

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

CHICKENS HAVE PREFERENCE BY COLOR?

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Chickens are tetracromat animals, that is, have receptor cells (cones) for electromagnetic waves blue, green, red and ultraviolet, so they see colors with greater intensity and more shades when compared to humans. Poultry also have better visual resolution because they have two foveas, which makes them more sensitive to movements. The objective of this study was to evaluate the preference of hens in relation to colors. Were used 18 laying hens, with 14 months of age. Isolated space of neutral color was set up on the farm, where pot-type feeders of five different colors were placed: blue, white, purple, green or red, all with the same feed. The test consisted of nine batteries, and in each battery the order of the feeders was randomly arranged. The animals were without access to the food for 30 minutes before, to motivate the search for the food during the test. Each animal, separately, was contained by the back and positioned in front of the feeders for 15 seconds, so that it could visualize the entire area. The frequency of choice for each color was obtained from the record of the first color chosen by each chicken in each battery. The data were analyzed with the RStudio program, using the Kruskal Wallis test and the Dunn multiple comparisons test, at a significance level of 5%. There was a significant difference for the blue and purple colors when compared to the white color ($P = 0.03$ and $P = 0.002$, respectively). The purple color was chosen 26.84% of the time from a total of 149 choices, 22.81% blue and 13.42% white. The choices for the other colors did not show significant differences between them. Thus, we can conclude that hens have preference for color of feeders, corroborating with existing results. The results presented in this summary are from a pilot study, so it will be necessary to repeat the study with a higher number of chickens.

Keywords: feeders, first choice, laying hens, luminous spectrum, view

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