

EFFECT OF DIETARY PROTEASE SUPPLEMENTATION AND SEX ON DRESSING PERCENTAGE AND BODY CONFORMATION IN BROILERS

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Abstract: This paper presents research results on the effect of protease on the dressing percentage of conventionally dressed carcass and body conformation in broiler chickens. Broiler diet was supplemented with 0.2% protease (group E-I) and 0.3% protease (group E-II), and protein content in the feed was reduced by 4% (E-I) and 6% (E-II) through a decrease in soybean meal content. Fast-growing Cobb 500 broilers were used for a 63-day fattening trial. Body conformation measurement included absolute carcass conformation measures (metatarsus length, keel length, breast depth, breast angle, thigh girth) and relative body conformation measures – conformation indices (body weight/metatarsus length, body weight/keel length, body weight/breast depth, body weight/thigh girth). Results showed a significant effect of sex on the dressing percentage of conventionally dressed carcass and all body conformation measures, whereas diet had a significant effect on the dressing percentage of conventionally dressed carcass and breast angle values.

Key words: broilers, protease, dressing percentage, body conformation

Introduction

The main goal of modern broiler production is to ensure maximum use of the genetic potential of broiler hybrids. An increased demand for breast, thigh and thigh meat has led to research on ways to increase the yield of primal cuts of broiler carcass through production i.e. fattening. Intensive selection over the last decades has focused on the traits: weight gain, final body weight, feed conversion ratio, vitality, feathering, body conformation, skin color and, to some extent, meat quality. The results of the selection and production work include increasing growth rate and increasing body weight, along with improvement in feed conversion ratio,

