

THE AGE AND HOUSING SYSTEM EFFECTS ON THE GROWTH OF BROILERS**

S. Bogosavljević-Bošković^{1*}, S. Mitrović², V. Radović¹,
V. Dosković¹

¹ Faculty of Agronomy, Čačak, Serbia

² Faculty of Agriculture, Zemun, Serbia

*Corresponding author, e-mail: sbb@tfc.kg.ac.yu

**Original scientific paper

Abstract: Bearing in mind certain established European Union regulations on the conventional extensive broiler rearing system as well as poultry breeding specificities of our country, experimental investigations were organised with the aim of making a comparison between broiler growth in two different non-industrial rearing systems. The systems included extensive fattening in a poultry house and free-range rearing. The fattening period in both rearing systems lasted up to the 63rd day of broiler age.

During the fattening period chicken growth was controlled by individual chicken weighing on a weekly basis.

Based on the research results it was determined that the growth of broilers in both rearing systems was similar up to the 49th day of age. The differences established were small and statistically insignificant ($P > 0.05$). The controls at 56 and 63 days of age showed somewhat higher differences in mean body weights of chicks. The difference determined on the 63rd day was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). From the results mentioned it could be concluded that the differences in broiler growth between the rearing systems examined increased with the prolongation of the fattening period.

Key words: chickens, rearing systems, age, body weight.

Introduction

Over the last few decades, poultry production has developed (*Havenstain et al.*, 1994) towards intensification gaining the character of industrial production it has today. The poultry production of today involves rearing highly productive hen hybrids, confined and space-restricted farming with strictly controlled microclimatic conditions and balanced nutrition, adequate

