The Effect of Environmental Enrichment on Welfare and Productivity in Homebred Strain “Tatsuno"(Chicken for Meat) (Advanced Studies on Sustainable Animal Production: Interrelationships among Human, Animal and Environment, 8th International Symposium of Integrated Field Science)

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Environmental enrichment of RSPCA standards are known as effective rearing system for animal welfare and economic efficiency. We provided perch and bales recommended by RSPCA to birds at commercial farm (NFF). Behaviour, H/L ratio, air quality, breast blisters and foot-pad dermatitis(FPD) were surveyed as indicators of welfare, and final body weight and feed conversion were measured as indicators of productivity. This study used 4 flocks (male or female×enrich or control) of about 5400 birds. Environmental enrich treatment flock had 30.8m perch and 8bales. We surveyed maintenance behaviour (eating, drink, sitting-rest, standing-rest, locomotion), perching, bale pecking and air assessment at 3/5/8 weeks of age. Blood samples were collected from 10 birds/flocks at 20/45/56 day of age. Breast blisters and FPD were counted for 200 birds/flocks at slaughter house. Birds in the enriched house (E flock) were more active (showing more standing-rest and locomotion). Male birds like bales pecking, female birds like perching. Final body weight and feed conversion of E flock were larger and good than C flock. The number of bird with non-breast blister on E flock was higher on male, and the number of birds with FPD of E flock was low grade lesion on female. In conclusion, there are differences between male and female preference of activity. It might influences productivity. These findings may have implications for develop rearing system according to behavioural needs.