

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

EFFECT OF BANANA PEELS IN COSTS REDUCTION AND CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS OF MEAT RABBITS

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Researches indicate human population will still have animal protein deficiency in the future. As a valuable and viable alternative, cuniculture stands out because of its meat with high biological value, low fat, tenderness and flavor. Besides that, rabbit has some peculiar characteristics such as the efficient use of fiber. In this way, providing residues and by-products is possible, which reduces the application of products that may be used in human nutrition. In this context, the purpose to this study was to evaluate the characteristics and the profitability of carcass in rabbits that were fed with diets containing banana peels (BP) in substitution of maize. The biological essay was carried out with three groups of White New Zealand rabbits, allocated in a proper shed, which received diets with 0%, 25% and 50% of banana peels in substitution of maize. The slaughter was made when the rabbits were 80 days old. Carcass weight was recorded, and the carcasses were submitted to chemical analysis for verifying dry matter, mineral matter and protein. After-slaughter data (carcass weight and yield, liver and skin) showed that, with an increasing level of banana peels in the diet, there were no differences for the evaluated parameters in all the treatments. Centesimal analysis of meat composition data revealed that, with the substitution, there were no differences in the parameters; although, in the analysis of protein, there was a small increase of this nutrient due to the addition of BP: 18.02, 18.70 and 19.02, which demonstrates a good use of the inclusion. For the economic viability, BP inclusion of 25 and 50% levels reduced the cost of the diet in 2.76 and 5.52% respectively. These results are positive for the development of a sustainable animal production, in which small changes in each component of the chain lead to big results in the final product and in the end of the productive cycle. Finally, the conclusion is that providing BP to rabbits, as a substitute of maize, in a level up to 50% does not interfere in the meat quality; this demonstrates the use of BP is viable, profitable and environmentally correct.

Keywords: animal production, by-products, cuniculture, meat

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