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Effect of feeding clinoptilolite (zeolite) to three strains of laying hens

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Abstract

1. One hundred and twenty 16-week-old, single combed pullets of three strains were fed on a diet containing 160 g protein/kg with or without 50 g clinoptilolite/kg in a trial with 20 hens per treatment. Sterile river sand replaced clinoptilolite in the control diet in order to keep the diets isonergetic.

2. The hens were individually caged in a naturally-ventilated laying house and fed on one of the two diets for ten 28-d periods.

3. No significant dietary effects between treatments were observed with respect to body weight, age at first egg, egg weight, Haugh scores or food intake/hen.

4. Significant dietary effects in favour of clinoptilolite feeding were noticed with the number of eggs laid per hen, shell thickness, efficiency of food utilisation, droppings moisture content and mortality.
5. Significant differences between strains were observed with respect to all measurements taken except food intake/hen d.



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