

Causes of culling and deaths of heavy Big-6 turkeys kept in conditions of semi-intensive farming

Summary

Two groups of both sexes' turkeys: 40 animals of heavy Big-6 turkeys and 40 individuals of primitive turkeys were reared in the semi-intensive farming. During the experiment, their health condition was checked permanently. The reasons for death and culling were determined according to clinical research and autopsy. The two main reasons for decease in both discussed groups were as follows: chicks' death caused by hunger and alimentary tract clogged by litter. In the Big-6 group, sepsis colibacteriosis occurrence and locomotive problems were observed between the 6th and 8th week of live. After rearing period, the considerably higher survivability rate (by 17.5%) was found in the primitive turkeys' group.

KEY WORDS: turkeys, outdoor access, survivability, culling, locomotion