GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND ONSET OF LAY OF PHILIPPINE MALLARD DUCKS (*Anas platyrhynchos* Linn.) FED WITH FRESH PINTO PEANUT (*Arachis pintoi*) LEAVES

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

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The study was conducted from February to April 2018 at the Poultry Production Project of the Department of Animal Science, College of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Natural Resources, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite to determine the effect of different levels of pinto peanut leaves on feed consumption, growth and feed efficiency, and on the onset of lay of the Philippine mallard duck(*Anas platyrhynchos* Linn.) fed with fresh Pinto peanut (*Arachis pintoi*) leaves.

Sixty, 4 month old female Philippine Mallard Ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos Linn.*) were used in the study. Feeders and drinkers used were made from PVC pipes split into half. The finisher and layer mash used were supplied by a local poultry store in Trece Martires City, Cavite. Cleaning and recording materials and weighing scale were also used in the study. A bucket and blender were used for the preparation of the Pinto peanut leaf meal.

The treatments used were as follows: Treatment 0, control, with140g commercial feeds per head per day, Treatment 1 with 10g Pinto peanut leaf meal + 130g commercial feedsper head per day, Treatment 2 with 15g Pinto peanut leaf meal + 125g commercial feedsper head per day, and Treatment 3 with 20g Pinto peanut leaf meal +120g commercial feedper head per day.The ducks were given the designated ration until they were 6 months old.

There were no significant differences in all of the parameters observed in the study. However, the results obtained from each treatment in terms of weight gain, feed consumption, average daily gain, feed conversion efficiency, and onset of lay were all comparable to the control group.

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INTRODUCTION

Ducks are one of the most widely reared poultry all over the world for their meat and eggs. It is believed that its highest population is in Asia, particularly in China which has the largest market for ducks. Likewise, in the Philippines ducks are also popular. But unlike in China, the Philippines is mostly after the duck eggs. Duck eggs are harvested and made into the popular "balut" and salted egg (Chang, et al., 2003). Ducks are medium sized aquatic birds, which are omnivorous creatures feeding on snails, small fishes and small plants making the feeding management easy as compared to other poultry species. As poultry, they are very sturdy in terms of different environmental conditions. They are not easily affected by any diseases. However, they are very vulnerable when fed with contaminated food(Mayntz, 2017).

Behind the great demand for duck eggs(Monthly Agriculture, 2016), the country has not been able to produce as much as needed; as the majority of the producers belong