Worthwhile Operational Guidelines & Suggestions

Carvacrol as a Potential Antimicrobial on Poultry Parts

Carvacrol is a GRAS (generally recognized as safe) phenol compound that is a naturally occurring in oregano and thyme. Carvacrol has previously been demonstrated to have antimicrobial, antioxidant, and antifungal action and has previously been studied as an ingredient in animal diets to improve performance and immune function. It has potential for use in the production of organic poultry meat products and in a recently published study, was tested as a potential antimicrobial for use during poultry processing.

Carvacrol suspensions in concentrations from 0 to 2% were used for a 1 minute wash of chicken skin samples. Treating thigh skin samples was successful in reducing *Campylobacter* by more than 2 log₁₀ CFU per sample immediately and after 8 and 24 hours post treatment. Based on this work, carvacrol shows promise as a potential antimicrobial for use in both conventional and organic poultry processing.