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Study on the Productivities and Meat Quality of AC Chicken (Black-bone Chicken) in Vietnam

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Abstract

AC chicken is one of the special indigenous chicken breed in Vietnam. They are short, mild with small and long head but a short neck. It can be easily distinguished from the other chicken breeds with the following characteristics: Silkies feather, tasseled head, duplicated crown, green ears, beard, hairy leg, five toes, black skin, black bone and black meat.

For a long time, people in Vietnam have used AC chicken meat as a tonic food for old people, for the women after they have baby. AC chicken is one of the smallest chicken with the body weight at 8 weeks at about 250–300 g for the female and 300–350 g for the male and at 16 weeks of age at 400–600 g for the female and 650–750 g for the male. The mortality rate is 2–5% from one day old to 8 weeks of age. The feed conversion is about 1.5–3.0 kg/kg of weight gain. The egg production is from 91–96 eggs/bird/year with the highest laying rate of 38–39% in the second laying month. The fertility rate is from 90–95% but the hatchability is very low with 60–75%/total hatching eggs. AC chicken egg is very small of 23.38–31.17 g.

The AC chicken meat is nourishing. The protein content of AC chicken meat is higher than the other chicken meat (Ri chicken):from 21.94–24.80% in comparison with 21,3–23.0% in Ri chicken meat. AC chicken meat contains many kinds of amino acids (17 amino acids, including 8 essential amino acids for human body), vitamins (A, B1..), minerals (Ca, P, Fe, Na, K, Mg, Zn, Cu..) and a lot of fatty acids (including essential fatty acids as lonoleic, linoleneic and arachidonic ...). The pH value is 5.9–6.3 and the water loss after cooking is about 19.21–20.22% in comparision with 21.33–22.96% in Ri chicken and 26.34–27.22% in broiler chicken meat. The water holding capacity of AC chicken meat is also very high.

The price of 1 kg of AC chicken meat is about 4-5 \$, while the price of 1 kg of Ri chicken meat is 1.5 \$ and broiler meat is 1 \$. Raising AC chicken brings people a good income.

Keywords: AC chicken, meat quality, Vietnam