

Effect diet probiotic supplementation on broiler chickens zootechnical performances

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Abstract:

Improving the quality of products of animal origin is an international priority. The use of antibiotics in chicken feed results in residues in these products. Therefore, it was essential to find potential alternatives to growth-promoting antibiotics in order to ban their use in poultry farming. Functional food additives of biological origin can be alternatives to antibiotics allowing quality improvement. Studies have been conducted to examine how probiotic supplementation affects broiler growth performance and microflora population. Thus they ensured that there is a good balance of the intestinal microbiota and an improvement in digestive health and zootechnical performance. The objective of this work is to focus on the different components that perform probiotics and this by going from their mechanism of action and their effects on the zootechnical parameters and the digestive health of the broiler.

Key Word: Poultry; Probiotic; Zootechnical parameters; Antibiotic; body weight

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I. Introduction

Antibiotics have residual effects on consumers as they lead to the development of antibiotic resistance¹. The development of antibiotic resistance has prompted the exploration of alternatives to improve animal health and performance without endangering the health of consumers².

Recent concerns about human resistance to antibiotics as well as increasing consumer demand for healthy foods have led to the prohibition of the use of growth promoting antibiotics in poultry diets³. As a result, it has become necessary to develop natural alternatives such as probiotics, prebiotics, enzymes, natural plant extracts, organic acids and essential oils⁴.

Among these poultry feed additives, probiotics have attracted considerable attention. In recent years, the use of this additive as a substitute for antibiotics is considered by veterinarians and nutritionists⁵. In broiler chicken nutrition, probiotic species have a beneficial effect on broiler performance⁶ and immunomodulation⁷. Numerous studies have been conducted to examine the effects of probiotics on the growth performance of broilers.

II. Probiotics

Probiotics are living microorganisms that can replace antibiotics that promote growth and have a beneficial effect on the host animal by improving its intestinal microbial balance⁸. Although competitive elimination and the creation of a balanced population in the digestive system, they can improve health conditions in poultry⁹.

Indeed, probiotics involve several species such as beneficial bacteria, fungi or yeasts. However, the most commonly used probiotics are strains of *Bacillus subtilis*, *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Butyricoccus*, and *Streptococcus*. In addition to their growth promoting activity, these microorganisms are also able to reduce the incidence of many pathogens like *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Clostridium perfringens*, etc¹⁰.

A probiotic used for poultry can be composed of a single strain or a mixture of two or more species¹⁰. Moreover, there are different forms of probiotics: liquid, powder, gel, paste or granules which are normally available in capsules, tablets, sachets, etc¹¹.

III. Mode of action of probiotics

The probiotics distributed in animal feed increase the production of organic acids in the digestive tract, which leads to modulation of the microbiota. The increase in the production of organic acids changes the permeability of the intestine and thus increases the absorption of certain nutrients, which in turn improves growth performance. In addition, the multiplication of probiotic bacteria and the increase in the production of organic acids lead to the reduction of certain pathogenic bacteria (e.g. salmonella)¹².

Mechanisms by which probiotics improve food conversion efficiency include alteration of the gut flora, enhancement of the growth of facultative non-pathogenic anaerobic bacteria and gram-positive bacteria forming lactic acid and peroxide hydrogen, suppressing the growth of intestinal pathogens, and improving digestion and nutrient utilization. Therefore, the main results of using probiotics include improved growth and improved feed conversion efficiency¹³.

IV. Effect of probiotics on zootechnical parameters

There are a lot of studies concerning the effect of the use of probiotics including *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Bacillus*, *Strepto-coccus*, *Pediococcus*, *Enterococcus* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* on the various performance parameters.

Probiotic supplementation has an effect on the body weight (BW) of broilers after 28 or 39 days. Feed-to-gain ratios were decreased by 0.194 or 0.166 units for birds treated with probiotics on days 28 and 39, respectively compared to the control. However, the body weight and feed efficiency of birds in probiotic treatments were similar¹⁴.

As well as supplementation with a mixture of *Bacillus licheniformis* and *Bacillus subtilis* spores at 0.05% and at a rate of 2.3×10^8 CFU/g for each strain, significantly improves the feed conversion rate compared to the group control¹⁵.

In addition, the administration of *Bacillus coagulans* in the diet significantly optimizes the daily and total weight gain as well as the feed conversion rate compared to the non-supplemented group¹⁶. In addition, weight gain and feed conversion ratio at D42 were improved ($p < 0.001$) in birds infected with *C. perfringens* and supplemented with *Bacillus subtilis* DSM 32315 at 106 CFU/g feed. Compared to challenge control birds¹⁷.

Indeed, dietary supplementation with *B. subtilis* at 105 CFU/kg of feed generated a 4.4% increase in weight compared to the group where enramycin is administered as APC¹⁸.

In addition, the administration of a DFM (Direct feed-microbial) based on *Bacillus amyloloquefacien* at a rate of 20 g/kg of feed for 35 days significantly improves production indicators in broiler chickens¹⁹.

However, the use of *Butyricococcus pullicaeorum* in food supplementation in broiler chickens did not have any significant effect on the weight of females while decreasing that of males ($P < 0.05$). On the other hand, in females the FCR was significantly lower during the growth phase (1.295 ± 0.002 vs 1.384 ± 0.008) and finishing (1.516 ± 0.001 vs 1.635 ± 0.017) compared to the control group²⁰.

V. Effects on the sectory immune system

The presence of probiotic microorganisms would promote the production of antibodies, especially secretory IgA in the intestinal lumen. Directly in contact with the antigen present in the digestive contents, IgA is important in the digestive tract; they are part, as with the respiratory and genital systems, of the body's first defenses against infection. IgA can inhibit the adhesion of pathogenic bacteria to the surface of mucous membranes²¹.

5.1. Immune response

The geometric mean of birds fed diets containing probiotics was higher on each sampling day than the control. Dietary supplementation with probiotics resulted in an increase in antibody titre against Newcastle disease (ND) compared to that of the control. The mean lymphoid organ weight / weight ratio of control birds was significantly lower than that of birds treated with probiotics¹⁴.

Probiotic supplementation dramatically increased resistance to disease and improved body weight. Newcastle disease (NDV) vaccine titer levels were higher in all treated groups than in controls. An increase in immune titre due to an increase in the level of probiotics in the diet could be attributed to an increase in the availability of serum immunoglobulins. Probiotics may modulate the systemic antibody response to antigens in chickens²².

The birds fed *L. acidophilus* and *B. bifidum* had significantly more serum antibodies against sheep red blood cells (SRBCs) than those in non-fed controls²³. The dynamics of probiotics on the immune response of broilers and reported significantly higher antibody production ($P < 0.01$) in experimental birds compared to controls²⁴.

The probiotic diet improved certain cell-mediated immune responses in broilers by modulating the activity of macrophages. It can be assumed that some of these effects are mediated by cytokines secreted by immune cells stimulated by probiotics. The increase in the relative bursa weight in broilers receiving probiotics can be attributed to the increased number of immune cells²⁵.

Likewise, the increase in thymus weight may be due to the effect of probiotic bacteria on the functional activities of immune system responses, which resulted in an increase in the number of lymphocytes in primary lymphoid organs. The increase in relative spleen weight at 39 days was in agreement with the results²⁶. Who found that feeding broilers probiotics caused an increase in the relative weight of the spleen in the treatment group²⁶.

VI. The effect on the characteristics of the gastrointestinal organs

It is well known that gut health is a key point for animal performance due to its critical importance on nutrient digestion, absorption and metabolism, incidence of enteric disease and immune responses²⁷.

In a recent study²⁸ found that supplementation with *Lactobacillus* bacteria increased the height and absorptive capacity of intestinal villi in broilers, which resulted in an increase in the final weight of birds

The absolute and relative weight of spleen and thymus tended to be greater ($P < 0.1$) for the probiotic-supplemented group. The relative liver weight was greater ($P < 0.05$) for probiotic-fed birds.

In addition, the small intestine weights were higher for birds fed probiotics than controls. In addition, dietary treatments influenced the histomorphological measurements of the small intestinal villi. Addition of probiotics increased ($P < 0.05$) the height of the villi: crypt depth ratio and height of the villi in the duodenum and ileum. The depth of the duodenal crypt remained unchanged ($P > 0.05$). However, the depth of the crypt was reduced by dietary supplements compared to the control.

In conclusion, the probiotic showed greater efficacy as growth promoters for broilers. In addition, the dietary supplements resulted in an increase in the height of the villi and the depth of the crypt of the intestinal mucosa of broilers. Increased villi height and villus height crypt depth ratios were associated with improved growth performance for and probiotic. This indicates that the probiotic can be used as a growth stimulator in broiler diets and may improve gut health. This product show promising effects as alternatives to antibiotics Pressures to eliminate the use of growth promoting antibiotics increases²⁹.

VII. Conclusion

Growth promoting antibiotics used in animal feed have contributed to the development and economics of poultry farms by improving health status, growth rate and feed efficiency. This use and its possible consequences should not mask the risks of antibiotic resistance and poisoning in humans resulting from the random prescription of antibiotics. As a result of this development and to the extent that antibiotics act on the level of the intestinal microflora, "probiotics" have appeared, which are strains of living microorganisms which, administered continuously in the food, are supposed to reproduce the favorable effects antibiotics. It is clear from experiments that the administration of probiotics in the feed had beneficial effects on the performance of broilers. Overall, the beneficial effects of probiotic treatments on broiler performance parameters are consistent with a number of other research studies using probiotics in broiler chickens.

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