NUTRITIVE EVALUATION OF AVOCADO SEED MEAL

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Avocado (Persea americana Mill) seeds make up approximately 25% of the fruit weight and could be collected in large amounts during the fruiting season. The present study was concerned with the nutrient characterization and nutritive evaluation of avocado seed meal (ASM). ASM was analyzed to contain (dry matter basis) 5.2% crude protein, 2.8% crude fat, 3.6% crude fibre, 4.0% ash and 84.4% carbohydrates. The mineral contents were as follows (mg/100 g meal); calcium, 62; phosphorus, 82; magnesium, 54; potassium, 1160; sodium, 32; zinc, 15; iron, 17; manganese, 9 and copper, 5.

The effects of incorporating different levels (o, 2.5, 5, 7.5 and 10%) of ASM in chick diets were evaluated using 150 day-old White Leghorn cockerels in a 28-day feeding trial. Weight gains, feed intake, feed efficiency and weights of internal organs were the parameters studied. Although the inclusion of ASM tended to lower the performance, the differences were not statistically significant. Tannins are known to be present in ASM[1] and may be responsible for the observed depressions. Further studies are needed before ASM can be recommended for use in poultry diets

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Reference:

1. Hulme, A.C. (1971). The biochemistry of fruits and their products. Vol.II. Academic Press, London and New York.

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