

The effect of Rosemary on local Rabbit performance

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Abstract: This study was carried on 12 local rabbit bucks, 4-5 weeks old and 580.6 ± 45.23 gm weight, during the period from 15/3/2013 to 26/4/2013, in Diyala University/ College of Agriculture /Department of Animal Resource. Animals were randomly assigned into 3 main groups (4 animals/group), each main group was divided into one sub group (1 animal/cages), the animals were fed ad libitum on rations containing same crude protein (15.95%) and metabolizable energy (2514 Kcal/kg. feed) but different in percentage of rosemary (0, 10 and 15 gm/Kg. feed) for 6 weeks. Feed consumption, body weight gain, feed efficiency were recorded weekly. At the end of the fattening period some of the rabbits were slaughtered and some carcass traits as hot and cold carcass, total edible, non-edible, and dressing percentages were studied. The results indicated that the percentage of rosemary has a significant ($p \leq 0.05$) effect almost on all production traits, weekly total gain, total feed consumption, weekly body weights. While no significant effect was found on some carcass traits as hot and cold carcass and dressing percentages. Different percentages of rosemary in percentages of total edible, non-edible.