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Subject: Invitation to review for Poultry Science
Date: 8 February 2020 13.04
To: syafwan syafwan syafwan@unja.ac.id

PS

Manuscript Number: PSJ-D-20-00038

Effects of dietary calcium levels and vitamin D3 level on laying performance, eggshell quality, and blood biochemistry in laying hens

Hwan Ku Kang, Ph. D.; Chan Ho Kim, Ph. D.

Dear Dr. syafwan,

I would like to invite you to review the above referenced manuscript submitted by Dr. Chan Ho Kim, as I believe it falls within your expertise and interest. The abstract for this manuscript is included below.

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Since timely reviews are of utmost importance to authors, I would appreciate receiving your review within 21 days of accepting this invitation.

I hope you will be able to review this manuscript.

Thank you in advance for your contribution and time.

Kind regards,

Sunday Adedokun, PhD
Section Editor
Poultry Science

Abstract:

The aim of the study was to investigate the effects of dietary calcium level and vitamin D₃ on laying performance, egg quality, and blood biochemistry in laying hens. A total of three hundred and twenty 43-week-old Hy-Line Brown laying hens were distributed in a completely randomized experimental design in a 2 × 2 factorial arrangement with 2 calcium level (4.0 and 6.0 %) and 2 vitamin D₃ level (450, and 4,500 IU/kg) with 4 treatments and 4 replicates of 20 birds each. All the hens were allowed free access to feed and water throughout the entire experimental period. The cages were placed in an environmentally controlled laying house with 16 h of light and 8 h of darkness cycle. Temperature and humidity were maintained at 22±3 °C and 65~70%, respectively. There were no significant interactions between Ca level (4.0 and 6.0%) and vitamin D₃ (450 and 4,500 IU/kg) level in diet on hen-day egg production, egg weight, egg mass, feed intake, and feed conversion ratio of laying hens. Significant interaction (p<0.05) was noted between Ca level and vitamin D₃ level in diet and influence on eggshell strength. With an increase in dietary calcium level (4.0 to 6.0%) and vitamin D₃ level (450 to 4,500 IU/kg), increase in eggshell strength was observed (p<0.05). Also, an increase in dietary calcium levels (4.0 to 6.0%) resulted in an increase in plasma Ca level (p<0.05). The results reveal that dietary levels of Ca and vitamin D₃ had no effect on the laying performance (hen-day egg production, egg weight, feed intake, and feed conversion ratio). However, it is proposed that the eggshell strength can be improve by ingesting more Ca (up to 6.0%), as observed during the experimental period.

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