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Effect of Thai Herb (Asiatic pennywort) in Broiler Ration on Productive Performance and Carcass Quality

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to investigate the productive performance and carcass quality of broilers fed with multi-levels of Thai herb (dried Asiatic pennywort; 0, 2, 4, 6 and 8% of basal feed). Asiatic pennywort found that to increase immune level in blood plasma so that the feed was mixed without antibiotic supplementation. One-day 680 chicks were divided into 5 groups with 4 replications (34 chicks per rep.) assigning in Completely Randomized Design (CRD). The feeding practice were ad libitum on a period according to the NRC (1995) as 21 and 19% protein; metabolism energy 3,150 Kcal/Kg. Drinking water was provided at all time. Animals were fed 40 days and 40 broilers per groups were slaughtered to study the carcass quality.

The results of 5 groups indicated that 2% dried Asiatic pennywort had a better productive performance ($p < 0.01$) in terms of average daily gain (29.67, 31.37, 29.28, 26.30 and 22.95; respectively) and feed conversion ratio (2.90, 2.63, 2.60, 3.36 and 2.77; respectively) than other levels of dried Asiatic pennywort. But the mortality rate was not significantly different in all groups. For carcass quality in terms of slaughtered weight of 2% dried Asiatic pennywort was highly significant than those of levels (1.27, 1.30, 1.19, 1.22 and 1.09 kg; respectively), dressing percentage of control group was better than the other groups (72.5, 69.8, 69.7, 68.0 and 65.3%; $p < 0.05$; respectively). The external and internal organ percentage of all groups were similar. The retail cuts of broilers in terms of Pectoralis major, Pectoralis minor and Wing fed 2% dried Asiatic pennywort was higher significantly different than those of the other.

Keywords: Asiatic pennywort, broiler, carcass quality, productive performance