DRIED BREWER'S YEAST (SACCHAROMYCES CEREVISIAE) IN BROILER NUTRITION: EFFECTS ON GROWTH AND FEED EFFICIENCY

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of dried brewer's yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae) supplementation on growth performance, feed efficiency, and economic efficiency in broiler chickens. Eighty-one-day-old broilers were randomly assigned to four groups and fed a basal diet or diets supplemented with 2.0%, 3.5%, or 5.0% dried brewer's yeast for 41 days. Body weight, growth performance, feed conversion ratio, and economic efficiency were evaluated throughout the experimental period.

Supplementation with 4.0% brewer's yeast resulted in the highest final body weight (3442.87 ± 43.48 g) and improved feed conversion ratio (1.58) compared with the control group (1.69). The 2.0% supplementation level provided the highest conditioned economic efficiency, reaching 73.16 lei compared with 64.91 lei in the control group. The results indicate that dried brewer's yeast can improve productive and feed utilization parameters in broilers, while the economic response depends on the supplementation level.

The originality of the study consists in assessing graded levels of a fermentation by-product as a functional feed ingredient and identifying their effects on both productive performance and economic efficiency.

Key words: *dried brewer's yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, broiler chickens, growth performance, economic efficiency*