

Reduced FCR (Feed Conversion Rate)

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Intro to Good Practice

This good practice consists of modulating the feed formulation so that the use of raw materials and the costs of feed can be reduced.

FCR indicates the amount of feed required to grow a chicken from one day old to a certain slaughter weight.

A lower FCR means that animals require less food to grow, thus reducing the overall amount of natural resources needed for farming.

The good practice includes less grain harvesting, less water consumption for irrigating fields, and less space for growing feed.

Improved growth performance can be achieved through the selection of high quality raw materials and optimal feed formulation.

FCR can be reduced by almost 0.10 points (e.g. from 1.80 to 1.70) by adopting this practice.



Background & challenges

The world market requires an increasing amount of chicken meat due to the growth of the human population, which leads to the need to improve the growth performance of broilers.

One possible solution, without affecting the climate impact of poultry farming, is the choice of suitable raw materials and the effective formulation of the bird ration.

The farmer who implemented this practice stated very positively that he still made a good profit, although there is a scarcity of sources of high-quality protein and the application of the practice may entail higher feeding costs.



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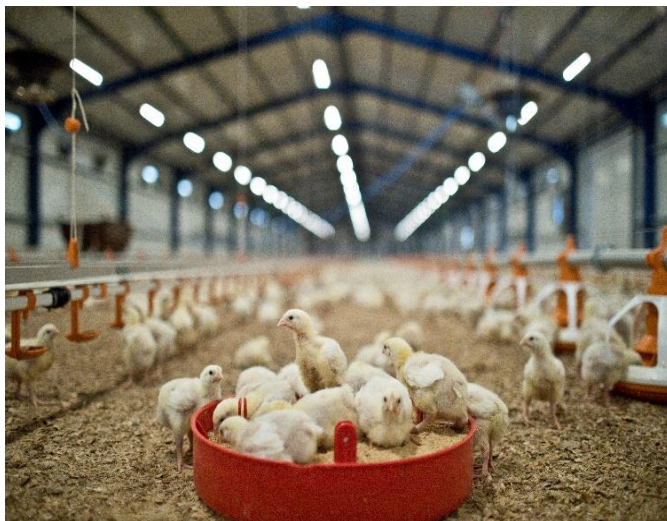
Additional information

Broilers have a high protein requirement, especially during the early stages of growth.

When formulating a broiler ration, it is crucial to pay attention to the energy level being provided, as too much energy could lead to a rapid accumulation of fat instead of the desired muscle growth.

It is advisable that the light program should be modified to cope with any potential increased growth rate problems.

This good practice can be easily applied in any kind of farm.



Benefits

Overall feed cost per kg of produced live weight can be reduced by using a suitable mix of raw materials.

Welfare issues can be improved, especially related to undigested feed.

This practice leads to reduced carbon footprints per kg of meat produced.

The estimated cost of this practice is about 0.13 €/bird, mainly due to the increase in feeding costs. Revenues are normally higher (i.e. 0.17 €/bird), so this practice is also economically sustainable in most cases.



A short video about reduced FCR resulting in improvement on growth performance which can mainly be achieved through selection of high-quality raw material and feed formulation.

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