EFFECT OF FEEDING ANTIBIOTIC AND PROBIOTIC ON BROILER PERFORMANCE

D. Kannan and K. Viswanathan
Department of Poultry Science, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal

A broiler experiment was conducted from 0 to 7 weeks of age to study the effect of supplementing either antibiotic, probiotic or their combinations with respect to body weight, feed consumption, feed efficiency, livability, weight of small intestine, carcass characteristics, immune status against Ranikhet disease and relative economics.

The dietary treatments include unsupplemented control, virginiamycin (10mg/kg), Lactobacillus sporogenes 10,000 spores/kg, both virginiamycin and Lactobacillus sporogenes, virginiamycin from 0 to 4 weeks and Lactobacillus sporogenes from 0 to 4 weeks and virginiamycin from 5 to 7 weeks. Supplementation of virginiamycin, Lactobacillus sporogenes or their combinations significantly increased the body weight with reduced feed consumption and improved feed efficiency in broilers at market age. Relative better livability was observed in broilers with dietary supplementation of probiotic, antibiotic and their combinations than to unsupplemented control. Supplementation of both virginiamycin, Lactobacillus sporogenes and their combinations in broiler diet had significantly reduced the intestine weight as compared to control and had no effect on ready to cook yield, heart, liver and gizzard weights in broilers. Dietary supplementation of Lactobacillus sporogenes had significantly improved the immune status against Ranikhet disease in broilers when tested at 28 and 49 days of age post vaccination. The cost benefit analysis showed a higher profit per kg live weight of broilers raised on Lactobacillus sporogenes supplemented diet.