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standardized phytomolecules positively enhance performance and carcass caracteristics of broilers housed in optimal conditions

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In areas where modern nutrition and management practices are applied, interest for non-antibiotic growth promoter, such as standardized plant extracts is sometimes questioned. The objective of this trial was to evaluate if standardized phytomolecules could enhance growth performance and carcass quality of broilers housed in optimal conditions.

Male day-old-broilers ROSS 308 (n = 800) were assigned to 2 groups of 400 birds and allotted into 10 replicates for 35 days. Pens were allocated into a cleaned and sanitized commercial farm. Following feed treatments were applied: CONTROL - No supplementation; XTRACT® - XTRACT® 6930 (5% carvacrol, 3% cinnamaldehyde, 2% capsicum oleoresin) at 100 g/t. Zootechnical and carcass parameters were measured at 35 days. Data were analyzed using two samples t-test of XLSTAT®.

Broilers fed CONTROL diet over-performed genetic reference of ROSS 308 by achieving a Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) of 1.525 from 0 to 35 days. No significant differences were observed between CONTROL and XTRACT® for final body weight, feed intake and mortality. Nevertheless broilers fed XTRACT® had a lower FCR: 1.511 (*P =* 0.025) in comparison to CONTROL. Better carcass quality was observed for XTRACT® broilers: numerical increase of carcass weight (+ 24.4 g) and a tendency of heavier breast weight (+ 3.8 %; P = 0.087) indicating a better market value of the whole carcass.

These results highlight that standardized plant extracts are able to positively affect performance and carcass characteristics of broilers housed in optimal sanitary conditions.