

PRACTICAL-TYPE RAW, UNEXTRACTED SOYBEAN MEAL DIETS
FOR EGG-TYPE PULLETS

by

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INTRODUCTION

Poultry feeds account for two-thirds or more of the cost of producing eggs and meat. In countries such as Nigeria where protein sources for poultry rations are very scarce because they are mostly imported, poultry feed ingredients often cost twice their United States' value.

Soybean meal has contributed immensely to the growth of United States' poultry industry as a primary source of protein in poultry diets. The economics of soybean oil production has been changing in recent years so that the meal is becoming more valuable. This trend has prompted many nutritionists to intensify their research on feeding cooked and raw whole soybeans to poultry.

Presently Nigeria exports all the soybean she produces since there is no facility for processing the meal for use in livestock feeds. If it would be possible to feed raw soybeans directly to chickens without adversely affecting their laying house performance, then a more beneficial outlet for the country's soybeans would be assured and the transportation costs involved in the importation of soybean meal would be minimized.

The primary purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of feeding egg-type pullets, during the latter part of the growing phase and early part of the laying phase, practical-type rations in which raw, unextracted soybean meal and sorghum grain (milo) were the main ingredients. It was hypothesized that feed cost would be reduced by starting the

chicks on standard starting and rearing diets containing soybean meal, followed by diets containing raw, unextracted soybean meal. It was hypothesized that if raw, unextracted soybean meal depressed the growth of pullets, its effects would be similar to controlled or restricted pullet feeding programs which have little effect on subsequent performance of pullets fed normal laying diets.