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PROBIOTICS AS FEED SUPPLEMENTS FOR BROILERS

Thesis

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PROBIOTICS AS FEED SUPPLEMENTS FOR BROILERS

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ABSTRACT

MONTILLA, MILY JOHN R. Probiotics as Feed Supplements for Broilers. Undergraduate Thesis. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, major in Animal Science, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite. April 2008. Adviser: Dr. Magdalena N. Alcantara.

A study was conducted to determine the performance of broilers as affected by supplementation of different levels of probiotics in feeds.

A total of 84 straight – run day – old Cobb broiler chicks was divided into four to accommodate four treatments; T0 – control, (0.kg probiotics), T1 – 0.6kg of probiotics mixed in 100kg of feeds or 6g/kg, T2 – 0.5kg of probiotics mixed in 100kg of feeds or 5g/kg, T3 – 0.4kg of probiotics mixed in 100kg of feeds or 4g/kg. Probiotics supplementation started from the first day up to harvest at day 35.

Using analysis of variance, significant differences at $P < 0.05$ were noted in the body weight at day 21 and feed conversion efficiency at day 21 and feed consumption at day 28. Similar performance was noted at the end of the experiment.

No mortality occurred during the entire period of the experiment.

The highest income was generated from birds in Treatment III (Php 890.23 or Php 42.39 /bird) followed by birds in Treatment II (Php 862.93 or Php 41.09 /bird) and Treatment 0 (Php 829.48 or Php39.50 /bird), while birds in Treatment I gave the lowest income Php 756.29 or Php 36.01 /bird.

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INTRODUCTION

In Greek, probiotics means “ for life” (Gibson and Fuller, 2000) and can be defined as live microbial feed supplements which beneficially affect the host animal by improving its intestinal balance (Fuller, 1989). Modern broiler industry aims to decrease production cost with high productivity by means of adequate genetics, nutrition and management procedures. Thus, for many years, the poultry industry has used some tools to improve growth and yield, one of which is the use of probiotics. Probiotic foods have been consumed for centuries, either as natural components of foods or as food additives that serve specific functions. A food can be said to be functional if it contains substances, which may or may not be a nutrient, that serve one or a limited number of functions in the body in a targeted way so as to have positive effects on health (Bellisle *et al.*, 1998). Probiotics are also utilized if it has a physiologic or psychological effect beyond the traditional nutritional effect (Desdale, 1997).