

EVALUATION OF LEGUMES HAY WITH ENZYMES IN GROWING RABBIT DIETS

By

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ABSTRACT

The main target of this study was to evaluate the effect of inclusion some legume crops hay (Bean vines hay; BVH, pea vines hay; PVH and peanut vines hay; PNVH) as a partial substitution of clover hay (25 and 50%) without or with Galzym (0.5g/kg diet, as recommended by the manufacturer) in growing NZW rabbit diets on their growth performance, nutrients digestibility, nutritive value, cecum activity, carcass characteristics, plasma constituents and economic efficiency. Accordingly, a total of 14 experimental treatments were evaluated (3x2x2 + the control without Galzym and control with Galzym=14 treatments). The experimental pelleted diets were formulated to be iso-nitrogenous (~ 17% CP), iso-caloric (~ 2600 Kcal DE/Kg diet) and to satisfy the nutrients requirements of growing rabbits according to Lebas (2004). Results of the experiment showed that rabbit groups fed BVH and PVH had best values ($P \leq 0.05$) of average daily body weight gain and feed conversion ratio than those fed PNVH diet. Feeding rabbits on tested legumes veins hay at 50% declined ($P \leq 0.05$) average daily feed intake as compared to the 25% level. There was significant ($P \leq 0.05$) increase in DM, OM, CP, CF, EE and NFE digestibility and nutritive value in form of TDN, DCP and DE with rabbit groups fed BVH and PVH diet compared to rabbits group fed PNVH. Digestion coefficients (DM% and NFE %) and nutritive values (TDN% and DE kcal/kg) were better significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) by substitution level 25% than 50% level. Feeding rabbits on PNVH resulted in significant lower content of total volatile fatty acids than those of BVH and PVH diets. Legumes veins hay source, levels of substitution and Galzym had no significant effect on all tested carcass characteristics. Values of total protein, albumin, Globulin, AST, ALT, creatinine, urea and cholesterol were found to be within the normal range of plasma blood analysis. All experimental diets improved economic efficiency in comparison to the control diet. According to circumstances of this experiment it could be recommended to replace clover hay with BVH, PVH and PNVH up to 50% without any adverse effects on rabbit performance.

Key words: Rabbits, Legumes hay, Enzymes, growth.

DEDICATION

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Last but not least, I dedicate this work to soul of my dear father.

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CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION.....	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE.....	3
1. The importance of fiber in rabbit nutrition	3
2. Available quantities of legumes by-products.....	5
3. Chemical composition and feeding value of legumes by-products	7
a. Green bean by-products	8
b. Pea by-products.....	10
c. Peanut by-products.....	12
4. Anti-nutritional factors in legumes by-products.....	15
5. Effect of legumes by-products on the growth performance of livestock.....	19
a. Live Body weight and body weight gain.....	19
b. Feed intake.....	22
c. Feed conversion ratio (FCR).....	26
6. Effect of legumes by-products on the nutrients digestibility and nutritive values.....	29
7. Effect of legumes by-products on carcass characteristics	33
8. Effect of legumes by-products on blood parameters.....	35
9. Effect of legumes by-products on economic efficiency.....	37
10. Exogenous enzymes.....	38
a. Effect of exogenous enzymes on growth performance of livestock.....	38
b. Effect of exogenous enzymes on the nutrients digestibility and nutritive value	43
c. Effect of exogenous enzymes on carcass characteristics	46
MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	49
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	63

1. The chemical analysis of the experimental legumes veins hay compared to clover hay.....	63
2. Antinutritional content of the experimental legumes veins hay	65
3. Effect of experimental diets on growth performance of rabbits....	66
a. Live body weight and average daily body weight gain.....	66
b. Average daily feed intake.....	69
c. Feed conversion ratio.....	74
4. Effect of experimental diets on nutrients digestion and nutritive value.....	75
5. Effect of experimental diets on cecum activity	79
6. Effect of experimental diets on carcass characteristics	80
7. Effect of experimental diets on plasma constituents.....	83
8. Effect of experimental diets on economic efficiency.....	85
SUMMARY	87
REFERENCES	91
ARABIC SUMMARY	