

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIETARY ELECTROLYTE BALANCE AND EFFECT ON PRODUCTIVITY OF BROILER CHICKENS. REVIEW

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Summary. In this review the information regarding dietary electrolyte balance (DEB), the optimum balance between Na, K and Cl ions and importance of individual ion requirements to maintain blood pH and to support optimal growth in chickens is summarized. The optimal DEB for growing broilers may vary depending on environment temperature, with DEB being 250 mEq/kg for moderate temperatures (18 to 35°C) and 350 mEq/kg for high temperatures (25 to 35°C). Several authors had pointed that enhancing of DEB value to 340 mEq/kg during heat stress allows to minimize weight loss and to maintain blood pH. The lack of proper acid-based balance leads to the metabolic disbalance, when sources of electrolyte are used for the homeostasis processes instead of growth activities.

Key words: dietary electrolyte balance, sodium, potassium, chlorine, broiler chickens.