



Article added on: 02/06/05
Category: Research: Project Summary
Key words: 100% organic rations, table birds, 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 3 – The winter season and bird performance on one hundred percent organic ration



Short Title: Poultry breed and feed trial 3

Project Code: SOF045

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

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

Start Date: December 2005

End Date: June 2005

Funder: Sheepdrove Trust

Key Words: 100% organic rations, table birds, 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 considering the performance of the birds on the eighty and one hundred percent organic rations during the winter season.

Abstract of Research: Practical work and data collection for this project is still underway.

Objectives: The trial compared a one hundred percent organic ration with Sheepdrove's usual eighty percent ration, and the usual ISA 257 breed with the Colourpac bird, during the winter season to factor in the effect of temperature and season.

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 during harsh seasonal conditions will have on the health welfare and performance of table birds in an organic silvo-poultry system. 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 than the currently used, slower growing, but essentially conventional breeds of bird.

Output:

- Final report in progress.