Poultry nutrition: rapeseed vs. soybean

Summary

The idea of presented paper was to survey data on the possibility of feeding full rape seeds and rape by-products to poultry. The advantage of mentioned feedstuffs is a reasonable protein content and its amino acid composition (methionine, cysteine and threonine), which seems to be of a special importance in the organic poultry farms, since rapeseed is considered as an alternative for soybean – most frequently genetically modified. Feed formulas containing up to 7.5-8.0% of a rape cake or solvent ground have no adverse effect on laying performance of hens, whereas broiler chickens tolerate higher doses of rape by-products. Nevertheless, it should be kept in mind that formulated feeds containing more than 15% of full seeds can impair the fattening effects. It is absolutely possible to feed rape products to the other species of poultry; however their level in mixtures should be slightly lowered due to limited number of relevant experiments.

KEY WORDS: rapeseed, soybean, by-products, poultry nutrition