

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted at the Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Agriculture, Zagazig University, Zagazig, Egypt. The practical work was carried out at Gemaza Animal Research Farm belonging to Animal Production Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo, Egypt. One hundred and eight male Bouscat rabbits, 35 day old, with nearly equal live body weight (469-488 g) at the beginning of the experiment were randomly allotted to 12 experimental groups, of 9 rabbits each. The six rabbit groups were fed on the normal protein diet (16.0%), while the other six groups were fed on the high protein diet (18.0%). Within each dietary protein level, the first three groups were fed on the normal energy diet (2500 kcal/kg), while the other three groups were fed on the high energy diet (supplemented with 5% cotton seed oil ; 2850 kcal / kg). Within each dietary energy level, the first group was fed on the diet without supplementation, the second group was fed on the diet supplemented with 3000 IU vitamin A/kg diet, while the third group was fed on the diet supplemented with 25 mg vitamin E/kg diet. Rabbits fed high protein or energy diet recorded higher growth rate and final margin. Rabbits fed high-protein high-energy diets and supplemented with 25 mg vitamin E/kg diet recorded higher growth rate, return from body gain weight and final margin and the best feed conversion.

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