CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS OF BROILERS FED ALKALI-TREATED MELON HUSK DIETS.

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to determine the effects of replacing maize with alkali-treated melon husk (ATMH) in broilers diet on carcass characteristics. A total of 120 day old broilers were used in a study which lasted for 8 weeks.

There were no significant effects (p > 0.05) of treatments on the carcass parameters. However, the diet with 10% ATMH substituted for maize gave the best result of 66.32% dressed yield and the highest meat yield of 627.33g when compared with other diets while 30% ATMH replacement of maize resulted in the highest abdominal fat of 19.22%.

Inclusion at 30% ATMH resulted in increased weight of gizzard compared to control diet. As the level of ATMH increased in the diet, the length of small intestine also increased correspondingly. Also, inclusion at 30% ATMH resulted in an increased weight and length of caecum. Small intestine (g) was superior with a value of 99.15% on 20% ATMH diet. Maize can be replaced with 10% ATMH in the diet of broilers without adverse effects on carcass yield.