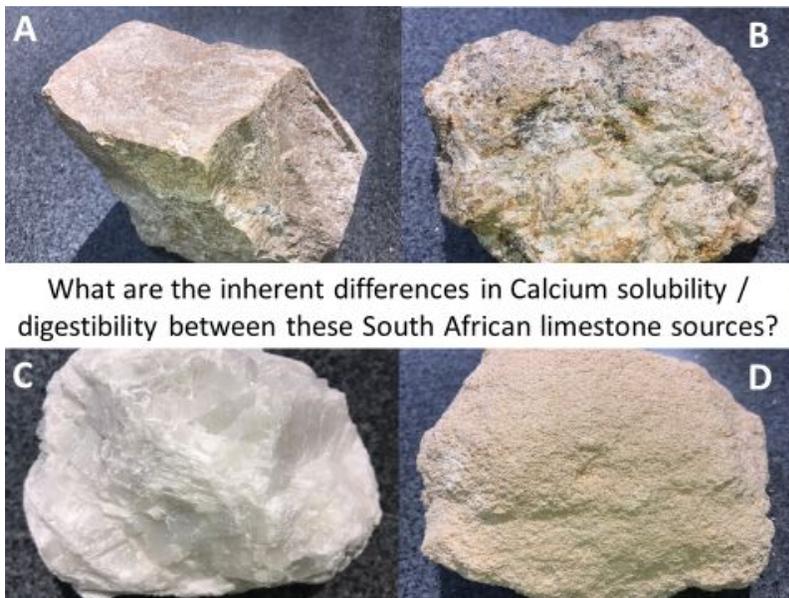


## Chemuniqué Poultry Research Update

# Understanding Limestone Quality and Calcium digestibility in Poultry Feed

Limestone included in poultry feed is the single largest contributor of dietary Calcium required by our birds for good bone and eggshell formation. In spite of its importance as a calcium source, little is known about the digestibility of the calcium from limestone, and how to best characterize differences in limestone quality.

As many in the feed Industry will know, Chemuniqué have been investing heavily in a project run in collaboration with the University of Maryland, USA and the University of Pretoria; the objective being to better understand differences in the quality and digestibility of limestone sources used in poultry feed in South Africa. Research at the University of Maryland has shown that large differences can exist in the digestibility of Calcium from different sources of limestone and further, that the type of limestone used in feed can affect phosphorus digestibility in broilers. Since there are notable geological differences in the type of limestone rock mined in South Africa, Chemuniqué are working together with leading feed producers to quantify the amount of Calcium that can be digested from SA Limestone and, what effect the limestone will have on phosphorus availability in the feed and how this affects phytase enzymes.



An update to our research project is that the physical characterization of the limestone was completed late last year and we have just completed the first limestone ileal digestibility trial which was a great success!!! Final results of this will be reported in the next months, but we could not wait to share our excitement of how well the project is running!

In addition, Chemuniqué has launched a service to the feed Industry to determine limestone quality and we have processed many local and international samples with significant differences confirmed between

limestone sources. The exact effect that this will have on digestibility of Calcium will be determined once the results of our research are finalized.

**If producers or feed millers would like more information on how to evaluate limestone quality, or any other information on Calcium, phosphorus and bone mineralization, please contact your local Chemunique technical advisor or e-mail [askuswhy@chemunique.co.za](mailto:askuswhy@chemunique.co.za)**

