THE EFFECT OF ADDING BASIL LEAF MEAL IN FEED ON THE GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF BROILER CHICKENS

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to determine the effect of adding basil leaf meal (*Ocimum x citriodorum*) to commercial feed on growth performance of broiler chickens. The study was conducted at Janu Putra broiler farm in Sayegan, Sleman, Yogyakarta. The material used was 120 broiler chickens raised for 31 days. The design used was a Completely Randomized Design with 4 treatments and 3 replications (10 chickens per replication): T0 (100% commercial feed), T1 (95% commercial feed + 5% basil meal), T2 (90% feed + 10% basil meal), and T3 (85% feed + 15% basil meal). The variables observed were feed consumption, body weight gain, feed conversion ratio (FCR), and income over feed cost (IOFC). Results showed that the 5% addition of basil leaf meal did not affect feed consumption, body weight gain, or FCR. On the other hand, adding as much as 10% and 15% is too much and it decreased the weight gain and increase FCR significantly ($P<0.001$). The IOFC decreased as basil meal levels increased due to the high cost of the meal compared to commercial feed. It is concluded that dietary addition of 5%, 10% and the 15% basil meal reduced growth performance of broiler chickens.

Key words: Broiler chickens, Growth performance, Basil leaf meal, Commercial feed