

EFFECT OF GLIRICIDIA LEAF MEAL OR HYBRID NAPIER CO3 GRASS LEAF MEAL INCORPORATED RATIONS ON GROWTH OF YOUNG TURKEY BIRDS

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There is no specific feed ration for turkey birds reared in Sri Lanka. They are fed with boiler rations. Therefore, an experiment was undertaken to study the effect of feeding two low cost rations on growth performance of turkey birds. Day old poults were randomly assigned into three treatments in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with nine replicates of ten birds for each. Treatments were as follows; Treatment 1 (T1) – Ration incorporated with Gliricidia (*Gliricidia sepium*) leaf meal, Treatment 2 (T2) – Ration incorporated with hybrid Napier CO3 grass (*Pennisetum puerperium* x *Pennisetum americanum*) leaf meal, Treatment 3 (T3 – Control) commercial broiler grower ration. Birds were weighed weekly. At the end of the three months study period a sample of birds were slaughtered to obtain the carcass data. Feed and meat samples were analyzed for nutrient content. There was no difference ($p > 0.05$) in crude protein content in all three rations. Ash content was higher ($p < 0.05$) in T2 compared to T1 and T3. Crude fiber content was higher ($p < 0.05$) in T3 compared to T1 and T2. The lowest ($p < 0.05$) feed intake was recorded in T2 compared to T1 and T3. The highest ($p < 0.05$) average body weight was recorded in T3 compared to T2 which in turn was higher ($p < 0.05$) than T1. Live weight gain was higher ($p < 0.05$) in T2 and T3 compared to T1. The carcass weight, dressing out percentage and feed conversion ratio were not significantly different among treatments. A profit of LKR 457.95/bird was obtained from T2. The profits from T3 and T1 were LKR 355.05/bird and LKR 112.35/bird respectively. Hence, it can be concluded that the ration incorporated with hybrid Napier CO3 grass leaf meal (T2) can be effectively used to replace commercial broiler grower ration for feeding turkey birds in Sri Lanka. And it is profitable than feeding commercial broiler grower ration.

Keywords: Feeding trial, Growth of Turkey birds, Low cost leaf meal rations