Research Paper

Impact of Thyme Oil and Lactobacillus acidophilus as Natural Growth Promoters on Performance, Blood Parameters and Immune Status in Growing Rabbits.

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ABSTRACT

Present study was conducted to evaluate the effect of thyme oil and *lactobacillus acidophilus* (supplement) as growth promoters in rabbit. 72 weaned V-Line male rabbits were randomly allocated into 4 equal groups. The first group (G1) was without any additives and consider as control group. The second group (G2) treated with the addition of *lactobacillus acidophilus* in drinking water in a concentration of 10

The third group (G3) treated with the addition of thyme oil in drinking water in a concentration of 1 ml/ liter. The fourth group (G4) treated with the addition of both *lactobacillus acidophilus* and thyme oil in drinking water in a concentration of 10

The obtained results showed that, all treatments had significant improvement effects on the measured parameters (performance characteristics, cecum characteristics, RBCs, WBCs, kidney function, trigly-cerides, total cholesterol, sheep RBC’s titer, liver antioxidant markers and hormones markers) when compared to the control group. The live body weight of G3 and G4 groups were higher (2116 and 2058 g) than those found in G2 and G1 groups (1958 and 1850 g) respectively. In addition, the body weight gain of G3 and G4 groups were higher (1364 and 1307 g) than those found in G2 and G1 groups (1207 and 1100 g). Moreover, the daily weight gain of G3 and G4 groups were higher (32.49 and 31.13 g/d) than those found in G2 and G1 groups (28.74 and 26.19 g/d). In addition, feed conversion ratio of G3 and G4 groups were higher (3.41 and 3.61) than those found in G2 and G1 groups (3.66 and 4.67). While G4, G2 and G3 groups had a significant enrichment effect on the intestinal beneficial bacteria. In conclusion, in present experiment inclusion thyme oil and/or *lactobacillus acidophilus* in the drinking water that stimulated body weight gain and increased feed conversion rate, and can be used as growth promoters in rabbit nutrition successfully without notable side effects on growing rabbits. Furthermore, it showed a significant positive effect on the physiology for treatment groups G3, G4 and G2 respectively compared to the control group.

Key words: Immunity, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, Performance, Probiotic, Rabbit, Thyme oil

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The aim of the present genome-wide association study (GWAS) was to identify single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and candidate genes associated with lactose percentage (LP) and lactose yield (LY) in Egyptian buffalo. The phenotypic dataset included 60,318 monthly measures for LP and LY from 1481 animals. A total number of 114 animals with high and low lactose yields were selected for genotyping with Axiom Buffalo Genotyping 90K Array. Genomic regions harbored many candidate genes with biological roles associated with milk production and secretion, such as COL8A1 and PLOD2 on chromosome 1. Our findings provide the basis to uncover the genetic mechanisms that control lactose traits variation in Egyptian buffalo.

Key words: Egyptian buffalo, GWAS, SNP, candidate genes, lactose traits.