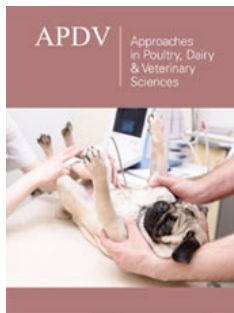


Effects of Varying inclusion Levels of Brewers Dried Grain on the Performance of Broilers (6-10) Weeks Old.

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Abstract

28 days feeding trial was conducted to investigate the effect of partially and completely replacing maize with Brewers Dried Grain in a Broiler Finisher ration. 60 Anak broilers of 6 weeks old were randomly assigned to five treatment diet. Diets 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 containing 0, 10, 20, 30 and 40% levels of Brewers Dried Grain. Each treatment was replicated in a completely randomized design. The result of the experiment shows no sufficient difference ($p < 0.05$) in feed intake, weight gain, feed conversion ratio and cost of diet per kg meat. However, treatments T₃ and T₄ were found to be the most effective ration because of the high proportion of energy and protein content of Brewers Dried Grain contained in the treatments (T₃) and (T₄) because they have the same effect on the performance of the broilers.

Keywords: Performance; Maize; Brewers dried grain; Broiler finisher ration

Introduction

The backbone of livestock development is adequate and cheap supply of good quality feed. In the past years, the demand on grains (which is a major constituent of feed) has caused the price of the commodity to rise [1,2]. Nigeria's poultry industry has passed through phases of severe difficulties. During the past years thousands of birds have died of starvation or due to poor quality feed. This was caused by economic crisis facing Nigeria and lack of fund to finance most poultry enterprises.

It becomes eminently clear that increase in feeds can be traced directly to constant price hike in grains used in compounding feed. This invariably will result to reduction in feed cost and cheaper animal protein as the overall cost of producing birds will be reduced [3] and livestock farmers could afford to sell meat at affordable price to an average Nigerian.

Objectives of the study were: to determine the effects of incorporating graded levels of brewers dried grain in broilers finisher ration on the broilers performance, to determine the best level of brewers dried grain inclusion in broiler finisher ration and to determine the Feed Conservation Ration and cost benefit analysis of feeding broilers to obtain adequate weight.

Maize is a good source of energy but it is becoming increasing expensive and not readily available. The reduction or elimination of maize from broiler rations therefore, is an important aspect of substitution research in feed resource development and management. The partial or complete replacement of maize with brewers dried grain would take advantage of its rich energy and protein content and lower cost [4,5].

Brewers dried grain inclusion in diets would help to reduce the proportion of maize in broiler rations and reduction in cost of feed Lynch et al. [6]. These authors further stated that the production of cheaper sources of animal protein especially and high feed conversion ability of broiler will be harnessed thus encouraging higher production of animal protein, protect our environment from the pollution and contamination which the decomposition of the unutilized brewers dried grain would pose if not controlled. An economic way of solving this problem is by feeding them to livestock Almeida et al. [7] and Özvural et al. [8].

Materials and Methods

Location of the experiment

The experiment was carried out at the poultry unit of University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Umuagwo, Imo State, Nigeria which lies in the humid tropical climate of the rain forest zone. This zone is characterized by two main seasons; rainy and dry

seasons. It is situated in the south-eastern zone

Experimental animals

Sixty (60) healthy day-old Anak broiler chicks bought from a commercial hatchery were used for this study. The initial body weight of these broilers was obtained on the commencement of the trial. Commercial starter mash was fed to the birds ad libitum for seven days for acclimatization prior to the commencement of the trial. Good sanitation, prophylaxis and overall management practices were maintained.

Experimental diets

Five diets were formulated for the experiment which contained varying levels of brewer's dried grain. The rations were T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄ and T₅ at 0%, 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% inclusion levels respectively. Diet T₁ which contained no brewer's dried grain served as the control.

Ration formulation

The compounding of the feed was carried out at the University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Umuagwo, Imo State, Nigeria feed mill. Five treatment diets were formulated using the ingredients as shown in Table 1 above. The percentage of each ingredient for the respective diets was converted to Kilogrammes (kg) equivalent and measured out using a salter weighing balance.

Table 1: Percentage ingredient levels of inclusion of experimental diets.

Ingredients	(%) Experimental Diets				
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Maize	48.78	47.32	40.77	33.38	-
SBM	36.62	34.88	31.73	28.37	19.12
PKM	4.07	1.84	1.67	1.49	1.01
BDG	-	10	20	30	40
Bone meal	2	2	2	2	2
Salt	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Vitamin/Mineral / Premix	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Wheat offal	5.43	0.97	0.83	1.75	34.87
Fish Meal	2	2	2	2	2
Total %	100	100	100	100	100

Vitamin/Mineral Premix.

Source: Advit super product of Spain.

Nutrients/kg: Vitamins: A-10,000,000 iU; B₂-5g, B₁-0.75g, D3-2,000,000, IU, Nicotinic acid-25g, Calcium panthothenate-12.5g, B₁₂-0.015g, k₃-2.5g, E-25g, Biotin-0.050g, Folic acid-1g Choline Chloride-250g, Trace Elements: Cobalt-0.400g, Copper 8g, Iron-32g, Manganese-64g, Zinc-40g, Other Items: Flavomycin-100g, spramycin-5g, 3 Nitro-50g, DL-Methionine-50g, Selenium 0.16g, L-Lysine-120g, BHT 5G.

SBM= Soya bean meal; PKM= Palm kernel meal; BDG= Brewers dried grain.

Methodology

Sixty (60) 5 week old broilers were used for this study. They were randomly assigned to 5 treatments of 3 replications each with 4 broilers per replicate. A seven-day pre-experimental feeding

trial was allowed to enable the broilers to be accustomed to the treatments. The initial body weight of each bird was taken and the birds distributed to obtain about the same body weight per treatment before the experiment commenced (Table 2).

Table 2: Calculated nutrient composition of experimental diets (%).

Nutrients	Experimental diets (%)				
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Crude Protein	20	20	20	20	20
ME/Kcal/kg	3000	2950	2875	2798	2687
Crude Fibre	4.3	5.5	6.2	8.9	12.3
Ether Extract	3.75	3.94	5.66	7.69	15

The birds were fed ad-libitum with unlimited or free access to clean water which was changed daily. The expected weight gains were obtained at end of every 7 days for four weeks. However, feed given and feed left in feeding trough were weighed every day to obtain the daily feed intake for the period of the experiment (4 weeks).

Response parameters measured

The response parameters measured include daily feed intake, weekly average weight gain per bird, cost benefit analysis and feed conversion ratio respectively.

Experimental design, model and analysis

A complete randomized design was used for this experiment. The linear model is as follows

$$CRD: X_{ji} = \mu + E_{ji}$$

X_{ij} = value of any observation

μ = Unknown Constant; population mean common to all treatments

T_i = Treatment effect

E_{ij} = Error term

Differing Treatment Means were separated - using Duncan Multiple Range Test.

Results and Discussion

Weight gain

From the results as shown in Table 3, there was a gradual increase in weight gain of broilers from T_1 to T_4 and a decrease in treatment 5 (T_5). Treatment 4 has the highest weight gain followed by treatments 3, 2, 1 and 5 respectively. However, when subjected to statistical analysis, the weight gain of broilers were significant ($p < 0.05$). Broilers fed with diet T_4 which has 30% brewer's dried gain and T_3 with 20% brewer's dried grain gave the highest weight than T_2 . However, T_1 and T_5 show no significant difference ($p > 0.05$) and has the lowest weight gain.

Table 3: Performance characteristics of the tested animals.

	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Initial live weight	6.70	6.85	6.75	7.10	6.75
Initial mean weight	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.59	0.56
Final live weight	19.70	21.30	22.70	23.40	18.85
Final mean weight	1.64	1.78	1.89	1.95	1.57
Body weight change	13.00	14.45	15.95	16.30	12.10
Body weight change	1.20	1.20	1.33	1.36	1.01

Total feed intake	42.30	43.99	46.06	47.66	44.31
Feed intake	3.53	3.67	3.84	3.97	3.69
Daily feed intake	1.51	1.57	1.65	1.70	1.58
Daily feed intake per Broiler (kg)	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.13
Feed conversion ratio	3.25	3.04	2.89	2.92	3.66
Total cost of Feed (N)	535.54	523.07	486.95	447.21	294.07
Cost of producing 1kg of meat (N)	69.64	63.61	56.29	52.23	43.05
Number of birds used	12	12	12	12	12
Mortality	-	-	-	-	-

Ishangulyyev et al. [9] and Bonifácio-Lopes et al. [10] reported that the protein content of dried brewer's grain was found to be higher than that of maize by 106g. Paritosh et al. [11] stated that excess crude protein of Brewer's dried grain is converted to energy which equals to that of maize. However, von Grebmer et al. [12] and Connolly et al. [13] reported that Brewer's dried grain has an unidentified growth factor which must have played a prominent role in the increase weight gain pattern of the broilers. Decrease in weight gain in treatment 5 maybe as a result of high fibre consumption. This is in line with findings of [14], who stated that fibre depresses food intake and digestibility.

Feed intake

From results in the above Table 2, there was a gradual increase in feed intake of broilers as the dried brewer's grain in the ration increased. However, there was a decrease in feed intake in T_5 which had the highest dried brewer's grain without maize.

Treatment 1 which was 0% brewer's dried grain had the lowest feed intake of 10.58kg followed by T_2 11.00kg, T_3 11.52kg, T_4 11.92kg and decreased in T_5 which had 11.08kg feed intake.

However, when subjected to statistical analysis, there were no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in broiler feed intake. Broilers on T_4 consumed highest, closely followed by those fed T_3 which are fairly the same. Treatment 4 shows significant difference with T_1 , T_2 and T_5 .

Zeko-Pivač et al. [15] and McCarthy et al. [16] stated that factors like physical condition of the feed, the nutrient content, live weight and the environmental condition in which animals are reared influence their feed intake.

The difference in feed intake of broilers could be as a result of increase in crude fiber of the treatment as shown in Table 2 above. This observation is in line with Shafiee-Jood & Cai [17], who reported that fats are the major component of the feed-stuff which enhances palatability of any given feed.

The drop in feed intake in treatment 5 maybe as a result of high crude fibre content, as shown in Table 2 above. This is in line with Lynch et al. [18] and Eliopoulos et al. [19], who stated that high level of crude fibre in the diet depresses feed intake.

Feed Conversion Ratio

Feed conversion ratio is the relationship between feed intake and animals' weight gain. The lower the feed conversion ratio the

higher the efficiency of feed conversion. From the Table 3 above, there was a gradual decrease in feed conversion ratio up to 30% Brewer's dried grain inclusion when subjected to statistical analysis the result proved not significant. Broilers fed ration 5 gave the highest feed conversion ratio which means low in feed conversion closely followed by those fed T_2 and T_1 . The feed conversion ratio of broilers fed T_3 and T_4 did not differ significantly and were the best in feed conversion.

However, Waters et al. [20] and Jaeger et al. [21] stated that feed conversion ratio can be affected by the rate of growth, metabolizable energy content of the feed, nutrient adequacy of the ration, environmental temperature and health of the animal. Yitayew et al. [22] and Choi et al. [23] stated that replacement of maize with barley based Brewers dried grain depressed growth even at lower level of 20% but especially when it is completely replaced maize.

Cost Benefit Analysis

The average costs of producing 1kg weight of meat in each of the diets are shown in Table 2. There was decrease in cost of producing 1kg weight of meat from T_1 to T_5 . Broilers on diet consumed feed at the cost of N 69.64 to produce 1kg weight of meat. In the same view, it costed N 63.61, N 56.29, N 52.23 and N 43.05 to produce 1kg weight of meat for treatment 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively. Treatment 5 had the least cost of production. However, when subjected to statistical analysis there was significant difference in the cost of producing 1kg of meat. This maybe as a result of increase in levels of brewer's dried grain inclusion in the diets.

Nocente et al. [24] and Reis et al. [25] further disclosed that brewers dried grain is one of the cheapest feed ingredients. However, the high cost of T_1 maybe as a result of high maize level inclusion. This is in line with Ginindza et al. [26] and Neylon et al. [27] who stated the possibility due to its competition with man, industries and livestock.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The result obtained from this experiment showed that brewer's dried grain can conveniently replace maize in broiler finisher ration without any negative effect on the performance of birds. Brewer's dried grain is cheap and widely available. Broilers fed diet with 20% and 30% brewer's dried grain had the highest weight gain, followed by T_2 and T_1 while T_5 had the least performance. Partial replacement of maize with the appropriate level of brewer's dried grain would always yield a favourable result in broiler finisher ration. Since broilers fed with treatment, (T_4) had the highest weight gain, with good feed conversion and low cost of producing 1kg of meat; it is therefore, highly recommendable that 30% brewer's dried grain should be used to substituting maize in broiler finisher ration.

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