

IMPROVEMENT OF GROWTH PERFORMANCE IN YOUNG RABBITS

KEYWORDS

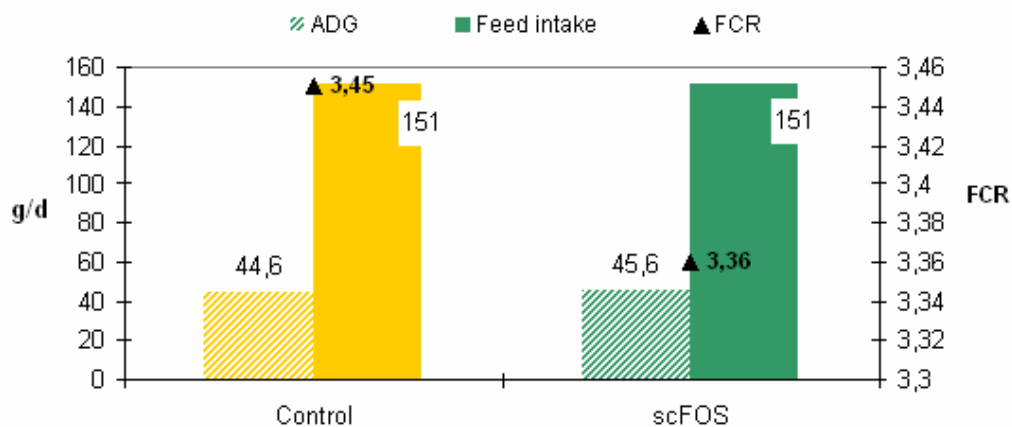
Rabbits – ADG – FCR – antibiotics

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

Two batches of 240 rabbits (Hyla) each were included in the study. From 14 to 25 days of age, all rabbits were fed with the same maternity feed supplemented with scFOS. From 25 to 56 days of age, each batch was successively fed with two different grower feeds (25-35 days & 35-56 days). These feeds were supplemented with scFOS (0.2%) in one batch from 25 to 56 days of age. The grower feed contains 14% CP, 17% crude fibre and antibiotics (tiamuline and TMP Sullfa). From 56 to 71 days of age, rabbits were fed a finisher diet. Weight of cages, containing eight rabbits each was controlled at 35, 56 and 71 days.

RESULTS

Effects of scFOS on growth performance (35-71days) in rabbits



	Control	scFOS
<i>35 - 56 days</i>		
ADG (g/day)	48.1	49.8 (+3.5%)
Feed intake (g/day)	134	135
FCR (g/g)	2.83	2.76 (-2.5%)
<i>56 - 71 days</i>		
ADG (g/day)	39.8	39.6
Feed intake (g/day)	172	174
FCR (g/g)	4.52	4.41

The ADG was higher in the scFOS group than in the control group during the first period, the effect was not significant during the second period. During the whole period of rearing, the FCR was improved in the scFOS group in comparison to the control group (-0.09 point). Mortality from 35 to 71 days was lower in the scFOS group (3.08% versus 4.63%).

CONCLUSION

The antibiotic + scFOS dietary supplementation improved growth performance of rabbits in comparison to antibiotic alone. FCR was decreased by 0.09 point and mortality was reduced.

Ref : P.04.01.R (France)
Study in field conditions.