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Category: Research: Project Summary
Key words: 100% organic rations, table birds, and poultry, feeding

Project Title: Towards One Hundred Percent Organic: Research and development to achieve a one hundred percent organic ration for the Sheepdrove poultry system: Trial 2 – Differing formulations of one hundred percent rations



Short Title: Poultry breed and feed trial 2

Project Code: SOF037

Project Leader: Josie O'Brien, Elm Farm Research Centre

Project Partners: Sheepdrove Organic Farm, Andy Butterworth - University of Bristol

Start Date: July 2004

End Date: May 2005

Funder: Sheepdrove Trust

Key Words: 100% organic rations, table birds, and poultry, feeding

EFRC Programme: Poultry

Project Aim: This project alongside the other poultry breed and feed project aims to research and develop the possibility of achieving a complete production one hundred percent organic ration for the table birds reared at Sheepdrove organic farm, in this case by looking at different formulations of one hundred percent organic rations over the course of two trials.

Abstract of Research: All practical project work has been completed and the data is currently being analysed and the findings are being written up into a final report.

Objectives: The trials compared three potential one hundred percent rations, with varying protein levels and sources over the course of two trials, and the usual ISA 257 breed with the Colourpac bird.

The trial established the impact of the different regimes on the agronomic and economic factors in the system, including bird weight, dressed weight, carcase downgrading conditions and feed consumption and costing, and ascertained their impact.

It also established the impact of the four regimes on the health, welfare and behavioural factors in the system.

Expected Benefits: The benefits derived from this research will include scientific evidence of an effect, if any, a move to a 100 per cent organic ration will have on the health welfare and performance of table birds in an organic silvo-poultry system. It will help pinpoint the effect of different protein levels and sources on the birds and help to indicate the most appropriate one hundred percent formulation to use. It will provide crucial, but currently absent evidence to inform the decision of lifting the EU derogation allowing an eighty percent organic ration.

In addition, it will help to provide information on the breeds better suited to the organic table bird production that the currently used, slower growing, but essentially conventional breeds of bird.

Output:

- Final report in progress