Feeding herb extract could increase poultry body weight and survival rate

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ABSTRACT

餵食草藥萃取物可提高家禽重量與飼育存活率

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Crossed by the Tropic of Cancer and surrounded by warm ocean currents, the unique geographical environment gives Taiwan a climate conducive to both agriculture and animal husbandry. Because of market size and international competition, the animal husbandry industry in Taiwan is therefore facing serious challenges. Therefore, how to make the livestock products more competitive, is an important industrial and economic issues for Taiwan. The current study demonstrated that added 2 and 6% (w/w) herbal extract in feed increased the body weight of common quail (Coturnix coturnix) up to 21.6 and 17.9% (w/w), respectively. Meanwhile, the survival rate was also increased from 60% (un-added control) to 80% (added 2% herbal extract) and 90% (added 6% herbal extract). The increasing of body weight could be reversed to un-added control if the herb was pre-extracted by ethanol. However, this ethanol extraction had no influence on the survival rate. This result implied there is two different bioactive ingredients in herbal extract both increased body weight and survival rate of quails, respectively. Similar result also showed in broiler chicken after same treatment. Added with 2% herbal extract in feed, the body weight of broiler chicken showed 6.5% (w/w) increasing compared to un-added control. The survival rate was also increased from 70% of un-added control to 100% of 2% added. In summary, current study indicated that herbal extract could be incorporated into anim...