THE INFLUENCE OF THE INCUBATION REGIME ON THE TECHNICAL RESULTS OF THE INCUBATION IN GRAY GUINEA FOWL EGGS

M.G. Usturoi^{1*}, A. Teodorescu¹, R.M. Radu-Rusu¹, R.N. Rațu¹, A. Usturoi¹

¹Iasi University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Food and Animal Sciences, Iasi, Romania *e-mail: <u>umg@uaiasi.ro</u>

Abstract

The research focused on the technical results of artificial incubation in a poultry species (gray guinea fowl), which is of increasing interest among private breeders. The studied eggs (246 pcs.) Came from three different farms and were divided into six lots (2 lots/farm with 41 eggs/lot); three batches of eggs were subjected to the classic incubation regime (A-1, B-1, and C-1), and the other three to an optimized regime (A-2, B-2 and C-2), differentiated by the level of insurance of the physical factors of incubation and the number of returns applied to the eggs. In eggs subjected to the optimized incubation regime, the share of eggs with dead embryos was lower by 0.81%, and that of viable chicks by 2.44% higher than in eggs incubated according to the classic incubation regime. The hatching percentage, as well as the hatching percentage, were higher by 2.13% and, respectively, by 2.44% also for eggs subjected to the optimized incubation regime. The superiority of the incubation regime proposed by us was also manifested at the level of the quality of hatched chicks, 91.56% of them being of quality I, compared to only 85.36% of quality I chick that was in the classic incubation regime. The conclusion of the study was that the current genetic material of gray guinea fowl existing in our country requires an improved incubation regime, which will ensure at hatching an increased number of viable chickens and especially of high quality.

Key words: gray guinea fowl, incubation, microclimate, technical results, chicken quality