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## **EFFECT OF FEEDING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF MAIZE OIL ON PERFORMANCE OF BROILER CHICKS**

(With 7 Tables)

By

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(Received at 2/5/2010)

### **SUMMARY**

The effect of feeding different levels of maize oil on performance of broiler chicks was studied. One-hundred and twenty one day-old, unsexed (Lohmann) broiler chicks were randomly divided into four experimental groups. Each group was further subdivided into five replicates at the rate of six chicks per pen in complete randomized design. The birds were fed on four levels of maize oil (0, 2, 4 and 6%) with constant level of dietary protein (22%) for 7-weeks duration. Health of the stock and performance parameters were recorded. At the end of the experiment, energy balance parameters and chemical composition data were measured and recorded. The results indicated that, weight gain, feed intake, feed efficiency, energy utilization percentage and carcass fat content of broiler chicks were significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) affected by different levels of maize oil. Birds fed the high oil level 6% showed better results in body weight gain, feed efficiency, energy utilization percentage and higher carcass fat content with the lowest feed intake as compared to other experimental groups. The broiler chicks can utilize maize oil till 6% in their diet more efficiency as compared to other levels.

*Key words: Broiler chicks, high energy diets, maize oil.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Recently the demand for poultry production has increased due to the increase in population. In order to achieve optimum broiler production, high energy diets have been recommended for rapid broiler growth and efficient feed utilization. In this respect, fats and vegetable oil has been extensively utilized in broiler diets to raise the energy density, in addition to benefit from their high efficient utilization for

tissue synthesis and lipogenesis. The energy from the dietary oil and fat sources is known to be more efficiently utilized for body fat synthesis than dietary carbohydrates or protein (De-Groote *et al.*, 1971). However, limited local research has been conducted to determine the adequate level of vegetable oil for feeding broiler chicks under open-housing system in Sudan.

This study was intended to gain more information about the effect of feeding different levels of maize oil on performance of broiler chicks.

## **MATERIALS and METHODS**

A number of 130 chicks were used in this experiment, 10 chicks were selected randomly and sacrificed by the dislocation of the neck, without loss of blood, and prepared for determination of the initial carcass composition. The remaining 120 chicks were randomly distributed into 4 groups of 30 chicks. Each group was further subdivided into 5 replicates with 6 chicks per each. The chicks of each replicate were housed in a pen (1 square meter) in an open-sided deep litter house. Four levels of maize oil (0, 2, 4 and 6%) with constant dietary protein level 22% were fed during the experimental period for 7-weeks duration. All the experimental diets were formulated to meet the nutrient requirements of broiler chicks according to NRC (1994) which were formulated from the local feed ingredients commonly used for poultry feeding in the Sudan. Calculated analysis of the experimental diets was done according to feedstuff analysis outlined by Ellis (1981), while determined chemical analysis was conducted by the method of AOAC (1988). Formulation and proximate analysis and calculated analysis for the experimental diets are shown in Tables (1 and 2) respectively, while chemical composition of the super concentrate used in the diets is shown in Table (3). Feed and water were offered ad-libitum. The light was continuous throughout of the experimental period. The performance of the experimental birds in term of feed intake, live weight gain and feed efficiency were recorded weekly. Health of the experimental stock and mortality rate were closely observed and recorded daily.

At the end of 7<sup>th</sup> week six birds were selected at random from each treatment, leg branded and kept overnight without feed. They were then reweighed individually and three birds from the selected six birds of each group were scarified and used for carcass analysis. The ten

chicks selected at the start of the experiment for initial carcass analysis, and the three birds selected from each treatment at the end of the experimental period were prepared for carcass analysis.

**Table 1:** Formulation and proximate analysis of the experimental diets (percent as fed)

Ingredients \ Oil levels	0%	2%	4%	6%
<b>A: Formulation</b>				
Grain sorghum	65	63	61	59
Groundnut meal	11	13	15	17
Sesame meal	16	14	12	10
Super concentrate	5	5	5	5
Oyster shell	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Common salt	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Vegetable oil	0	2	4	6
Total	100	100	100	100
<b>B: Determined analyties</b>				
Dry matter	95.90	96.30	97.90	98.40
Crude protein (N% x 6.25)	22.21	22.60	22.21	22.78
Ether extract	4.59	6.86	8.37	8.66
Crude fibre	4.80	4.90	4.70	4.60
Ash	9.38	9.28	8.58	9.56
Nitrogen free extract	54.92	52.66	54.04	52.80

**Table 2:** Calculated analyses of the experimental diets – dry matter basis (DM)

Items \ Oil levels	0%	2%	4%	6%
Metabolizable energy (Kcal/kg)*	2974	3085	3197	3308
Crude fat	5.59	7.33	9.10	10.86
Crude protein	22.12	22.12	22.12	22.12
Lysine	1.07	1.08	1.09	1.10
Methionine	0.52	0.49	0.47	0.47
Cystine	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.30
Methionine + cystine	0.84	0.81	0.79	0.77
Calcium	1.10	1.07	1.03	1.00
Available phosphorous	0.70	0.68	0.68	0.67
Calorie-protein ratio (ME Kcal/kg: protein %)	134	139	145	150

\*Metabolizable energy: calculated according to [6]

**Table 3:** Chemical composition of the super concentrate used in the diet formulation (Hendrix broiler concentrate)

Metabolizable energy	1900 (Kcal/kg)
Crude protein	32.00%
Lysine	11.00%
Methionine	2.80%
Methionine + cystine	2.25%
Calcium	8.00%
Available phosphorus	5.00%

They were weighed individually and then killed by cervical dislocation without loss of blood. Each group of birds from each experimental treatment were weighed separately and prepared to form one total homogeneous mass, from which a representative sample was taken for drying. Each whole carcass was cut into small pieces with along knife and was passed through Alexanderwerk vertical cutter. The feathers were cut into short lengths to facilitate easy and better mincing without causing frequent blockage in the mincer outlet or overheating of the electric motor. The product was then transferred to Stephen Universal Machine Mincer and was reduced to a fine paste. It was passed through this machine twice for ten minutes continuous mincing each time in order to obtain a finely divided and homogenous mass. About 50 grams of this mass was sampled and dried to a constant weight. The dried product was then ground to fine homogenous powder, and sampled for carcass analyses. The determination of gross energy for these samples was done by using Gallenkamp Autobomb Calorimeter. The initial and the final energy content of the experimental birds, on each of the experimental diets, was calculated and the energy retention was measured by a comparative slaughter technique. The metabolizable energy content of the experimental diets were determined in separate trail using the total collection method. The remaining three birds selected from each treatment were used for determination of chemical composition. They were slaughtered and dissected. The breast and thigh of each carcass were deboned and minced twice and then kept frozen for determination of their chemical composition. Statistical analysis were made by analysis of variance for a completely randomized design, according to Steel and Torrie (1986).

## RESULTS

The effect of feeding different levels of maize oil on broiler's performance is shown in Table (4). The body weight gain and feed conversion ratio were improved significantly ( $P<0.01$ ) as the level of oil was increased, while the total feed intake tended to decreased significantly ( $P<0.01$ ) with the increasing level of oil. The diet with the highest level of oil (6% added oil) showed significantly ( $P<0.01$ ) the highest body weight gain and the best feed conversion ratio with the lowest feed intake as compared to the other experimental groups.

As shown in Table (5), all the experimental diets stimulated adequate nutrient intake at all levels of oil (NRC, 1994).

**Table 4:** Effect of feeding different maize oil levels on the performance of broiler chicks (0-7 weeks)

Oil levels Parameter	0%	2%	4%	6%	SEM
Initial live weight (g/chick)	45.31	45.13	45.50	45.09	-
Final live weight (g/chick)	1727.5 <sup>d</sup>	1847.5 <sup>c</sup>	1940.5 <sup>b</sup>	2030.0 <sup>a</sup>	6.32 <sup>**</sup>
Body weight gain (g/chick)	1682.2 <sup>d</sup>	1802.4 <sup>c</sup>	1894.5 <sup>b</sup>	1984.9 <sup>a</sup>	6.32 <sup>**</sup>
Total feed intake (g/chick)	3989.8 <sup>a</sup>	3906.6 <sup>b</sup>	3865.8 <sup>c</sup>	3840.0 <sup>d</sup>	11.8 <sup>**</sup>
Feed conversion ratio	2.37 <sup>a</sup>	2.16 <sup>b</sup>	2.04 <sup>c</sup>	1.93 <sup>d</sup>	0.007 <sup>**</sup>

SEM: Standard error of the means

<sup>\*\*</sup>: Highly significant ( $P<0.01$ ).

**Table 5:** Feed and nutrients intake during the experimental period (0-7 weeks) (g/chick)

Oil levels Parameter	NRC (1994)	0%	2%	4%	6%
Feed intake	-	3989.8	3906.6	3865.8	3840.0
Metabolizable energy intake (Kcal/chick)	8750	10788	11195	11520	11985
Protein intake	693	845	828	819	814
Lysine	34.4	41.8	41.8	41.7	41.7
Methionine + cystine	23.9	32.4	31.0	30.0	28.5

Table (6) shows the effect of feeding different oil levels on the metabolizable energy utilization by the experimental birds during the whole experimental period. The data show the partitioning of the total metabolizable energy consumed (Kcal/chick), over the whole experimental period, into its components of energy retention and total heat production. The energetic efficiency for the conversion of the metabolizable energy consumed to body tissue energy is also shown in the same table. The data indicated that the metabolizable energy consumption, energy retention, total heat production and efficiency of the energy utilization were significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) affected by the dietary treatments. The metabolizable energy intake (Kcal/chick), the energy retention (Kcal/chick) and the efficiency of metabolizable energy utilization were improved significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) as the level of oil was increased, while the total heat production (Kcal/chick) was decreased as the level of oil was increased in the diets.

As shown in Table (7), the effect of feeding different oil levels on chemical composition of breast and thigh muscles of broiler. There was no significant difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) in the percentage of protein, ash and moisture for both breast and thigh muscles of broiler among the experimental treatments except the fat percentage. Birds fed the diet with high oil level 6% produced significantly ( $P < 0.01$ ) the highest carcass fat percentage while those fed the diet with the lowest oil level 0% produced the lowest fat percentage for both breast and thigh muscles of broiler.

On the other hand, the experimental treatments had no significant ( $P > 0.05$ ) effect on the mortality rate. Only one bird from each treatment died, which cannot be related in any way to the experimental treatments.

**Table 6:** Energy balance data for chicks fed the experimental diets.

Parameter \ Oil levels	0%	2%	4%	6%	SEM
Metabolizable energy intake (Kcal/chick)	10787.8 <sup>d</sup>	11195.4 <sup>c</sup>	11519.9 <sup>b</sup>	11985.2 <sup>a</sup>	30.60 <sup>**</sup>
Energy retention (Kcal/chick)	5215.6 <sup>d</sup>	6026.1 <sup>c</sup>	6753.2 <sup>b</sup>	8715.2 <sup>a</sup>	24.70 <sup>**</sup>
Total heat production (Kcal/chick)	5572.2 <sup>a</sup>	5169.2 <sup>b</sup>	4766.6 <sup>c</sup>	3270.0 <sup>d</sup>	33.00 <sup>**</sup>
Energy utilization (%)	48.3 <sup>d</sup>	53.9 <sup>c</sup>	58.6 <sup>b</sup>	72.6 <sup>a</sup>	0.22 <sup>**</sup>

SEM: Standard error of the means

<sup>\*\*</sup>: Highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ).

**Table 7:** Chemical composition of breast and thigh muscles of broiler chicks

Oil levels Parameter	0%	2%	4%	6%	SEM
<b>Breast:</b>					
Fat %	10.87 <sup>d</sup>	12.55 <sup>c</sup>	13.23 <sup>b</sup>	15.83 <sup>a</sup>	0.33 <sup>**</sup>
Protein %	22.50	22.47	22.34	22.21	0.31 <sup>NS</sup>
Moisture	62.27	62.39	62.52	62.73	0.15 <sup>NS</sup>
Ash	2.06	2.03	2.02	2.06	0.15 <sup>NS</sup>
<b>Thigh:</b>					
Fat %	11.90 <sup>d</sup>	13.72 <sup>c</sup>	14.51 <sup>b</sup>	16.42 <sup>a</sup>	0.34 <sup>**</sup>
Protein %	22.39	22.31	22.19	22.05	0.32 <sup>NS</sup>
Moisture	63.72	63.81	63.75	63.90	0.14 <sup>NS</sup>
Ash	1.69	1.62	1.65	1.72	0.17 <sup>NS</sup>

SEM: Standard error of the means

<sup>\*\*</sup>: Highly significant (P<0.01).

NS: Not statistically significant (P>0.05)

## DISCUSSION

The effect of feeding different levels of maize oil on the productive performance of broiler is shown in Table (4). Treatment effect on body weight gain, feed intake and feed efficiency was highly significant (P<0.01). Birds fed the diet that contained 6% maize oil level produced significantly (P<0.01) the highest body weight gain and the lowest feed consumption with the best feed utilization efficiency as compared to other experimental groups. The experimental birds tended to adjust their feed intake according to the oil level by eating less from the high oil level diets. The highest body weight gain and the best feed utilization efficiency were attained by the birds fed the highest level of oil diet. These effects were consistent with the increased nutrients intake from the different experimental diet (Table 5).

The response to the increased oil level can be attributed to the increased metabolizable energy intake. These results coincided with the finding of Waldroup (1996) who reported that, incorporation of high-oil maize up to 6% of broiler diet, during the starter and grower periods (till 42 days of age) produced significantly heavier birds and improved feed conversion efficiency. These results were in line with the finding of Benitez *et al.* (1999) who mentioned that significantly higher body weight gain (P<0.05) was obtained by the birds fed the high-oil maize during the first 42 days of age.

Similar results were obtained by Rutkowski *et al.* (1998) who recorded that feed intake was decreased and live weight gain was increased with fat supplementation. The improvement in the performance parameters has been explained by the increased metabolizable energy intake from the diet with higher maize oil level which would consequently promote the metabolic processes of growth in form of synthesis of flesh and body fat.

The incorporation of maize oil resulted in improved efficiency of energy utilization (Table 6). Energy retention (Kcal/chick) was significantly ( $P<0.01$ ) increased with increasing the maize oil level. This was accompanied by a progressive reduction in total heat production and consequent improvement in the efficiency of energy utilization. The metabolizable energy intake was progressively increased with increasing maize oil level. The total heat production, on the other hand, was reduced with the higher maize oil level. This pattern of reduction in heat production indicates a better efficiency of energy utilization for body tissue synthesis with increasing the level of maize oil. As the result of this, the birds fed the diet with the highest incorporation level of maize oil had significantly ( $P<0.01$ ) the lowest total heat production (Kcal/chick), together with the highest level of energy retention and the highest percentage of energy utilization. These results were in line with other finding (Carew and Hill, 1964; Fuller and Rendon, 1979; Grimbergen *et al.*, 1982; El-Tazi, 2001) who indicated that, energy from dietary fat sources would improved energy retention and increased the efficiency of energy utilization by broiler chickens. This effect is attributed to the comparatively low heat increment with the diets containing fat, as a result of the efficient utilization of fatty acids for lipogenesis (Blaxter, 1989).

The chemical composition of the breast and thigh muscles confirms the effect of increasing the maize oil level which increased the fat content of the carcasses. Birds fed the diet that contained 6% maize oil produced the highest carcass fat content, while those fed the diet that contained 0% maize oil produced the lowest of these values. This effect can be attributed to the addition of maize oil in the diets which would have improved lipogenesis and intramuscular fat deposition (El-Tazi, 2001).

It could be concluded that the broiler chicks could be utilize maize oil till 6% in their diet with more efficient.



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