Effect of the time of feeding on the productive and reproductive performance of Danadarawi chicken under the prevailing subtropical climatic conditions in Assiut.

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Abstract:

Three hundred and sixty, 4 weeks old sexed Dandarawi chicken were classified into two equal groups, the first served as the control (C), while the second was the treatment (T). Each group included 90 males and 90 females, divided into three replicates of 60 birds each. The feed was offered two times daily at 10 AM and 4 PM for the C group and at 6 PM and 2 AM for the T group. Birds in the C and T groups were exposed daily, during the growing period, to 12 hrs artificial lighting, from 8 AM to 8 PM or 6 PM to 6 AM, respectively. Throughout the laying period, the photoperiod increased gradually to reach 16 lighting hrs from 8 AM to 12 PM and from 6 PM to 10 AM for the C and T groups, respectively. The achieved results could be concluded as follow: Males and females fed from 6 PM to 2 AM in the T group had better (P≤0.05) body weight, body weight gain, body weight change and feed efficiency expressed as g feed/ g gain. Birds in T showed significantly (P≤0.05) higher values in hen day egg production, egg weight, egg number, egg mass and economical efficiency, in addition to a remarkably improved (P≤0.05) feed conversion, expressed as g feed/ g egg mass, fertility and true hatchability than the corresponding values for the C group. Also, they had fewer deaths than those in C group. No significant differences were observed in feed consumption during the growing and laying periods between the T and C groups. In general, choosing the best adequate time for feeding the birds, associated with the most temperate climatic conditions could be considered as one of the most efficient manipulations to improve the production and reproduction performance of Dandarawi chicken raised under the prevailing hot climatic conditions in Assiut.

Keywords:

Performance, feeding time, Dandarawi chicken

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