B-104 Spacing as a factor governing the performance of broilers

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A study was conducted to investigate the optimum space requirement for profitable broiler production. Three different spacings 0.106 m^2/bird, 0.076 m^2/ bird and 0.063 m^2 / bird were compared with the standard spacing of 0.09 m^2/bird. This experiment was conducted in a Complete Randomised Design with 4 replicates. 112, 15-day old chicks (white Lohman) of equal mean weight were used in this experiment. 7 birds were allocated per pen. They were fed ad-libitum and were equally treated. Feed intake and litter temperature were recorded daily. The body weight of the birds was taken at 3 day intervals.

Mean feed intake, mean live weight, feed conversion ratio and mean broiler / feed ratio were calculated to study the effect of spacing. Significant differences ($p<0.05$) were observed in the live weight and feed efficiency between treatments. The mean live weight at the spacing of 0.106, 0.076, 0.063 and 0.09 m^2/bird, were 0.914, 1.066, 1.119 and 1.005 kg respectively. Corresponding values for feed conversion ratio were 2.85, 2.53, 2.31 and 2.05 respectively. Feed intake showed a general reduction with reduced spacing. Broiler/feed ratio showed a positive effect in the minimum spaced treatment. Based on the present results, a lower space, 0.063 m^2 / bird than the standard space can be recommended for profitable broiler production.