

Herbal preparations in mixtures for broiler chickens

Summary

Experiment was carried out on 4 groups of ROSS 308 broiler chickens, including 28 birds both sex in each (4 subgroups x 7 birds). Birds were reared by 42 days. During the first 3 weeks they were fed Starter (12.46 MJ ME; 213g c.p.) and then from the 22 to 42 day Grower (12.76 MJ ME; 194g c.p.). Control group (I) received mixtures without herbs, II group with addition of Xtract™ preparation (150 g·t⁻¹ Starter; 100 g·t⁻¹ Grower), III – with double dose (300/200 g·t⁻¹) of Xtract™, IV – with Biostrong® 510 preparation in quantity 200 g·t⁻¹ of feed. During rearing body weight of birds, consumption of mixtures and mortality of chickens were controlled. After termination of rearing period post slaughter analysis and evaluation of meat flavour was performed. After the period of using Starter (709 g) and Grower (2348 g) birds were fed modified mixtures containing Xtract™. Birds fed mixtures with low Xtract™ content had significantly higher body weight than chickens receiving mixtures with double dose of Xtract™ (694 g/2232 g). Birds fed mixtures containing Biostrong® 510 at the end of rearing, weighed nearly about 5% less than birds from II group (P≤0.01). The least feed conversion (1.70 kg) and of nutritive components (349 g c. protein, 21.52 MJ ME) were found in chickens of the II group (150/100 g·t⁻¹ of Xtract™) – P≤0.01 in birds from III and IV groups (about 10 and 8%). Feeding Biostrong® 510 preparation cause a decrease of dressing percentage (P≤0.01) and musculature of chickens (P≤0.05). Higher (P≤0.01) dressing percentage (above 75%) in comparison with remaining birds indicated the birds from control and II group. The highest score for flavour evaluation was given to thigh muscles of birds from III and IV group (4.6 and 4.5 points in the 5-point scale), and breast muscles of birds from control group (P≤0.05).