

WHEY AND LACTIC ACID IN BROILER CHICKENS NUTRITION

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Summary. Two experiments were conducted to determine the effect of undiluted fresh acid whey and lactic acid, offered as drinking liquid, on the production results of broiler chickens. In experiment I chickens were given undiluted fresh acid whey as drinking liquid twice a week for 4 hours. A starter diet offered to birds in this experiment was of poor quality. In experiment II chickens were given fresh acid whey or lactic acid in the amount of 4 cm³/1 dm³ (4 ml/l) water, also twice a week for 4 hours. In this experiment birds were offered starter, grower and finisher diets containing an acidifier. It was found that fresh acid whey given to chickens fed a poor-quality diet effectively prevented a drop in overall production results, contributing in particular to a decrease in mortality risk. In birds fed diets containing an acidifier, both whey and lactic acid had a negative effect on production results. Broiler producers should not use lactic acid or whey as drinking liquid if the feed offered to chickens is acidified with organic acids.

Key words: broiler chickens, feed additives, whey, lactic acid.