

Original Research Article

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Effect of Protein Levels, Ascorbic Acid and their Interaction on Performance of Colour Hen during Pre and Post Summer Periods

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ABSTRACT

Dual type colour hens were evaluated for performance traits during pre summer (92.4⁰F to 100.3⁰F, average 95.3⁰F) and post summer (101.7⁰F to 106.3⁰F, average 104.6⁰F) periods, feeding P₁(15%.CP), P₂(16.5%.CP) and P₃(18%.CP) protein diet with ascorbic acid (250mg/kg) supplementation. Feed intake/hen/day and egg production/hen/period was significantly higher (P<0.05) in P₂ than P₁ and P₃ during both summer periods. Egg weight of P₂ and P₃ was non significant in pre summer whereas during post summer, P₂ egg weight was significantly higher than P₁ and P₃. Feed efficiency/kg egg mass in P₂ and P₃ was non significantly different and significantly better than P₁. During post summer feed efficiency (FE) improved significantly (P<0.05) with increasing protein levels. Feed Intake (FI), egg production (EP), egg weight was decreased in post summer than pre summer in the range of 13.64% to 23.28%, 5.28% to 12.81% and 2.71% to 6.25% respectively. An adverse effect on FI was higher, followed by egg production than egg weight. FE improved in the range of 3.78% to 9.17% shown higher improved in P₃ high protein diet. Ascorbic acid supplementation (250/mg/kg) significantly improved FI and EP in both summer period, Egg wt in pre summer and FE in Post summer period. Treatment P₂XC₁ has higher feed intake, egg production, egg weight and feed efficiency/ kg egg mass during pre and post summer period.

Keywords

Colour hens,
Protein, Ascorbic
acid, Interaction,
Performance, etc.

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Introduction

Protein and energy are major dietary components of feed formulation. Its requirement and efficiency of utilization has been found to be influenced by genotype and environment. In tropical countries summer temperature varies from 32⁰C to 46⁰C. Higher temperature causes decrease performance of birds through reduced feed intake, nutrient

utilization, high body temperature and disturbed physiology and metabolic process. Under heat stress excess plasma corticosterone hormones are released which adversely influence physiology and metabolic process in birds. Increase body temperature causes tissue damage and release of intracellular substances. Ascorbic acid (AA) has been found to limit rise in circulatory corticosterone concentration (Sahin *et al.*,

2002), body temperature (Pardue *et al.*, 1985). Dietary supplementation of ascorbic acid (AA) improves performance of birds. Contradictory findings are also reported in literature (De faria *et al.*, 2001). In view of this context, dual type Jabalpur colour hens were evaluated for performance traits under pre and post summer periods, feeding varying protein levels with ascorbic acid supplementation.

Materials and Methods

Fourty week age 108 dual type colour hens were randomly housed in individual cages in six dietary treatment groups. Each group had 18 birds in 3 replicates. Ration containing 15%, 16.5% and 18% crude protein with 2700 kcal ME/kg diet were prepared. All three rations were supplemented with ascorbic acid (250mg/kg diet) and its counter-part without AA, making 6 dietary treatments. Experiment conducted for 84 days from 25 Feb to 19 May as pre summer and post summer periods, each one of 42 days duration. Daily egg production and egg weight was recorded and compiled weekly and 6 wk pre and post summer periods. Replicate wise egg mass in each week and in each 6 week period was estimated. Daily measured amount of feed was given to replicated group of birds to determine feed efficiency/Kg egg mass. Ambient shed temperature was recorded daily 3 times (10am, 2pm and 5pm) and its average calculated for weekly and periodically. Collected data was analyzed as per Snedecor and Cochran (1994) and means were tested for significance of difference.

Results and Discussion

Shed temperature measured 3 times daily was range between 92.4⁰F to 100.3⁰F (Av. 95.3⁰F) during pre summer and 101.7⁰F to 106.3⁰F (Av. 104.6⁰F) during post summer period. Increasing dietary protein from P2 to P3 level

result in significant ($P<0.05$) decreased FI at level of 11.28g/hen/day during pre summer and 19.53g/hen/day during post summer. P1 and P3 were non significant during pre summer whereas during post summer P3 has significantly ($P<0.05$) lowest feed intake. Dhagir (1996) and Lin *et al.*, (2006) reported decreased FI and performance of hens fed high protein diet under high environment temperature. The result was in agreement to these authors. Increased ambient shed temperature from 95.3⁰F (range 92.4⁰F to 100.3⁰F) to 104.6⁰F (range 101.7⁰F to 106.3⁰F) during post summer decreases FI of P1, P2, P3 protein diet at level of 13.9g (13.46%), 16.30g. (13.94) and 24.6g (23.28%) respectively, indicated higher decrease in high protein diet. Ebeid *et al* (2012) and Attia *et al.*, (2016) Stated that bird consume less feed to decrease body heat increment associated with nutrient metabolism.

Egg no./hen/ period were significantly higher ($P<0.05$) in P2 than P1 and P3 protein levels during both summer period. P1 and P3 were non significant. Experiments conducted in summer climate revealed detrimental effect of high protein under high summer temperature. (Dhagir, 1996; Tyagi and Serajuddin, 2007; Sahin, *et al.*, 2009) The present result supported these authors. The egg no./hen during post summer period were decreased by 1.44 egg (5.28%), 3.03 egg (10.60%) and 3.35 egg (12.81%) in P1,P2,P3 protein levels respectively with increased average shed temp from 95.3⁰F to 104.6⁰F. These values also shown higher decrease in high protein diet. Significantly lower egg production with increased ambient temperature was reported by Sahin *et al* (2009) and Attia *et al* (2016). As the environment temperature rises above 90⁰F (32.2⁰C), temperature regulatory mechanism not adequate to control body temperature near normal range resulting in heat stress. Release of excess corticosterone

in heat stressed bird, adversely affect physiological and metabolic process, resulting lower performance of birds (Pardue *et al.*, 1985).

Egg weight of P₂ was non significantly different from P₃ during pre summer whereas significantly higher in post summer, indicated some lower sensitivity of egg weight than feed intake and egg production. P₁ egg weight was significantly lower in both summer. In comparison to pre summer, egg weight in post summer was depressed by 1.44g (2.7%) 3.03g

(5.54%) and 3.35g (6.24%) respectively in P₁, P₂, P₃ protein diet. Depression in egg weight was recorded lower than feed intake and egg production. Similar finding was reported by Ebeid, et al (2012) and song, et al (2012). Feed efficiency/kg egg mass was improved with increasing protein level in diet with non significant difference between P₂, P₃ in pre summer and significant in post summer. Parson et al (1993) and Zou and Wu (2005) reported significantly better FE with increasing dietary protein level (Table 1).

Table.1 Effect of protein and ascorbic acid on performance of colour dual type hens during pre and post summer periods

Factors		Feed intake (g)/hen/day		Egg No./hen/period		Mean egg wt. (g)		Feed efficiency	
		Pre summer	Post summer	Pre summer	Post summer	Pre summer	Post summer	Pre summer	Post summer
Protein Levels	P ₁ (15% cp)	103.90 ^b	89.91 ^b	24.06 ^b	22.62 ^b	52.60 ^b	51.85 ^b	3.38 ^b	3.22 ^c
	P ₂ (16.5% cp)	116.83 ^a	100.50 ^a	28.58 ^a	25.55 ^a	54.65 ^a	53.75 ^a	3.17 ^a	3.05 ^b
	P ₃ (18% cp)	105.55 ^b	80.97 ^b	26.15 ^b	22.80 ^b	53.67 ^a	52.00 ^b	3.16 ^a	2.87 ^a
Ascorbic acid (AA)	C ₁ (250mg /kgdiet)	114.43 ^a	93.64 ^a	27.77 ^a	24.63 ^a	54.80 ^a	53.26	3.16 ^a	3.00
	Co (without AA)	102.54 ^b	86.43 ^b	24.70 ^a	22.68 ^b	52.70 ^b	51.66	3.31 ^b	3.10

Means within a column for each factor with different superscripts differ significantly (P<0.05)

Table.2 Effect of protein x ascorbic acid interaction on performance of colour dual hens during pre and post summer periods

Factors	Feed intake (g)/hen/day		Egg No./hen/period		Mean egg wt. (g)		Feed efficiency	
	Pre summer	Post summer	Pre summer	Post summer	Pre summer	Post summer	Pre summer	Post summer
P ₁ x C ₁	105.1 ^{bc}	93.5 ^a	24.07 ^{cd}	23.2 ^{bc}	53.0 ^c	52.0 ^{bc}	3.37 ^c	3.25 ^b
P ₂ x C ₁	120.8 ^a	100.2 ^a	30.6 ^a	26.6 ^a	55.3 ^a	54.5 ^a	3.00 ^a	2.90 ^a
P ₃ x C ₁	114.4 ^b	86.7 ^b	28.0 ^b	24.0 ^{bc}	55.0 ^{ab}	53.3 ^{ab}	3.12 ^b	2.85 ^a
P ₁ x C ₀	99.6 ^{cd}	85.0 ^{bc}	23.4 ^d	22.0 ^{cd}	52.6 ^c	50.7 ^c	3.40 ^c	3.20 ^b
P ₂ x C ₀	113.2 ^b	98.6 ^a	26.5 ^{bc}	24.4 ^b	53.5 ^{bc}	53.0 ^{ab}	3.35 ^c	3.20 ^b
P ₃ x C ₀	100.8 ^d	76.5 ^c	24.3 ^d	21.6 ^d	52.3 ^c	51.3 ^c	3.20 ^b	2.90 ^a

Means within column with at least one common superscripts are non significantly different (P<0.05)

The present result was in agreement during post summer of high ambient temperature and partially supported in pre summer of lower ambient temperature. Feed efficiency/kg egg mass was recorded superior in post summer than pre summer of comparatively lower environment temperature.

Ascorbic acid (AA) supplementation @250mg/kg significantly improved FI/hen during pre and post summer periods. The result collaborated with the finding of Sahota and Gillani (1995), Cheng *et al* (1990). Mean egg no./hen/period was significantly better in ascorbic acid (AA) supplemented diet during pre and post summer whereas mean egg weight shown significantly different during pre summer of lower ambient shed temperature. Panda, *et al* (2007) reported significantly improved egg production and non significant effect on egg weight of hens, supplemented 250 mg/kg ascorbic acid (AA) in diet. Whereas, Ciftsi, *et al.*, (2005) reported significantly higher egg weight and egg production of hens supplemented 250 mg /kg ascorbic acid (AA) in diet. The present experiment conducted in two summer temperature regimes, shown beneficial effect of ascorbic acid (AA) on egg weight during pre summer having comparatively lower temperature than post summer. Feed efficiency/kg egg mass was significantly improved during pre summer where as non significant difference observed during post summer period of high ambient temperature. Significantly improved FCR with ascorbic acid (AA) supplementation during summer (31-45⁰ C) was reported by (Abd-Ellah, 1995, Sahota and Gillani 1995 and Panda *et al.*, 2007). The present study result supported above authors during pre summer but having contrary finding in post summer of high ambient temperature.

Protein × AA interaction result (Table 2) shown significantly higher FI/hen/day and

egg production/hen/ period in $P_2 \times C_1$ treatment during both summer period. Mean egg weight was also found higher in $P_2 \times C_1$ with non significant difference from $P_3 \times C_1$ and significant from all other $P \times C$ combinations. Feed efficiency/ kg egg mass during pre summer was significantly superior in P_2C_1 where as during post summer P_2C_1 , P_3C_1 and P_3C_0 were non significant different and significantly better than other $P \times C$ combinations.

The results concluded that P_2 dietary protein improve feed intake, egg production, egg weight and feed efficiency during both summer period. Feed intake and egg production traits were found sensitive to P_3 higher protein diet in both pre and post summer temperature range whereas egg weight influenced adversely in post summer of high shed temperature. Increased temperature in post summer result in higher percent decrease in feed intake followed by egg production than egg weight. AA 250 mg/kg improved FI and egg production significantly during pre and post summer whereas egg weight and feed efficiency/kg egg mass improved significantly during pre summer. Interaction result shown that $P_2 \times C_1$ treatment improved feed intake, egg production, egg weight, with better feed efficiency during both summer periods compared to other $P \times C$ combinations.

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