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## **Performance and carcass traits of broiler chicks fed different levels of Canola meal**

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This experiment was conducted to investigate the effects of using different levels of canola meal on performance and carcass characteristics of broilers. In this experiment were used of fifteen day old Cobb500 (combining sex) broiler chickens were used in completely randomized design with 4 treatments and 3 replicates. The canola meal was used in the levels of 0 (control), 8, 16 and 24 percent in whole diet for the periods of grower (15-35d) and finisher (35-49d) in 5 weeks. All diet applied in this experiment were similar in energy and crude protein. The results showed that feed intake in all stages, body weight gain, feed conversion ratio in grower phase and live weight at 35d were similar across treatments ( $P > 0.05$ ), while body weight gain, feed conversion ratio in finisher phase and overall period (15-49d) of experiment and live weight at 49d were statistically different ( $P < 0.05$ ). In the end of experiment (at 49d), comparing the effects of treatments on carcass traits showed that slaughter weight (body weight minus blood, feather, head and feet), oven ready yield (carcass including neck, skin and abdominal fat), in 24 percent level of canola meal in diet, were less than others ( $P < 0.05$ ). Increasing use of canola meal in diets has led to significant increase in percentage of liver and bile sac ( $P < 0.05$ ), but no significant difference was observed in percentage of carcass (oven ready yield), thighs, breast and abdominal fat pad among all treatments ( $P > 0.05$ ). Therefore under the conditions of this study, use of 16 percent level of canola meal might be more useful and practical in broiler diets.

**Keywords:** Canola meal, Broiler chicken, Carcass traits, Performance

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