

# **IMPROVING HEAT TOLERANCE OF BROILER CHICKS TO HEAT STRESS CONDITIONS**

By

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B.Sc. Agric. Sc. (Poultry Production), Zagazig University, 2004

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## **Approval Sheet**

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## ABSTRACT

**Ahmed Gouda Abd-Allah Abd-Allah: Improving Heat Tolerance of Broiler Chicks to Heat Stress Conditions. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Poultry Production, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2010.**

The beneficial effect of raising ambient temperature at early Age, some feeding programs and their combination in improving productivity of broiler chicks under summer season stress conditions was examined. A total of 200 one day old commercial broiler chicks were used in the present study. They were divided in two groups of 100 birds each. The first group was subjected to  $38^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}$  for 24h at d-5 post-hatching (**heat conditioning group, H.C**) while the second group was kept as a control (**non heat conditioning group, N.H.C**). At d-7 birds were individually weighed, wing banded and then divided into four sub groups with approximately similar initial body weight. The sub groups were qualitative (70 %) feed restriction (**FR**) on d 7, 8 and 9 post-hatching, feed withdrawal (**FWD**) for 24h on d 9 and supplemental vitamin C (**Vit C**) group from 21 to 42 DOA and then the control group.

Chicks of all treatments were kept under similar managerial, hygienic and environmental conditions and vaccinated against common diseases.

Results indicate that average body weight, weight gain, feed intake and feed conversion ratio were significantly affected at 21 and 42 DOA. Respiration rate and body temperature were significantly reduced at 21 and 42 DOA. A varying magnitude in the relative weights of some internal organs, carcass, thigh, breast, and abdominal fat, heart, gizzard and LIVER were recorded. Thyroidal hormones ( $T_3$ ,

T<sub>4</sub>) and their ratio T<sub>3</sub>/ T<sub>4</sub> showed considerable changes related to age of broiler chicks.

Moreover, plasma total protein, albumin, globulin and A/ G ratio were significantly changed by different treatments. Besides, blood hemoglobin concentration, haematocrit (%) and H / L ratio leukocytes were significantly affected by treatments. Also, total antibody against to Newcastle disease Virus **NDV** in response to treatments was significantly affected 20 days post Vaccination. Heat shock protein 70 (**HSP70**), was also changed by treatments

It is concluded from the present results that subjecting broiler chickens to early age heat conditioning at 5 DOA or using some feeding programs (FR, FWD and Vit C) during hot environmental temperatures could improve the productivity of broiler chicks under summer stress conditions.

**Key words:** Broiler chicks, heat conditioning, feed restriction, feed withdrawal, vitamin C, blood parameters, performance.

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## **CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>VI</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATION</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b>	
1- Effect of heat stress on productive performance	4
2- Physiological response to heat stress	7
2-1 Body temperature and respiratory rate	7
2-2 Blood constituents	9
2-2-1 Thyroid hormones (T <sub>3</sub> and T <sub>4</sub> )	9
2-2-2 Plasma total protein, albumin and globulin	10
2-2-3 Hematocrit ( Ht % ) Hemoglobin( Hb g/dL )	11
3- Immunophysiological response to heat stress	12
3-1 Heterophils/ lymphocytes ratio (H/ L)	12
3-2 Antibody production	13
4- Effect of early age heat conditioning on productive performance of broiler chicks	15
5- Effect of some feeding programmes	18
5-1 Vitamin C (Vit C)	18
5-2 Early feed restriction (FR)	22
5-3 Feed withdrawal	24
6- Heat Shock protein responses (HSP)	26
6-1 Different types of heat shock proteins	27
6-2 Heat shock protein 70	30
6-2-1 Induction of HSP70	31
6-2-2 Hsp70 functions	33



## II

7- Heat Shock protein 70 and feeding programs.	38
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### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

1- Birds, management and experimental treatments	41
2- The experimental diet's	42
3- The experimental design	44
4- Studied traits	44
4.1- Growth performance parameters	44
4.2- Carcass characteristics and some organs weight	44
4.3- Physiological parameters	45
a- Rectal Temperature and Respiration Rate	45
b- Blood collection	45
c- Hemoglobin determination	45
4.4- Biochemical Parameters	45
4.5- Humoral Immune Response:	46
a- Heterophils to Lymphocytes Ratio (H/L ratio)	46
b-Immunization and Titration against Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV)	46
- Preparation of Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS)	46
- Preparation of NDV Antigen	46
- Preparation of Chicken Red Blood Cells (cRBC) Suspension	46
- NDV- Hemagglutination Inhibition (HI) Titers	47
5- Measurement of Heat shock proteins	47
- Liver hsp70 determination	47
6- Economical efficiency	48
7- Statistical analysis	48

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

1- Productive performance of broiler chickens at different ages	49
1.1- Body weight (BW) and body weight gain (BWG)	49

### III

1.2- Feed intake and Feed conversion ratio	52
2- Rectal temperature (°C) and respiration rate (Frequency / min)	54
3- Relative weights (%) of carcass and some organs of broiler chickens at 42 days of age.	59
4- Plasma thyroid hormones	62
5- Some blood parameters	66
5.1- Blood heamatological parameters	66
5.2- Plasma total protein, albumin (A), globulin (G) and A/ G ratio	69
6- Antibody production	74
- Immunization and Titration against Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV)	74
7- Heat shock protein 70 (HSP70)	76
8- Economical efficiency (EE)	81
<b>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION</b>	84
<b>REFERENCES</b>	88
<b>ARABIC SUMMARY</b>	

## LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Composition and calculated analysis of the experimental diets.	43
2	Effect of different treatments on body weight and body weight gain of broiler chickens at different ages.	50
3	Effect of different treatments on Feed intake and Feed conversion ratio of broiler chickens at different ages.	53
4	Effect of different treatments on rectal temperature (°C) and respiration rate (Frequency / min) of broiler chickens at different ages.	57
5	Relative weights of carcass and some organs of broiler chickens at 42 days of age.	60
6	Plasma triiodothyronine (T3), thyroxin (T4) levels and (T3/T4) ratio of broiler chickens at 3 and 6 weeks of age.	64
7	Effect of different treatment on hematocrit (Ht), hemoglobin (Hb) and H/ L ratio of broiler chickens at 3 and 6 weeks of age.	67
8	Plasma total protein, albumin, globulin and A/ G ratio of broiler chickens at 3 weeks of age.	70
9	Plasma total protein, albumin, globulin and A/ G ratio of broiler Chickens at 6 weeks of age.	71
10	Effect of different treatments on immunization to Newcastle disease Virus 10 and 20 days post Vaccination (at 31 and 42 days of age).	75
11	Rectal temperature, Respiration rate and Liver Hsp70 of broiler after 5 h Of heat exposure at 5 days .	77
12	Effect of different treatments on Heat shock protein 70 (HSP70) of broiler at 3 and 6 weeks of age.	80

13	Effect of different treatments on economical efficiency, at the end of the experimental period.	83
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## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure</b>		<b>Page</b>
1	Different types of heat shock proteins	28
2	Physiological signals that activate heat shock protein (Hsp70) Expression.	37
3	The experimental design	44
4	Effect of different treatments on rectal temperature (°C) of broiler chickens at different ages.	58
5	Effect of different treatments on respiration rate (Frequency / min) of broiler chickens at different ages.	58
6	Relative weights of carcass and some organs of broiler chickens at 42 days of age.	61
7	Plasma triiodothyronine (T <sub>3</sub> ), thyroxine (T <sub>4</sub> ) levels and (T <sub>3</sub> /T <sub>4</sub> ) ratio of broiler chickens at 3 and 6 weeks of age.	65
8	Effect of different treatments on hematocrit (Ht), hemoglobin (Hb) and H/ L ratio of broiler chickens at 3 and 6 weeks of age.	68
9	Plasma total protein, albumin (A), globulin (G) and A/ G ratio at 3 and 6 WOA.	73
10	Effect of different treatments on immunization to Newcastle disease Virus 10 and 20 days post Vaccination (at 31 and 42 days of age).	76
11	Effect of different treatments on heat shock protein 70 (HSP70) of broiler at different ages.	81
12	Effect of different treatments on economical efficiency, at the end of the experimental period.	82

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AA	Ascorbic acid
A.F	abdominal fat
A/ G	Albumin to globulin
BC	blood capillaries
BV	blood vessels
BW	Body weight
BWG	Body weight gain
°C	Dgree of centenary
Cd	Cadmium
CF	Crude Fiber
CS	Corticosterone
DOA	Day of age
EE	Economical Efficiency
FCR	Feed conversion ratio
Fig	Figure
FR	feed restriction
FWD	feed withdrawal
g	gram
GLM	General Linear Models
h	hours
Hb	Hemoglobin
HI	Homagglutination inhibition
H/ L	Heterophils to lymphocytes
HS	Heat Shock
HSC	Heat Shock constitutive
HSF	Heat Shock factor
HSP	Heat Shock proteins
hse	heat shock element

## VIII

Ht	Hematocrit
IBD	Infectious bursal disease
KD	Kilo dalton
Kg	Kilo gram
ME	Metabolizable energy
mg	mille gram
min	minute
NDV	Newcastle disease Virus
Ng	nanogram
NHS	Non heat chock
NRC	National Research Council
ppm	part per million
RH	Relative humidity
RIA	Radio- immune- assay
RR	Respiration rate
SOD	Superoxide dismutase
SRBC'S	Sheep Red Blood Cells
T3	Triiodothyronine
T4	Thyroxine
Tb	Body temperature
VitC	vitamin C- supplied diet
Vit	Vitamin
Vs	Versus
Wk	Week
WOA	Week of age
WP	white pulp
%	Percent