World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology
International Journal of Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Vol:18, No:06, 2024

Potential of Grass Silage as a Source of Nutrients in Poultry Production

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Abstract : Feed costs constitute over 60% of total expenses in organic layer poultry production, with feed protein supply being a significant concern. Alfalfa-based dehydrated silage pellets are mainly diets composed of leaves (ABSP), which are non-conventional protein sources that could enhance profits by reducing feed costs and ensuring consistent availability. This experiment studied the effects on the performances of Novogen Brown light layers of a commercial control diet replaced with 10% ABSP. After a 21-day trial, this diet (ABSP) has improved the laying rate, yolk color of eggs, feed conversion rate, ω−3 (PUFAs) and ω−6/ω−3 ratio ($P<0.05$) while the body weight and egg weight were degraded with the substitution of the ABSP in the diet($P>0.05$). The laying rate showed a tendency to increase ($P=0.06$). These findings suggest that ABSP can replace at least 10% of the feed in organic layer diets without compromising production parameters negatively.

Keywords : alfalfa, silage, pellet, organic layers
Conference Title : ICLFAN 2024 : International Conference on Livestock Farming and Animal Nutrition
Conference Location : Paris, France
Conference Dates : June 20-21, 2024