DIFFERENT LEVELS OF BAT MEAL (Family Rhinolophidae) AS FEED SUPPLEMENT TO BROILERS

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Eighty day-old Cobb Broiler chicks were used in the study to determine the effects of bat meal as feed supplement on the growth of broilers. The birds were assigned at random to the treatments and replicated four times with five birds in a replicate. The treatments used were: Treatment A, pure commercial feed; Treatment B, 3% bat meal; Treatment C, 6% bat meal and Treatment D, 9% bat meal.

Statistical analysis showed that there were significant differences between treatment means in the body weight, gain in weight, feed consumption, feed conversion, efficiency and average daily gain. No significant differences were observed in dressing percentage of birds.

Both in terms of body weight and gain in weight, birds given supplements of 3% and 9% bat meal were significantly heavier than those given pure commercial feed and 6% bat meal.

Furthermore, feed consumption of birds fed with ration containing 6% bat meal was also found to be significantly lower than birds fed with pure commercial feeds and also than birds given the ration containing 3 and 9% bat meal.

In terms of feed conversion efficiency, birds given supplements of 9%, 6% and 3% bat meal were better feed converters than birds given pure commercial feeds.