INFLUENCE OF GRADED LEVELS OF RAPE SEED IN THE DIETS OF COMMERCIAL BROWN LAYERS ON EGG QUALITY

Jörg Gerd Brettschneider¹, Jan Jankowski¹, Jan Pikul¹, Krzysztof Kozłowski¹, Heinz Jeroch²

¹Department of Poultry Science, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland
Corresponding author: +49 177 5557717; e-mail: brettschneider@muskator.de
²Institute of Nutrition Sciences, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, D-06099 Halle (Saale),
e-mail: heinz.jeroch@hotmail.com

Summary. The experiment was performed on eggs laid by Lohmann Brown laying hens fed diets without rape seed (I) or with 7.5 % (II), 15.0 % (III), 22.5 % (IV) and 30.0 % (V) of chemical and hydro-thermal treated rape seed. From 27th to 62nd weeks of age, at four-week intervals, 36 eggs were selected randomly to determine the concentrations of fatty acids in the yolk. An increase in the levels of both rape seed and rape seed oil in the experimental diets resulted in an increase in the content of n-6 and n-3 fatty acids, as well as in the narrowing of the n-6 : n-3 ratio.

Key words: laying hens, rape seed, egg quality, fatty acid profile, n-3 fatty acids