

The Effect of Stocking Density on Performance, Blood Parameters, Microbial Floor and Immunity Parameters of Two Races of Ross and Cobb of Broiler Chickens

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Abstract: This research was carried out in a completely randomized design to investigate the effect of herd density of two breeds-Ross 308 and Cobb 500- on activity, blood and microflora parameters and immune system in broiler chickens. This experiment was conducted using 270 one-day old broiler chickens (Total Ross and Cobb breeds) in a completely randomized design with 6 treatments, and three replications. In order to carry out this study, two Cobb and Ross 308 breeds were divided into six treatments (each with three levels of density) in groups 1, 2 and 3, respectively, with a density of 10,15 and 20 chickens per area unit (m²); and each group included 3 repetitions. According to the results of different levels of herd density in two breeds of Ross and Cobb during the whole period, it does not show a significant effect on weight gain. The results of carcass traits show that different levels of density in Cobb and Ross breeds had no significant effect on other values except on the breast trait. The results of the effects of different levels of density in Ross and Cobb breeds on biochemical parameters show that the amounts of glucose, uric acid, cholesterol, LDL, total protein and albumin are not affected by the density. Triglyceride, HDL, VLDL and HDL/VLDL traits were affected by density. The amount of Escherichia coli bacteria was affected by different levels of density, but the level of Lactobacillus did not change at various levels of density. Key words: herd density, Ross, Cob, broiler chickens, blood parameters

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