

S80 Contribution of feeds from range in organic broiler production

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A study was performed to investigate to what extent foraging can contribute to the nutritional needs of broiler genotypes differing in growth rate and feeding strategy. Two slow growing genotypes (SU51 and T851, Sasso breeds) and a medium growing genotype (JA757, Hubbard breed) were selected. JA757 is intended to be slaughtered at 50-70 days, whereas T851 and SU51 have higher ages of slaughter, with SU51 being the slowest growing. The feeding strategies consisted of a normal used organic compound feed (HP) or choice feed based on Danish organic grown protein sources (LP). In both strategies the broilers had access to cereals in separate silos. Recordings included feed intake, weight gain, feed selection (crop content), gait score, and distribution on the range area. Preliminary results indicate an effect of feeding strategy on distribution on range and feed selection. Broilers fed LP feed were to a higher degree using the entire area whereas broilers fed 'normal' feed spent more time close to the broiler house. Feeding LP feed resulted in a generally lower feed consumption for all genotypes and thus an overall lower growth (84 days: average 1474g, SD 204g), the difference between genotypes was not as pronounced as with the HP feed strategy (84 days: average 3004g, SD 1151g). The fast-growing broilers had significantly higher gait scores (1.8) compared to the slow-growing genotypes (0.2 and 0.1 for T851 and SU51, respectively), but only when fed the HP feed.

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