

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effect of expanded cottonseed meal on laying performance, egg quality, concentrations of free gossypol in tissue, serum and egg of laying hens

Chao YUAN,¹ Hua-hui SONG,¹ Xiao-yun ZHANG,¹ Yuan-jing JIANG,¹ Ai-ting ZHANG,¹ Mahmoud Mostafa AZZAM² and Xiao-ting ZOU¹

¹Feed Science Institute, College of Animal Science, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China; ²Faculty of Agriculture, P. L. P. D. C. De Anze, Maracaibo University, Maracaibo, Egypt

ABSTRACT

Three hundred and sixty Hy-Line Brown hens, 40 week of age, were allocated to five treatments, each of which included four replicates of 18 hens. After an expanded process of cottonseed meal (CSM), free gossypol content in CSM was decreased from 1.24 to 0.40 g/kg. The dietary treatments were corn-soybean meal based diets including 6% CSM and 6%, 8% and 10% expanded cottonseed meal (ECSM). Hens fed 8% ECSM had higher ($P < 0.05$) laying rate and average egg weight than those fed 6% CSM. The albumen height and Haugh unit in the control group, 6% and 8% ECSM groups were superior ($P < 0.05$) to other treatments. Hens fed 6% CSM resulted in severe ($P < 0.05$) egg yolk discoloration. Free gossypol (FG) concentrations in yolk and albumen and tissues of the 6% CSM group were greater ($P < 0.05$) than those in any ECSM treatments. Hens fed 6% CSM and 10% ECSM had the highest ($P < 0.05$) FG concentrations in the liver compared with those in the kidney and muscle, and higher ($P < 0.05$) FG residues in yolk than those in albumen. In conclusion, FG in CSM can be reduced by 68% through an expanded process and ECSM can be available in laying hens at up to 10% of the total diet and an appropriate replacement of soybean meal with ECSM may improve performance in laying hens.

Key words: egg quality, expanded cottonseed meal, laying hens, laying performance.

INTRODUCTION

Cottonseed meal (CSM) is a by-product of cottonseed oil extraction. It contains a high concentration of free gossypol (FG), which is a natural toxin. FG is known to be toxic to laying hens, causing egg yolk discoloration and reduced laying performance (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). The toxicity of FG is related to its concentration in the diet. Hens fed diets containing more than 1.24 g/kg of FG showed severe yolk discoloration and reduced laying performance (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). However, the toxicity of FG can be reduced by an expanded process, which decreases the FG content in CSM (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). The expanded process involves the use of a chemical treatment to break down the cell walls of the cottonseed meal, which releases the FG and allows it to be more easily excreted by the hens (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). The expanded process has been shown to be effective in reducing the FG content in CSM from 1.24 to 0.40 g/kg (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). The use of expanded CSM (ECSM) in laying hen diets has been shown to improve laying performance and egg quality (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). Hens fed diets containing 6% ECSM showed improved laying performance and egg quality compared to those fed diets containing 6% CSM (Dewdney *et al.* 2002). The use of ECSM in laying hen diets is a promising method for reducing the toxicity of FG and improving laying performance and egg quality.

