

EFFECT OF PROTEASE AND DURATION OF FATTENING PERIOD ON DRESSING PERCENTAGE OF BROILER CHICKENS

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Abstract: This study evaluates the effect of different crude protein levels in broiler diets supplemented with 0.2% and 0.3% protease enzyme (Ronozyme Pro Act) on dressed carcass weight and dressing percentage during two fattening periods (49 and 63 days). The fast-growing strain Cobb 500 was used. At the end of the fattening trial i.e. at 49 and 63 days, 10 male and 10 female birds were randomly sacrificed from each experimental group to determine body weights and conventionally dressed, ready-to-roast and ready-to-grill carcass weights. The data obtained were used to calculate the dressing percentages of the differently dressed carcasses. Results indicated that carcass weights and dressing percentages were not affected by diet ($P>0.05$), but also showed that the increase in the length of the fattening period by two weeks (from 7 to 9 weeks) led to increased carcass weights, while dressing percentages decreased ($P<0.05$).

Key word: broilers, protease enzyme, length of fattening period, dressing percentage.

Introduction

The production of poultry meat in the last decades has been characterised by the increasing use of new farming practices designed to improve farming conditions and reduce environmental pollution.

Broiler chickens require high protein levels in their feeds for optimum growth and feed conversion. The main protein-containing feed ingredients for broiler diets are soybean meal and full-fat soybean groats. Problems related to the GMO contamination of these feeds demand alternatives or replacement of these feeds with some other protein sources or reduction in the proportion of these feeds

