Welfare quality® assessment of a fast and a slower growing broiler hybrid reared until 10 weeks

INTERPRETATION OF RESULT

The results show that Ross chickens have poor welfare when reared to 10 weeks. Health problems also increases for Rowan Ranger with age, but to a lower extent. I.e. problems increases with age for both hybrids and other genotypes (more slow growing) might be more suitable for rearing periods >9 weeks.

Aim

The aim of this study was to compare animal based welfare quality (WQ) indicators in one fast (Ross 308) and one slower growing broiler genotype (Rowan Ranger) during a 10 week rearing period.

METHOD

In total 645 day-old chickens entered the study, whereof 328 fast growing Ross 308 and 317 slower growing Rowan Ranger hybrids. Housing was according to organic broiler production regulations, but without outdoor access. WQ animal welfare indicators was assessed at 2, 6 and 9 weeks of age.

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