

MEAT PRODUCTION IN ROSS-308 HYBRID UNDER EU STANDARDS WELFARE

C.D. Curea¹, R.M. Radu-Rusu¹, R.N. Rațu¹, A. Usturoi¹,
M.G. Usturoi^{1*}

¹Iasi University of Life Sciences, Romania

*e-mail: umg@uaiasi.ro

Abstract

Compliance with the welfare of birds is regulated at the Community level and compensated by various financial mechanisms. The investigations took into account the effects of the density provided to chicken broilers on meat production, in terms of the yield at slaughter, the weight of the anatomical portions in the carcass composition, and the internal organs' weight. In this sense, three lots of experience were formed consisting of Ross-308 chickens and which were differentiated by the density applied to the popular: Lm = 19 cap./m² (minimum welfare conditions); Lexp-1 = 17 cap./m² (average conditions); Lexp-2 = 16 cap./m² (superior conditions). The data obtained showed that the practice of low densities during the growth of the chicken broiler ensures the obtaining of heavier carcasses, with direct effects on the slaughter yield, which was higher by 0.67% than that of chickens raised in average conditions and by 1,43% of the pups who were provided with only minimum welfare conditions. In the carcasses of chicks raised in superior welfare conditions, a higher share of anatomical parts of commercial interest was registered (breast with 1.38-2.20%, thighs with 0.32-0.60%, and wings with 0.09 -0.26%), but also higher weights of the organs (pipettes with 0.76-2.26%, hearts with 2.50-4.92% and liver with 0.30-0.95%), compared to those raised in average or minimum conditions of well-being. In conclusion, it can be stated that the practice of a density of 16 cap./m² for the Ross-308 hybrid (superior welfare conditions), positively influences both the slaughter yield and the weight of the cut parts of the carcasses and the weight of the internal organs.

Key words: well-being, Ross-308, slaughter efficiency, anatomical portions, internal organs