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Growth Performance, Organ Weights and Some Blood Parameters of Replacement Laying Pullets Fed with Increasing Levels of Wheat Bran

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the growth performance, organ weights, and selected blood parameters of replacement laying pullets (development phase) fed increasing levels of wheat bran (WB). A total of 240 70-d-old White Leghorn pullets (Hybrid L₃₃) were evaluated for seven weeks. Birds were assigned to three dietary treatments according to a completely randomized design. Treatments consisted of diets containing 100 (T1), 150 (T2), or 200 g/kg (T3) of WB in partial replacement of corn, with 10 replicates per treatment of eight birds per replicate. Birds fed T2 presented higher body weight ($p < 0.05$) compared with T1 and T3 (1112.52 to 1163.35 g). Also, T2 birds presented higher methionine plus cystine intake relative to T1 (0.38 to 0.40 g/bird/day). Likewise, a higher inclusion of WB (200 g/kg) increased crude fiber (2.29 to 2.63 g/bird/day) and crude fat (1.98 to 3.58 g/bird/day) intakes ($p < 0.05$). However, the experimental treatments did not affect the relative weight of the organs or small intestine and cecum length ($p > 0.05$). Serum concentration of triacylglycerols, cholesterol, calcium, phosphorus, hematocrit, or hemoglobin levels were not significantly different ($p > 0.05$) among treatments. These findings indicate a beneficial effect of use of 150 g/kg of wheat bran on the growth performance of pullets during the development phase; however, the inclusion of this cereal up to 200 g/kg had no effect on organ weights and blood parameters.

INTRODUCTION

The high costs of the conventional raw materials caused by the boom of the production of biofuels and by the global economic crisis (Aho, 2007; Gorter *et al.*, 2013) has affected animal production, especially the poultry industry, where the feeds represent between 60 to 70% of the total production cost. Corn is the main source of ethanol in some countries and, although FAO (2013) reported that corn prices have been stabilized by the increasing production of this cereal, the prices are still very high and not profitable for poultry industry. Therefore, developing countries have had to seek alternative feeds for poultry, while maintaining product quality (Olmo *et al.*, 2012), to compensate the negative effects of its higher prices and lower consumption (Aho 2007; Ali *et al.*, 2008).

Wheat bran may be an economical and nutritional alternative for animal feeding in many tropical countries (Mateos *et al.*, 2012). This feedstuff is a by-product of the dry milling of wheat and consists of the hard outer layer of the grains. It has adequate protein content for poultry and high crude fiber levels (106 to 136.3 g/kg) (NRC, 1994), but lower metabolizable energy content than many ingredients such as corn, sorghum, and barley (NRC, 1994). Research studies have shown



the positive effects of the use of WB and its products, combined or not with enzymes, on the growth performance, intestinal microflora, harmful lipids, egg production, and digestibility of some nutrients in poultry (Ali *et al.*, 2008; Courtin *et al.*, 2008).

On the other hand, considering the increasing consumption of functional foods or nutraceuticals, dietary fiber has played an important role in human and animal nutrition (Eswaran *et al.*, 2013). However, several studies with animals obtained contradictory biological responses of non-ruminant animals to dietary fiber. According to Savón *et al.* (2007), dietary fiber helps modulating the immune response in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) by competitive exclusion. It increases the production of volatile fatty acids and reduces intestinal pH, thereby increasing energy levels and reducing serum cholesterol. However, high levels of dietary fiber may increase digestible energy loss, reduce mineral utilization, and negatively affect the growth performance of broilers (González-Alvarado *et al.*, 2007). In this sense, Mateos *et al.* (2012) reports that the effects of dietary fiber are related to its physiochemical characteristics, inclusion levels, feed physical form, and animal species and class.

In layer production, pullets are fed maintenance diets with low protein and amino acid diets during the development stage (10 to 16 weeks). The objective of this phase is to prepare these birds for egg production (NRC, 1994; UECAN, 2011). Nutritional strategies to increase dietary fiber (using mainly legumes and cereal brans) have been evaluated aiming at improving nutrient digestibility, growth performance, and future egg production (Savón *et al.*, 2007; UECAN, 2011).

The objective of the present study was to determine the growth performance, organ weights, and blood parameters of replacement laying pullets during the development phase fed increasing levels of wheat bran partially replacing corn in the diets.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Birds, treatments, and housing

This study was carried out according with Cuban guidelines for poultry husbandry and experimental protocol (UECAN, 2011).

In total, 240 70-d-old White Leghorn (Hybrid L₃₃) pullets were evaluated for seven weeks. Birds were assigned to three dietary treatments according to a completely randomized design with 10 replicates per treatment and eight birds per replicate. Dietary treatments consisted of the inclusion of 100.00 (T1),

150.00 (T2) and 200.00 g/kg (T3) of wheat bran partially replacing corn. Diets were formulated to supply the development pullets' nutritional requirements (UECAN, 2011) (Table 1).

Table 1 – Dietary ingredients and nutritional requirements (as fed) (10 to 16 weeks).

| Ingredients (g/kg) | Experimental diets | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|--------|
| | T1 | T2 | T3 |
| Corn meal | 651.50 | 590.20 | 542.20 |
| Soybean meal | 204.20 | 198.50 | 193.90 |
| Wheat bran | 100.00 | 150.00 | 200.00 |
| Soybean oil | 0.00 | 13.70 | 29.80 |
| Salt | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| DL-Methionine | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| Dicalcium phosphate | 13.20 | 11.50 | 9.50 |
| Calcium carbonate | 23.40 | 28.40 | 16.90 |
| Choline | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.80 |
| Vitamin and trace element premix ¹ | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| <i>Calculated nutritional composition</i> | | | |
| Metabolizable energy (MJ/kg) | 11.72 | 11.72 | 11.72 |
| Crude protein (g/kg) | 145.00 | 145.00 | 145.00 |
| Calcium (g/kg) | 12.00 | 11.90 | 11.60 |
| Available phosphorus (g/kg) | 4.20 | 4.00 | 3.70 |
| Methionine plus cystine (g/kg) | 6.40 | 6.70 | 7.00 |
| Lysine (g/kg) | 7.40 | 7.40 | 7.40 |
| Choline (g/kg) | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.40 |
| Tryptophan (g/kg) | 1.70 | 1.70 | 1.70 |
| Threonine (g/kg) | 5.60 | 5.60 | 5.60 |
| Crude fat (g/kg) | 33.10 | 46.50 | 61.9 |
| Crude fiber (g/kg) | 38.30 | 41.90 | 45.40 |

¹Provided per kilogram of diet: vitamin A, 75,00.0 IU; vitamin D₃, 12,00.0 IU; vitamin E, 7.50 mg; vitamin K₃, 2.1 mg; vitamin B₁₂, 0.009 mg; thiamine, 0.50 mg; riboflavin, 4.00 mg; pyridoxine, 3.00 mg; pantothenic acid, 8.00 mg; niacin, 20.00 mg; biotin, 0.10 mg; folic acid, 0.40 mg; choline, 300.0 mg; manganese, 60.0 mg; zinc, 50.0 mg; iron, 60.0 mg; iodine, 0.80 mg; copper, 8.00 mg; selenium, 0.20 mg; cobalt, 0.50 mg.

Each replicate consisted of a metal cage measuring 80 cm x 80 cm. Feed and water were offered *ad libitum* in trough feeders and nipple drinkers, respectively. A lighting program of 12 h of natural light was applied. Sample size was calculated according to Font *et al.* (2007). Average relative humidity of 77%, 20.5°C average minimum temperature and 30.1°C average maximum temperature were recorded during the experimental period.

Growth performance

All birds were weighed at the start (70 days of age) and end of the experiment (119 days of age). Feed intake (g/bird/day) was measured daily during all the experimental weeks, and calculated as the difference between feed offer and feed residues. Livability was determined as the difference between the initial number of birds and recorded mortality. Tarsus length was measured using a sliding caliper. Nutrient and



metabolizable energy intake were calculated according to their levels in the experimental diets (Table 1).

Organ weights

In week 16, when pullets were 119 days old, 10 birds per treatment were fasted for four hours and weighed in a digital scale (Sartorius model BL 1500). Birds were then bled by puncture of the jugular vein. The spleen, kidney, liver, proventriculus, gizzard, crop, small intestine, right cecum, left cecum, colon plus rectum, ovary, and oviduct were removed and weighed. The length of the small intestine and of the right and left ceca was measured (Martínez *et al.*, 2013a).

Blood parameters

On the day of sacrifice, two 10-mL blood samples collected from the jugular vein of 10 birds per treatment. One of the samples was collected in 20-mL tubes and rested for one hour before centrifugation (Eppendorf centrifuge 5804, USA) at 10000 rpm and 20 °C for 25 minutes for serum separation. The other sample (whole blood) was placed in 2-mL tubes and sodium heparin was added at a ratio of 2:1. Both samples were stored at -20 °C until analyses in the laboratory.

Triglyceride, total cholesterol, calcium, and phosphorus levels were determined in the serum using commercial kits manufactured by Spinreact (Barcelona, Spain) and ultraviolet spectrophotometer (Humalyzer 2000, USA). Packed cell volume and hemoglobin were determined in the whole blood samples by the Wintrobe and Hemotest methods, respectively.

Statistical analysis

Data were submitted to analysis of variance (ANOVA) according a completely randomized design. Duncan's multiple range test was used to determine differences between means, using the statistical software SPSS, version 17.1

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The effects of increasing WB inclusion levels in the diet of replacement laying pullets (10 to 16 weeks of age) on livability, body weight (BW), tarsus length, feed intake, and nutrient and metabolizable energy intakes are presented in Table 2.

Pullet livability and tarsus length were not affected by dietary WB inclusion ($p>0.05$). However, the BW of T2 birds was higher compared with T1 and T3 (50.83 and 34.55 g, respectively), at the end of the experiment

($p<0.05$). Birds fed the T1 and T2 diets presented higher feed intake, as well as metabolizable energy, crude protein, lysine, calcium and available phosphorus intakes compared with T3 ($p<0.05$), whereas the T2 and T3 diets promoted higher of methionine plus cysteine, crude fat intake, and crude fiber intakes as dietary WB increased ($p<0.05$).

Table 2 – Growth performance in replacement laying pullets fed increasing levels of WB (10 to 16 weeks)¹

| Items | Experimental diets | | | SEM | p-value |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|---------|
| | T1 | T2 | T3 | | |
| Livability (%) | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | | |
| Initial BW (g) | 547.80 | 542.81 | 545.30 | 3.39 | 0.58 |
| Final BW (g) | 1112.52 ^b | 1163.35 ^a | 1128.80 ^b | 9.15 | <0.001 |
| Tarsus length (mm) | 101.65 | 102.18 | 101.33 | 0.30 | 0.14 |
| Feed intake (g/bird/day) | 59.86 ^a | 59.67 ^a | 57.88 ^b | 0.39 | 0.006 |
| Metabolizable energy intake (MJ/bird/day) | 0.70 ^a | 0.70 ^a | 0.68 ^b | 0.005 | 0.006 |
| Crude protein intake (g/bird/day) | 8.68 ^a | 8.65 ^a | 8.39 ^b | 0.06 | <0.001 |
| Lysine intake (g/bird/day) | 0.44 ^a | 0.44 ^a | 0.42 ^b | 0.003 | <0.001 |
| Methionine plus cysteine intake (g/bird/day) | 0.38 ^b | 0.40 ^a | 0.41 ^a | 0.003 | <0.001 |
| Calcium intake (g/bird/day) | 0.72 ^a | 0.71 ^a | 0.67 ^b | 0.005 | <0.001 |
| Available phosphorus intake (g/bird/day) | 0.25 ^a | 0.24 ^a | 0.21 ^b | 0.002 | <0.001 |
| Crude fiber intake (g/bird/day) | 2.29 ^c | 2.50 ^b | 2.63 ^a | 0.017 | <0.001 |
| Crude fat intake (g/bird/day) | 1.98 ^c | 2.78 ^b | 3.58 ^a | 0.02 | <0.001 |

^{a,b,c} Means with different superscripts in the same row are significantly different ($p<0.05$) by Duncan's multiple-range test.

¹Growth performance data are means of 10 pens of pullet with eight pullets each.

The increasing levels of WB as a fiber source in the diets of development pullets (10 to 16 weeks of age) did not cause any morbidity or mortality. Savón *et al.* (2007), Ali *et al.* (2008), González-Alvarado *et al.* (2007), and Mateos *et al.* (2012) obtained similar results when using high levels of fiber-rich feedstuffs, supporting the use of WB in diets of development pullets, which have high fiber and low protein requirements (NRC, 1994; UECAN, 2011).

The higher body weight obtained in T2 may be due to the incorporation of the lipids present in soybean oil, which is rich in unsaturated fatty acids (Dänicke *et al.*, 2000; Lefevre *et al.*, 2012) and was not included in T1 (Table 1). According to Aguilar *et al.* (2011), the addition of unsaturated lipids in the diet reduces digesta transit rate, thereby increasing the digestibility of other dietary components. Furthermore, Rosebrough *et al.*



(1999) and Latshaw (2008) reported that lipids can improve feed palatability by reducing dust formation and masking undesirable flavors, thereby increasing feed intake and body weight. This result demonstrates that unsaturated oils may be added to fiber-rich diets for replacement pullets, considering that these pullets should present adequate body condition at the onset of lay and aiming at reducing the incidence of vent prolapse (Martínez *et al.*, 2013a).

On the other hand, WB has beneficial properties that may maximize growth performance. According to Jørgensen *et al.* (1996), when included at moderate levels in the diet, WB improves the growth performance, nutrient digestibility and microbial activity in broiler chickens. Also, Courtin *et al.* (2008) and Craeyveld *et al.* (2010) found that the dietary supplementation with WB arabinoxyloligosaccharides had prebiotic and competitive exclusion effects by increasing the intestinal colonization by *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* and the production of short-chain fatty acids. Eeckhau *et al.* (2008) reported reduced *Salmonella enteritidis* colonization in broilers and Akhtar *et al.* (2012) demonstrated better immune response when WB was included in the diet.

The higher feed intake of T2 birds resulted in higher methionine plus cystine intake (Table 2), which may explain the higher body weight of T2 pullets. Sulfur amino acids function as methyl group donors in biochemical processes, promoting muscle protein synthesis, and are involved in detoxification and immune response of chickens (NRC, 1994). In this regard, Vieira *et al.* (2004) and Aguilar *et al.* (2011) reported that higher sulfur amino acid intake increased the growth performance and yield of edible portions, and decreased the abdominal fat deposition in broilers.

The inclusion of 200.00 g/kg of WB (T3) reduced final body weight and the intake of protein crude, lysine, calcium, available phosphorus and metabolizable energy compared with T2, perhaps due to the higher crude fiber level (Table 1) and crude fiber intake (Table 2) obtained with T3. The T3 diet (200.00 g/kg of WB and 29.80 g/kg of soybean oil) may have increased digesta volume, signaling satiety to the birds (Savón *et al.*, 2007; Mateos *et al.*, 2012). In this sense, Sacranie *et al.* (2012), feeding broilers with different fiber sources and increasing fiber levels, observed reduced feed intake. Indeed, Castanon *et al.* (1990) and Rodríguez *et al.* (2006) reported that increasing fiber levels reduced the feed intake and BW of laying hens. Furthermore, the higher soybean oil inclusion level (Table 1) determined higher crude fat intake in T3 birds

(Table 2), resulting in lower feed intake compared with T1 and T2. This may be related to a possible increase in the levels of the hormone leptin, which regulates long-term voluntary intake, in order to stabilize energy balance (Dridi *et al.* 2000; Martínez & Savón, 2007).

The lack of BW differences between T1 and T3 (Table 2) may have been due to the fact that the experimental diets (Table 1) do not exceed the fiber limits (100.00 g/kg) recommended by the UECAN (2011). In addition, the higher intake of methionine plus cystine in T3 may have compensated the birds' BW compared with T1 (Table 2). Moreover, no negative symptoms of WB intake were observed in the present experiment. According to Hyatt *et al.* (2012), high WB levels may cause undesirable responses due to its high bulk, including laxative effects, as well as rancidity and the presence of WB phenolic acids, such as coumarins and ferulic acid linked to fiber (Shyama & Muralikrishna, 2004).

Table 3 shows that the inclusion of increasing WB levels in the diet of replacement laying pullets (16 weeks) had no effect on the relative weight of the evaluated reproductive organs, immune tissues, digestive organs and viscera, or on small intestine and cecum lengths ($p > 0.05$).

Table 3 – Organ weights and intestinal length of 16-wk-old replacement laying pullets fed increasing WB levels.

| Items | Experimental diets | | | SEM | p-value |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|-------|---------|
| | T1 | T2 | T3 | | |
| Proventriculus (g/kg of BW) | 0.45 | 0.38 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 0.62 |
| Gizzard (g/kg of BW) | 3.33 | 2.94 | 3.14 | 0.20 | 0.43 |
| Crop (g/kg of BW) | 0.55 | 0.40 | 0.42 | 0.04 | 0.07 |
| Small intestine (g/kg of BW) | 2.60 | 2.07 | 2.06 | 0.21 | 0.16 |
| Right cecum (g/kg of BW) | 0.21 | 0.19 | 0.21 | 0.03 | 0.89 |
| Left cecum (g/kg of BW) | 0.24 | 0.21 | 0.20 | 0.03 | 0.63 |
| Colon plus rectum (g/kg of BW) | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.18 | 0.03 | 0.93 |
| Spleen (g/kg of BW) | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.16 | 0.02 | 0.42 |
| Kidney (g/kg of BW) | 0.65 | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.05 | 0.16 |
| Liver (g/kg of BW) | 1.79 | 1.46 | 1.47 | 0.15 | 0.26 |
| Ovary (g/kg of BW) | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.26 |
| Oviduct (g/kg of BW) | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.03 | 0.73 |
| <i>Intestinal length</i> | | | | | |
| Small intestinal (m) | 1.04 | 0.93 | 0.96 | 0.06 | 0.42 |
| Right cecum (m) | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.008 | 0.97 |
| Left cecum (m) | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.009 | 0.75 |

(n = 10/group)

Eastwood (1992), Viveros *et al.* (1994), and Savón *et al.* (2007) reported that increasing levels of fiber in the



diet may increase cecum length due to a physiological adjustment to a longer permanence of digesta in this section. In this sense, González-Alvarado *et al.* (2007) and Martínez *et al.* (2010) found higher relative weight of the digestive organs and accessories when adding different fiber sources to broiler diets. Likewise, Rodríguez *et al.* (2006) reported higher relative weight and morphometry of the cecum of laying hens fed high-fiber diets.

The T3 diet (200.00 WB g/kg) contributed with 45.40 g of crude fiber/kg diet (Table 1) and promoted a crude fiber intake of 0.34 g/bird/day (Table 2); however, it was not sufficient to increase cecum weight and length compared with the T1 diet. These results are different from the findings of the authors mentioned above, who found heavier ceca in chickens fed diets containing higher fiber levels than those applied in the present study. The obtained gizzard relative weight also suggests that the fiber levels used in the current experiment were not high enough to change the weight of the digestive organs. In this sense, Hetland *et al.* (2003) reported that high-fiber diets cause an increase in the gizzard weight due to the fact that fiber is more difficult to grind than other nutrients and therefore accumulates in the gizzard.

On the other hand, the higher crude fat level and intake (Tables 1 and 2) obtained with the T2 and T3 diets, which contained soybean oil, may have influenced those results. As previously explained, the unsaturated lipids present in soybean oil may reduce the rate of intestinal transit (Aguilar *et al.*, 2011), and therefore, may have counteracted the effect of fiber in the ceca. Moreover, because the crude fat intake was not excessive in the present experiment, liver relative weight and function were not affected (Okazaki *et al.*, 2006). According to Connor *et al.* (1969), lipid digestion and transport to the liver in poultry greatly differs from mammals, especially cholesterol, which is stored in the liver of newly-hatched chicks, whereas it is stored in brain of newly-born mammals. Similar results were reported by Cherry & Jones (1982), Aguilar *et al.* (2011), and Martínez *et al.* (2013b), when including high concentrations of polyunsaturated fat in the diets of the chickens.

The spleen is the main immune organ of laying pullets, and its relative weight was not affected by the treatments. Rodríguez *et al.* (2006) and González-Alvarado *et al.* (2007) did not observe any changes in the relative weight of this organ in laying pullets and broilers, respectively, fed different fiber sources. During the development phase (10 to 16 weeks of age), the immune system of laying pullets is stable and it is

characterized by the involution of the thymus and the bursa of Fabricius (Martínez *et al.*, 2013a).

In the present experiment, dietary WB inclusion and levels did not influence the relative weight of the reproductive organs (ovary and oviduct). Similar results were reported by Castanon *et al.* (1990), Rodríguez *et al.* (2006) and Savón *et al.* (2007).

In the present experiment, blood cholesterol, triglyceride, phosphorus, calcium, hemoglobin, and hematocrit values of the laying pullets, as measured when birds were 16 weeks old, were not affected by increasing WB levels in the diets ($p>0.05$) (Table 4).

Table 4 – Evaluated blood parameters of replacement laying pullets fed increasing WB levels (16 weeks of age).

| Items | Experimental diets | | | SEM | p-value |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| | T1 | T2 | T3 | | |
| Hematocrit (u/L) | 0.33 | 0.35 | 0.36 | 0.02 | 0.56 |
| Hemoglobin (g/L) | 107.50 | 105.00 | 102.00 | 5.42 | 0.64 |
| Cholesterol (mg/dL) | 102.85 | 113.59 | 117.65 | 12.74 | 0.71 |
| Triglycerides (mg/dL) | 73.30 | 67.98 | 67.54 | 7.99 | 0.85 |
| Phosphorus (mg/dL) | 1.16 | 1.24 | 1.54 | 0.42 | 0.79 |
| Calcium (mg/dL) | 3.71 | 3.76 | 3.76 | 0.12 | 0.95 |

(n = 10/group)

The inclusion of WB in the diets did not influence hematocrit or hemoglobin values. Savón *et al.* (2007) and Martínez *et al.* (2010) reported similar responses in growing chickens fed different fiber sources.

Our results are consistent with the findings of Cherry & Jones (1982) and Rieckhoff *et al.* (1999), who did not observe any reduction of blood cholesterol values when feeding WB to laying pullets and hamsters, respectively, as well as with those reported by McNaughton (1978), who did not detect any serum cholesterol changes when increasing fiber level in the diet of laying hens.

On the other hand, Kahlon *et al.* (1998), Kahlon *et al.* (2006), and Ali *et al.* (2008) reported a reduction in blood cholesterol levels when WB was added to the diets. According to Savón *et al.* (2007), dietary fiber reduces cholesterol absorption by binding with bile salts in the gastrointestinal tract, reducing intestinal transit time and increasing sterol excretion in the feces. Likewise, Savón *et al.* (2007), and Aguilar *et al.* (2011) found a lower blood levels of this lipid in broilers fed with high-fiber diets. This indicates that fiber levels higher than those used in the present experiment (38.30 to 45.40 g/kg) are needed to reduce serum cholesterol.

Despite the numerical reduction of serum triglyceride levels promoted by increasing wheat bran



dietary levels in the present experiment, this result was not statistically significant. According to Dänicke *et al.* (2000), soybean oil, which was included in T2 and T3, contain high oleic acid levels. Viveros *et al.* (2009) reported a decrease of serum triglyceride levels, explained by an increase of the activity of the enzyme lipoprotein lipase (LPL) in response to a higher inclusion level of oleic acid in the diet of the broilers. The higher crude fat percentage (Table 1) and consequent higher crude fat intake (Table 2) obtained with the T2 and T3 diets compared to T1 may have been balanced triglyceride levels, considering that soybean oil, which is rich in triacylglycerols, was not included in the control diet (T1). However, other experiments are needed to justify this hypothesis.

Serum phosphorus levels were not influenced by the treatments (Table 4), which was not expected, as WB is a viable source of phytases (Cavalcanti & Behnke, 2004). Ali *et al.* (2008) reported an increase serum P levels in broilers fed diets containing 300 g WB/kg. The low phosphorus content of the experimental diets (Table 1) and the observed low P intake may have influenced that result.

Likewise, blood calcium levels were not different among treatments (Table 4), possibly because the crude fiber intake (Table 2) was not excessive. High dietary fiber levels may cause retention of minerals and decrease their bioavailability, especially of calcium (Savón *et al.*, 2007; Mateos *et al.*, 2012).

CONCLUSIONS

The inclusion of 150 g wheat bran/kg in partial replacement of corn in the diet of replacement laying pullets fed during the development phase (10 to 16 weeks) promoted better growth performance compared with 100 and 200 g wheat bran/kg. However, the inclusion of this cereal up to 200 g/kg had no effect on organ weights or blood parameters.

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Conferência FACTA

17 a 19 de maio, 2016 - Expo Dom Pedro, Campinas, SP

Avicultura
Sustentável

Realização:



SAVE
THE **DATE**

17 a 19
MAIO 2016