



EFFECTS OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLEMENTATION ON LAYER HENS FROM 18 TO 57 WEEKS OF AGE

Materials and Methods

Two layer houses from the same farm (1 control and 1 supplemented with Essential), were used to evaluate the effects of the supplementation of Essential during the production phase from 18 to 67 weeks of age (Bovan White layers). There were 107,620 layers in the control house and 99,999 layers in the house supplemented with Essential.

Diets. Essential was included during the whole life of the bird. The evaluation was done during the production period, from 18 to 67 weeks of age. The dosage of Essential used was 3 lbs/ton of feed. Both diets differed only on the inclusion of Essential.

Parameters analyzed. Life weight, mortality, egg production, feed conversion, and intake. Data were analyzed using an analysis of covariance using week as a covariable.

Results

The productive parameters were all significantly better for the birds supplemented with Essential. The layers supplemented with Essential survived more (88.2 vs 84.4%), produced more (261.4 vs 248.2 eggs/placed bird; 94.6 vs 93.6% produced) and converted better (129 vs 136 g of feed/layed egg).

Table 1. Effects of the supplementation of Essential on layer production.

Treatment	Survivability, %	Eggs/placed layer	Production, %	FCR, g/egg
Control	84.4 ^b	248.2 ^b	93.6 ^b	136 ^a
Essential	88.2 ^a	261.4 ^a	94.6 ^a	129 ^b

^{ab}Treatment means differ (P < 0.05)

Conclusion

The supplementation of Essential decreased mortality, improved production and FCR. When birds were necropsied, those supplemented with Essential always presented better intestinal integrity and liver quality. It can be therefore concluded that birds supplemented with Essential responded better to enteric challenges.