egg quality. "Stressed quail do not produce well. Environmental control is profit control," he stated.

The engineer detailed technical parameters, such as housing density, area per bird, and climate control systems. "Vertical projects facilitate temperature and ventilation control, which are critical in the early stages. But

"Our commitment is to deliver equipment that lasts more than 20 years and truly pays for itself. Technology becomes an investment when it comes with proper planning."

success depends on understanding what each farm needs, the type of quail, climate, and available structure."

AUTOMATION: MORE CONTROL AND LESS WASTE

Elton presented automation technologies applied to aviaries, ranging from automatic egg collection to digital control systems for water, light, and temperature. One of the highlights was the use of water meters by line to monitor the birds' water consumption. "If you don't measure, you can't manage. If the water is above or below average, something is wrong, and the quail will be the first to let you know."

Another point addressed was the automatic egg classification system, inspired by the technology used in the layer poultry industry. The equipment detects and removes the "skin eggs," preventing them from breaking on the conveyor belts and contaminating others. "This technology came from chickens and has reached quails. It is an important leap to reduce losses and improve quality standards," he explained.

THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING IN ENVIRONMENT CONTROL

For the engineer at Artabas, controlling temperature, ventilation, and lighting is the "heart of the project." He advocated for the use of multiple sensors and smart controllers, with remote access, to adjust the environment in real time. "They are small, sensitive birds. You cannot rely on just one probe. Ideally, you should operate with five reading points inside the shed to ensure an accurate temperature average," he said.

According to Elton, engineering, nutrition, veterinary medicine, and genetics must work together. "Engineering needs to keep pace with animal science. What good is having cutting-edge genetics and feed control if the temperature is wrong or the water feeder is not regulated?"

CHALLENGES AND INTEGRATION

During the discussion, producers raised sensitive topics such as mortality during rearing and the difficulty of maintaining uniform temperature in the upper cages. Elton emphasized that modern controllers allow compensating for these variations and that the discussion about floor vs. cage rearing should be technical, not emotional. "The cage is efficient when management is correct. But the secret is to discuss beforehand, plan well, and train those who will operate the equipment. An expensive machine that is poorly assembled or misused becomes costly twice over," he stated.

Concluding his speech, Elton summarized Artabas' philosophy: "Our commitment is to deliver equipment that lasts more than 20 years and truly pays for itself. Technology is an investment when it comes with planning."

A new map of quail farming: William Fujikura shows opportunities in Vietnam and Asia

The CEO of Fujikura Quail Genetics highlighted the growth of quail production in Southeast Asia and the potential for partnership between Brazil and Vietnam to boost the international trade of eggs and genetics.

The businessman William Fujikura, CEO of Fujikura Quail Genetics, brought a global vision of quail production to the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, showing the dynamism of Asia and the opportunities for integration with Brazil.

In his lecture Opportunities and challenges of the quail industry in Vietnam and Asia, William presented data, images, and impressions from his recent visit to the country, which maintains over 31 million quails housed, and reported how the sector, although still artisanal, is rapidly beginning to industrialize.

Vietnam, with 102 million inhabitants, has a tropical climate and ideal conditions for quail rearing, especially in the South of the country, where average temperatures range between 25°C and 30°C throughout the year. According to Fujikura, the region concentrates about 60% of Vietnamese breeders, in a production model formed mainly by small family producers, with manual aviaries and little automation. "It is like Brazil 40 years ago," he compared.

He recounted that he visited farms of different sizes, from the smallest, with 5 to 10 thousand birds, to large units with 2 million quails. Despite the diversity, the standard is similar: "Production is still manual, the cages are simple, and egg collection is done on improvised conveyors. But the desire to grow is immense."

CHALLENGES AND SANITARY RISKS

The speaker recalled that Vietnam suffered heavily from avian flu in 2013, when a significant part of the flocks was eliminated. "The fear of influenza is still great. Therefore, many producers look to Brazil as a trusted

"We bring genetics, technology, and biosecurity. They bring consumption and market access. Partnership is the natural path.

partner, a sanitary safe haven for exporting or multiplying genetics," he explained.

Another critical point is the low level of technification and the almost total dependence on imported inputs. Feed is produced by large multinationals such as ADM, Bunge, Cargill, and CP Group, which dominate the feed market in the region.

"They buy everything ready: corn and soy come from the United States or Brazil. There is no significant local grain production."

ADVANCED PROCESSING INDUSTRY

If Vietnam is still crawling in breeding, it is ahead in industrialization. Proximity to China boosted access to modern autoclave, sealing, and packaging equipment, allowing the production of canned quail eggs ready for consumption, with a shelf life of up to five years. "The factories are neighbors to the large consumer markets: Japan, Korea, and China. This facilitates logistics and export," observed Fujikura.

The most common products are 425 g (20 to 22 eggs) and 900 g cans (50 to 55 eggs), consumed mainly in winter, in typical dishes like Japanese oden, a stew of vegetables and eggs.

Recently, the sector has also started to adopt pouch type packaging, which is lighter and more ecological, with a shelf life of up to 18 months.

MARKET AND PERSPECTIVES

Based on data collected with local partners, Fujikura showed that Asia houses more than 1 billion quails, of which 300 million are in China, 100 million in Thailand, and 31 million in Vietnam.

He highlighted that Japan is the world's largest importer, with more than 20 million eggs consumed per month, and that the demand for processed and flavored products - such as smoked eggs, in tea, or shoyu - is also growing in Europe and the United States.

For the businessman, Brazil can occupy a strategic role in this chain. "We bring genetics, technology, and biosecurity. They bring consumption and market access. Partnership is the natural path.," he stated.

Concluding his presentation, William projected the scenario for 2050, when the Asian population is expected to represent 60% of the planet and account for 50% of the global GDP. "The center of gravity of the global market will be in Asia, and the quail will be one of the rising gourmet proteins. Brazil needs to be part of this movement, not outside of it."

With 55 years of legacy and the largest private genetic bank in quail farming, Fujikura Quail Genetics is establishing strategic partnerships to bring Brazilian technology to Asia and the Middle East.

WILLIAM SHUHEI FUJIKURA and his partner, WHELINGTON FIGUEIREDO ROCHA, with Vietnamese partners in front of the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture, strengthening relations for Fujikura's international expansion.

From Brazil to the world:

Fujikura Quail Genetics consolidates global leadership at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium

A benchmark in quail genetics and market leader in the Brazilian segment, Fujikura Quail Genetics redefined its global positioning during the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, held at USP in Pirassununga (SP), on October 30th and 31st. The event, which transformed Brazil into a center for debates on innovation in the sector, was the stage for Fujikura to present its new phase of internationalization.

Holding one of the largest and most diversified genetic banks in the world, with around 30 lineages improved over decades, the company not only participated in the event but also pointed out trends for the future of quail farming.

The presence of William Shuhei Fujikura leading the presentations attracted the strategic attention of delegations from Vietnam, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Paraguay, and Ecuador. International interest focused mainly on three pillars:

Autosexing genetics and high performance:

WILLIAM SHUHEI FUJIKURA, president of Fujikura Quail Genetics, and DR. RAED FANOUS, head of quails at AstraFarms, Saudi Arabia

"The time has come to take Brazilian quail genetics to new markets, bringing technological development to other countries and further strengthening Brazil as a world reference in specialized poultry farming."

lineages with greater uniformity, better feed conversion, and superior egg productivity. Industrial capacity and sanitary standardization: Fujikura is responsible for the annual production of over 10 million one-day-old quails, in addition to operating incubation units in São Paulo and Pernambuco.

Internationalization project for the production chain: with strategic partnerships involving everything from genetics and incubation to processing, nutrition, and export.

In addition to technical solidity and advances in innovation, Fujikura Quail Genetics has a highly qualified team that supports this new phase of expansion.

New stage: export and implementation of global projects.

The Vietnam Project. Validating its expansion strategy, Fujikura intensified negotiations to implement a poultry complex in Vietnam, with a projected capacity for 500 thousand females/month. This project positions the brand not only as a genetics exporter but also as a developer of complete production chains in partnership with local players.

"This new phase is the consolidation of a half-century family legacy," states William Shuhei Fujikura. "The time has come to take Brazilian quail genetics to new markets, contributing to the technological development of other countries and further strengthening Brazil as a world reference in specialized poultry farming," emphasizes Fujikura, concluding: "With the support of strategic partnerships and internationalization programs, Fujikura Quail Genetics ceases to be just a national leader to become one of the main articulators of global quail farming, transforming experience into global impact."

THE FUJIKURA TEAM: management, strategy, specialization, and future vision

THE FUJIKURA QUAIL GENETICS TEAM, gathered at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium: William Shuhei Fujikura, Wiliam Pagliarin, Marcos Macoto Oide, Victor Kenzo Fujikura, Juliana Miwa Fujikura, Lorhan Lima Leal, and Elaine Ratzke.

William Shuhei Fujikura, as president, leads the global strategy of Fujikura Quail Genetics and the construction of new international alliances.

Wiliam Pagliarin leads the commercial area and technical support, backed by regional representatives who ensure continuous, in-person service, a commitment that tends to intensify in the current expansion phase. During the International Quail Farming Symposium, in Pirassununga (SP), **Elaine Ratzke,** technical representative in Espírito Santo, symbolized this close, qualified, and permanent contact with producers.

Marcos Macoto Oide, veterinarian and technical manager, acts in biosecurity management and sanitary supervision of the flock, ensuring the maintenance of a disease-free status. **Lorhan Leal**, an engineer with an MBA in artificial intelligence, data science, and big data, leads the innovation and digital transformation sector, developing smart systems that make farm management increasingly integrated, predictive, and data-driven.

Among the family successors, **Victor Kenzo Fujikura**, an agricultural engineer, delves into genetic development and is consolidating his position as one of the pillars of Fujikura's continued excellence, ensuring that the legacy built over decades remains solid and prepared for the future.

Juliana Miwa Fujikura, a veterinarian, manages institutional marketing and supports the regulatory affairs area, combining her technical background with an MBA in Internationalization and Business Globalization to strengthen the company's new global expansion fronts.

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Meetings, connections, and sharing of ideas among all links of quail farming

During the breaks of the International Quail Farming Symposium, the exchange of ideas remained high, beyond the lectures. Producers and representatives of the poultry industry strengthened ties while academia kept the shared knowledge high with everyone. Here are some of these moments.


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THE AWARDED PAPERS. First place: State University of Maringá (on the left). Second place: Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG).

Research and future: young talents in quail farming are awarded at the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium

The ceremony led by Professor Fernando Perazzo (UFPB) announced the papers awarded by the event's scientific committee. Classified research addressed animal welfare and quail egg quality.

The opening of the second day of the VIII International Quail Farming Symposium, held at USP in Pirassununga (SP), was marked by emotion and recognition of science. The announcement of the awarded papers brought together students, professors, and sector professionals in a moment of knowledge celebration.

The ceremony was conducted by Professor Fernando Perazzo, from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB), who presided over the Scientific Committee responsible for evaluating the presented studies. According to Professor Perazzo, 35 scientific papers were evaluated, all with a high technical level and relevance to the advancement of quail farming.

"The quality of the studies was so great that we would like to reward everyone. It was a difficult choice because each one contributes valuable knowledge to the development of the activity," he highlighted.

The evaluation committee was composed of professors Antonio Gilberto Bertechini (UFLA), Danilo Magalhães (UFRPE), Danilo Cavalcanti (UAG/UFRPE), and Matheus Rezende (UFERSA), in addition to Perazzo

"Two years from now, when we meet again, these results will already have become new experiments, new publications, and, who knows, new solutions for the field."

himself, who emphasized the effort to maintain fair and transparent criteria. "We removed papers from our own research group, GETA, from the competition to guarantee total impartiality," he explained.

INNOVATION AND APPLICABILITY

First place was awarded to the paper from the State University of Maringá (UEM), titled Reusing recycled packaging as thermal insulation in the protection of Japanese quails during the brooding phase. The authoring team consists of Samara Barrê, Yoko Izola, Márcio Barbosa, Armando Oliveira, Wilter Santos, Pedro Esídio, and Simara Marcani.

The study proposes a simple and sustainable solution for the thermal comfort of the birds, utilizing recyclable materials, a direct contribution to animal welfare and production sustainability. The authors received a prize of R$ 1200,00 and a digital certificate issued by the event.

Second place went to the team from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), authors of the paper Effect of superficial coatings with sunflower oil on the preservation of European quail egg quality.

The study is authored by researchers Yasmin Pereira, Jaime Aguiar, Nicole Souza, Daniel Pereira, Tilique Silva, and Fabiana Pereira.

The work proposes the use of natural coatings as an economical alternative to extend the shelf life and appearance of eggs, a topic of high commercial and technological impact.

The team received a prize of R$ 800,00 and a digital certificate of recognition.

Concluding the ceremony, Professor Perazzo thanked USP, the event organizers, and the participating universities, highlighting the spirit of continuity and collaboration.

"Two years from now, when we meet again, these results will already have become new experiments, new publications, and, who knows, new solutions for the field," stated Perazzo, under applause.