

## **B-66: Carcass quality of broilers**

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Broilers of Mahaweli Livestock Enterprises Ltd. farm at Thambuttegama, were studied.

300 birds were used to evaluate the effect of transport distance, starvation period and transportation time and 30 birds were used to find out the weight losses during transportation.

When the transport distance was increased from 4 km to 20 km, carcass damage such as bruises, blisters, discoloration, broken bone and missing skin increased from 35 to 63%, 2 to 5%, 3 to 42%, 10 to 20% and 9 to 21% respectively. Main damage on broiler carcass was bruises.

When the starvation period was increased from 6 to 12 h, damage such as bruises, blisters, discoloration and broken bone decreased from 58 to 42%, 9 to 3%, 43 to 7% and 16 to 10% respectively. But, missing skin increased from 12 to 30%. Increase of starvation period had more influence on reduction of discoloration of carcass than other damages.

More bruises, broken bone and missing skin (71%, 15% and 10%) were observed on the carcasses when birds were transported in the afternoon. Blisters and discoloration on the broiler carcasses were not significantly influenced by the transportation time. (morning, afternoon and evening)

With increasing transport distance from 5 km to 20 km, weight loss of the birds also increased from 0.095 to 0.719. However, there was no significant effect of transportation time (morning, afternoon and evening) on weight losses of the birds.