EFFECTS OF PREINCUBATION STORAGE LENGTH AND EGG WEIGHT OF BALADI HATCHING EGGS ON CHICK QUALITY

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Abstract

A total of 800 Baladi hatching eggs were obtained from the Baladi population which has been bred for several years in the Poultry and Livestock Experimental Station of the Animal Production Department, College of Food and Agricultural Sciences, King Saud University. Hatching eggs were divided into Four experimental groups (200 eggs in each) and were stored for 0, 5, 10 and 15 days under 80% relative humidity and 15±1 ºC. Fresh eggs in each group were individually weighed, divided into three weight groups (<52, 52-56 and >56g) and incubated following usual hatchery practices. Storage period and egg weight group had a significant (p≤ 0.05) effect upon chick weight and chick weight percentage of fresh hatching egg weight whereas chick activity scores and incubation time duration were significantly (p≤ 0.05) affected only by storage period. EW X ST had no significant effect upon all studied traits. Prolonged hatching egg storage for 10 days or more had a pronounced adverse effect on chick weight, chick weight percentage of fresh hatching egg weight and chick activity scores. Increased egg weight group led to a significant (p≤ 0.05) increase and decrease in chick weight and chick weight percentage of fresh hatching egg weight, respectively.

Key words: Preincubation storage, hatching eggs, chick weight, chick quality.
References


