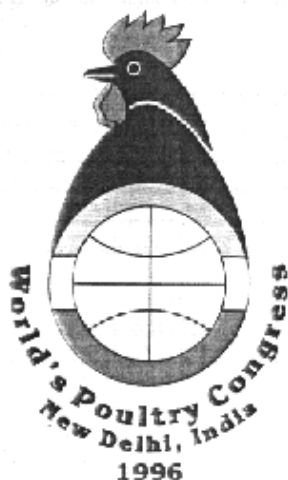


PROCEEDINGS

ABSTRACTS AND STUDENTS' PAPERS CONTRIBUTED IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME



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ESTONIAN WHITE MALLARDS

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In recent years in Scandinavia and in Western Europe, the meat of wildfowl and wild beasts has become increasingly valued. Since 1986 common farm mallards have been raised on the Duck Farm of Kaarepere Forestry Experiment Station in Estonia, principally for the hunting industry. In 1987, besides common mallard ducklings some mutants with totally white plumage unexpectedly hatched out and were separated from the general flock and multiplied, and by the mating period in 1989 there were already 200 white mallards on the farm. The carcass of the young white farm mallard is of excellent appearance and therefore there is greater demand for it among consumers compared with the common mallard. The new population of white mallards have entirely white plumage. Neither speckled specimens nor pigmented spots on feathering occur. The bill and feet of the white mallard are bright, eyes are orange-yellow with greyish-blue irises. As for behaviour and flying ability, these do not differ from the common mallard. Testcrossing and comparative raising experiments with common mallards were carried out. One average female white mallard lays 42.8 eggs yearly. Average egg weight was 62.3 g. The body weight of the adult females was 1350g, males 1450g, slaughter yield at 84 days was 64.1 and 63.3% resp.

EFFECT OF SORGHUM ON CARCASS AND MEAT QUALITY OF DUCKS

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Two experiments were carried out during one year to evaluate the carcass and meat quality parameters in Italian strains of Muscovy and Common ducks fed *ad libitum* with diets containing sorghum. In the 1st trial, three experimental diets were formulated using corn, corn with high tannin sorghum and high tannin sorghum, as cereal base. In the 2nd trial, three experimental diets were formulated using corn, low tannin sorghum, and low tannin sorghum with high tannin sorghum as cereal base; the diets containing sorghum were supplemented with synthetic amino acids during starter and finisher periods. In the 1st trial no statistical difference was observed in the leg yields, and in the meat and bones weights of the leg. The highest value of muscles to bones ratio was observed in ducks fed high tannin sorghum. In the 2nd trial, Muscovy ducks fed low tannin sorghum with high tannin sorghum resulted in lower weights of the leg

bones (not significant), and higher weights of the leg muscles ($P < .05$) with consequent better muscles to bones ratio ($P < .05$) than Muscovy ducks fed the other diets. In the 1st and in the 2nd trial Muscovy ducks fed sorghum based diets showed the highest thawing losses of the leg, ($P < .05$) and $P < .01$, respectively. The breast muscles thawing losses showed contrary but not significant trends. Only in the 1st trial the water holding capacity of the breast muscles was lower in sorghum based diets ($P < .05$). In the 2nd trial no change was observed in muscles to bones ratio of Common ducks. In the 2nd trial Common ducks fed sorghum based diets showed the highest leg thawing losses ($P < .05$). The results showed that sorghum based diets may not affect the fresh meat quality characteristic but seem to modify the quality parameters of meat submitted to physical treatments (deep frozen then thawed).

INFECTIOUS VIRAL DISEASES OF DUCKS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DUCK VIRAL HEPATITIS.

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Investigation of Duck Virus Hepatitis (DVH) have been carried out in various areas in the Ukraine. The diagnosis was done on the basis of epizootological, clinical and post-mortem examination and was confirmed by virological, bacterial and fungus tests. Following associations were demonstrated: DVH and Salmonellosis, together with Influenza and Colisepticaemia (36,5% of all inspected poultry farms); Salmonellosis, Aspergillosis and Colisepticaemia (27,3%); DVH, Colisepticaemia, sometimes Aspergillosis (18,7%); Rotavirus and Coronavirus infection, sometimes together with Salmonellosis(9%); DVH and Influenza(9%). The DVH was noted to play main role among the other diseases. The DVH strains, isolated in Ukraine proved to be serologically related.

INFLUENCE OF SOME TECHNOLOGICAL METHODS ON SUPPRESSION OF BROODING INSTINCT IN MUSCOVY DUCKS

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The influence of some technological methods on the suppression of brooding instinct was studied in the White Muscovy ducks. The following variants were used : (1) the