

Growth performance and carcass characteristics of fatteners feeding with three different alternative rations

It is necessary to investigate the relationships between growth and composition on different feeds in order that leaner carcass may be produced. Therefore, The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of different rations in growth and carcass characters of pigs. An experiment was conducted with 27 cross bred (land race x large white) pigs, fed with three different rations.(market return sausage : rice polish (X1) (1:1) , commercial pig grower ration (X2), and rendered pig offal meal : rice polish (X3) (1:1)).A growth study was continued for 90 days and feed intake and daily weight gain were measured daily intervals and feed conversion efficiency was measured at the end of the experiment. Finally carcass quality characters such as dressing percentage, back fat thickness and carcass length were measured after slaughtering of the animals.

The pigs fed with ration X3 had a significantly ($p<0.05$) higher feed intake (4.674 ± 0.151) as compared with X2 ration. However, no significant difference was observed with ration X1. The daily weight gain (368 ± 21 g/day) highest in pigs fed with the ration X3 while the lowest daily weight gain was observed in pigs fed with the ration X1 (312 ± 20 g/day). The pigs fed with ration X2 shown significantly lower feed conversion ratio (4.35 ± 0.559) when compare to the X1 (5.12 ± 0.334) and X3. (5.417 ± 0.573) The carcass characters such as dressing percentage, back fat thickness and carcass length were not significantly different ($p<0.05$) among the three rations studied. However, highest carcass length (75.05 ± 0.98 cm) , back fat thickness (3.22 ± 0.25 cm)

and dressing percentage ($77.41 \pm 0.61\%$) were observed in pigs fed with ration X2 followed by X1 and X3 ration respectively.

The results suggest that rendered offal meal did not change carcass quality parameters of pigs such as dressing percentage, carcass length and back fat thickness compared with market return sausage and commercial pig grower rations. Indications are that, rendered offal meal is a good alternative to reduce the cost of pig rations.