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## Technical Note

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## Exogenous Enzymes in Pre-Starter Broiler Diets Based on Corn and Soybean Meal

### ABSTRACT

A fibrolytic enzyme complex was added to the pre-starter diet. Broiler chicks were randomly distributed into five treatments, consisting of a diet with no enzyme addition and four test diets supplemented with 100, 200, 300 and 400g/T of an enzyme complex. The dietary inclusion of the enzyme complex increased weight gain, and the dose of 300g/T improved weight gain and worsened feed conversion ratio.

### INTRODUCTION

The supplementation of exogenous enzymes in pre-starter broiler diets may promote high growth rates; however, the use of fibrolytic enzymes in diets based on corn and soybean meal is difficult to justify.

Non-starch polysaccharides are not found in high levels in conventional corn and soybean meal-based diets, but many broiler farmers supplement feeds with fibrolytic enzymes or carbohydrases during all rearing phases because the sales of commercial enzymes are based on the possible negative correlation between oligosaccharide content and dry matter, protein, and starch digestibility. Despite being used in lower proportion, fibrolytic enzymes are routinely applied during the pre-starter phase.

The present study aimed at evaluating the effects of the addition of a fibrolytic enzyme complex to pre-starter broiler diets based on corn and soybean meal.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three hundred and seventy five Ross 308 male chicks were randomly allotted to five treatments with five replicates of 15 birds each. Treatments consisted of a basal diet based on corn and soybean meal (45% CP) and four diets supplemented with 100, 200, 300 or 400 g/T of an enzyme complex. The enzyme complex included 35 U/g -galactosidase, 110 U/g galactomannanase, 1500 U/g xylanase and 1100 U/g -glucanase. Feeds were formulated to contain 2950 kcal/kg and 21.7% CP.

The following parameters were evaluated: feed intake, weight gain, feed conversion ratio and drumstick, thigh, breast, heart, liver and proventriculus yields.

Data were submitted to analysis of variance ( $p < 0.05$ ) and, when significance was detected, analysis of regression was applied.

### RESULTS



**Table 1** – Mean performance parameter of pre-starter broilers.

Treatments (dose in g/T)	FI. g	WG. g	FCR
0	165	127	1.31
100	171	127	1.35
200	172	127	1.32
300	181	136	1.33
400	179	128	1.40
Mean	173	129	1.34
CV. (%)	4.7	3.1	3.4
	<sup>1</sup> L		<sup>2</sup> Q
R <sup>2</sup>	0.87	-	0.60

1 - Linear:  $\hat{y} = 165.13 + 0.0388x$ . 2 - Quadratic:  $\hat{y} = 1.33 - 0.00016x + 0.0000076x^2$ . Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>.

Feed intake linearly increased with the inclusion of the enzyme complex. Weight gain improved with the dose of 300 g/T, but the polynomial models did not fit to the data. The 400g/T dose of the enzyme complex resulted in the worst feed conversion ratio.

No effects of the enzyme complex supplementation on the other parameters were detected.

## DISCUSSION

Occasionally, the addition of fibrolytic enzymes to poultry diets may not reveal any significant response due to the low substrate availability in conventional corn and soybean meal diets (Dourado *et al.*, 2009); however, enzyme effects may be associated to a reduction in apparent digestibility coefficients of nutrients.

In adult roosters, xylose digestibility was complete, but metabolizability linearly decreased from 92.5% to 79.4% when its dietary level increased from 2.5 to 10% (Schutte, 1991). In broiler chicks, the dietary inclusion of xylose or arabinose impaired weight gain and feed conversion ratio (Schutte 1990; Schutte *et al.*, 1992). In the present study, the action of fibrolytic enzymes worsened feed conversion ratio, which may have been due to a reduction in diet digestibility caused by the release of xylose and arabinose residues. However, there are several explanations for such observations, and it is often impossible to compare the results of different experiments because of differences in the enzyme complex composition, activity and inclusion level. Sometimes, enzyme activity is indicated, but there are differences in expression units and in the methods of determination of the activity level, which may be incorrectly applied. In addition, when enzymes are added to pre-starter diets, the transition of lipid metabolism to carbohydrate metabolism in this phase

## CONCLUSION

The supplementation of 300g/T of the enzyme complex increase the body weight of 7-day-old broilers.

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