



# #23MZA-18

## Bioinsecticide for pest control in poultry operations

**Poultry industry** processes more than **2 million tons of chicken meat**, making up a USD 3 billion business.

Coleoptera *Alphitobius diaperinus*, known as the “**lesser mealworm**”, infests poultry facilities and produces physical damages and traumatic effects in birds. It is also a vector and reservoir for avian diseases, and may induce allergic reactions in humans.

This pest is controlled with chemicals. However, indiscriminate application may generate insect-resistance, and potential poisoning and contamination of stock.

The INTA Microbiology and Agricultural Zoology Institute has developed a bioinsecticide from the **native strain *Bacillus thuringiensis* INTA Mo4-4** as active ingredient to control *A. diaperinus* during all the phases of the productive cycle.

### ADVANTAGES:

- The active ingredient is a native non-transgenic strain.
- First bacterial bioinsecticide described for *A. diaperinus* control.
- Environmentally sustainable.
- Easy application at different production scales.

**TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL:** This technology has been validated in the laboratory and proof-of-concept tests are in the experimental phase. The technology is available for efficacy testing in poultry farms. Scaling and marketing.

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