THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

EFFECT OF LEVELS OF CRUDE PROTEIN AND CALORIE/PROTEIN RATIO ON QUAIL GROWTH

BY
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A RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.

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DECLARATION

To the best of my knowledge, this fifth year research report has never been done by any one for the acquisition of a degree at any university worldwide. Henceforth, I declare that all the results herein are independent and are a true reflection of the study that was undertaken.

…………………………….

HAMUNGALE OBRIGHT
DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to all my beloved family members and friends for the support they offered during my school days at The University of Zambia.
ABSTRACT

This study was observed for a period of 35 days during which the birds (quails) were fed on feeds that were formulated. A pre-trial and two actual trials were conducted to investigate the effect of different protein levels and calorie/protein ratios in the diets. The diets for pre-trial and first actual trial had 27% and 24% CP at 2900 kcal/kg ME with calorie-protein ratios of 107 and 121, respectively. While diets for second trial had 24% and 20% CP at 2900 kcal/kg having different calorie-protein ratios of 121 and 145, respectively.

Sixty-four (64) unsexed chicks which had just hatched were put into two groups randomly and were observed for a period of 7 days (pre-trial). At the end of pre-trial phase the birds were distributed in a 2 X 2 Factorial laid as Completely Randomized Design (CRD). Each treatment (feed) had four replications and there were 6 birds in each experimental unit.

In the second trial an infection was suspected to have occurred and about 8% mortality was recorded. The Analysis of Variance on feed intake and body weights showed a significant difference ($p \leq 0.05$) between starter 1(27% CP) and starter 2 (24% CP) during the first trial. The results of feed intake, body weights and feed conversion ratio for the second trial did not show a significant difference between grower 1(24% CP) and grower 2 (20% CP).

Further more, the ANOVA on breast muscle weights, liver weights and fat extracted from Liver samples of slaughtered birds at the end of the second trial showed no significant difference between the treatments.

In addition, the ZABS and NRC recommendations gave different growth performances of birds in the first trial. In the second trial the two recommendations (ZABS and NRC) did not show any difference in terms of growth performance.
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I would also like to express my thanks to all members of staff in the school of Agricultural sciences and my colleagues for the encouragement and many other services that they offered during this study.

Ultimately, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to almighty God for see me through up to the end of my degree program.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGE</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF TABLES</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRONYM</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1

1.0   INTRODUCTION ................................................................. 1

1.1   General information ...................................................... 1

1.2   Background to the study .................................................. 1

1.3   Problem statement .......................................................... 2

1.4   Justification ................................................................. 3

1.5   Research objectives ....................................................... 3

   1.5.1  Main objective ............................................................ 3

   1.5.2  Specific objectives ..................................................... 3

   1.5.3  Hypotheses ................................................................... 4

## CHAPTER 2

2.0   LITERATURE REVIEW ............................................................ 5

## CHAPTER 3

3.0   MATERIAL AND METHODS ....................................................... 7

3.1   Pre-trial phase ............................................................... 7

3.2   Starter feed (first trial) and Grower feed (second trial) ............ 7

3.3   Cages and Bird management .................................................. 8

3.4   Diet used ....................................................................... 8

3.5   Data Collection ............................................................... 11
3.5.1 Pre – Trial .................................................................11
3.5.2 First trial .................................................................11
3.5.3 Second Trial ..............................................................11
3.5.4 Breast muscle and Livers .............................................12
3.5.5 Cost of producing each feed .......................................12
3.5.6 Statistical Analysis .....................................................12

CHAPTER 4
4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION ........................................13
4.1 General health of birds ...................................................13
4.2 Pre-trial phase .............................................................13
4.3 First Trial (Starter phase) .................................................14
  4.3.1 Feed intake .........................................................14
  4.3.2. Body weights of birds ..............................................15
  4.3.3 Feed Conversion Ratios ............................................17
  4.3.4. Strain comparison during the first trial .........................18
4.4. Second trial of the study .................................................19
  4.4.1. Feed consumption during the second trial ....................19
  4.4.2. Body weights of birds .............................................20
  4.4.3. Feed conversion ratios ...........................................20
  4.4.4 The breast muscles of slaughtered birds ......................21
  4.4.5. Livers of slaughtered birds ......................................21
  4.4.6 Extracted oil from Livers of slaughtered birds ................22
  4.4.3 Cost of producing each feed ....................................22

CHAPTER 5
5.0 CONCLUSIONS ..........................................................24
Appendix ............................................................................25
References ...........................................................................29
LIST OF TABLES

TABLE                                                                                   PAGE
3.1  Percent composition of ingredients in the Rations..............................................9
3.2  Calculated Composition of Rations......................................................................10
4.1  Average body weights (in grams) of birds during the first trial...........................15.
4.2  Feed conversion ratios for the first week of first trial........................................17
4.3  Feed conversion ratios for the second week of first trial.....................................17
4.4  Average feed intake, body weights and FCR for the strains..................................18
4.5  Average feed consumption (in grams) for the second trial....................................19
4.6  Average body weights (in grams) during the second trial......................................20
4.7  Feed conversion ratios for the second trial.........................................................20
4.8  Average breast muscles (in grams) of slaughtered birds......................................21
4.9  Average Liver weights (in grams) of birds slaughtered.........................................21
4.10 Market price for each ingredient used in feed formulation.................................23

LIST OF FIGURES

GRAPH
4.1  Average feed consumption during the First trial......................................................14
4.2  Average body weights during the first trial............................................................16

ACRONMY

ANOVA                                                          Analysis of Variance
CP                                                                   Crude protein
DCP                                                                Dicalcium phosphate
FAO                                                                Food Association Organization
FCR                                                                Feed Conversion Ratio
Kcal                                                               Kilo calories
ME                                                                 Metabolisable energy