



PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF TURKEY REARING AT A COMMERCIAL FARM IN BÉKÉS COUNTY

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Abstract: *Data were collected from results of 3 turkey rearing periods: initial headcount, weekly average individual live weight per sex and stable, mortality per sex and stable, sold number of birds, total feed consumption during the turn. At the time of reception, the female herds were on average almost 13% less in live weight than the value prescribed for the hybrid. The average individual live weight at the farm was 18.68 kg for males and 7.16 kg for hens. For this, the average feed conversion was 2.482 kg/kg, which is close to the values reported for the Converter hybrid. The main causes of death were mostly various intestinal and respiratory diseases and overcrowding.*

• Introduction

The difficulty of the turkey production during that long period of rearing is financing as a major burden on the sector actors. The pre-rearing period lasts 6 weeks. The hen is fattened for an additional 8 weeks, while the buck is fattened for 14 weeks. The aim of this study was to evaluate the rearing results of turkey on a commercial farm, and compare it with the standard of the Hybrid Converter breed.

• Material and method

Data were collected from results of 3 recently closed (2019-2020) turkey rearing periods: initial headcount, weekly average individual live weight per sex and stable, mortality per sex and stable, number of sold birds, total feed consumption by feed type and total during the turn.

• Results and discussions

In no case did the three pre-reared mixed-sex turkey flocks presented in the research reach the standard body weight values prescribed for the Converter hybrid at 6 weeks of age. The lack of live weight during pre-rearing may have caused the animals to perform below the standard value throughout the fattening period, although the males approached it more than the hens. Early rearing mistakes could not be fully compensated. The feed conversion capacity of the animals corresponded to the value published by other authors about the hybrid. The mortality rate generally remained within acceptable levels during fattening. The most common causes of rejections were intestinal and respiratory diseases, and foot problems.