

## **Utilization of mulberry leaf meal (*Morus alba*) as protein supplement in diets for laying hens**

### **ABSTRACT**

A 12-week feeding experiment was conducted to study the effects of inclusion of 0 (control; Diet A), 10% (Diet B), 15% (Diet C) and 20% (Diet D) of mulberry leaf meal (*Morus alba*) in the diet on production performance and egg quality of laying hens. Feeding mulberry leaf meal (MLM) reduced ( $P<0.05$ ) the feed intake, egg production, egg weight and egg mass. However, feed conversion ratio was not affected ( $P>0.05$ ). Shell weight and yolk weight were decreased ( $P<0.01$ ), but shell thickness and albumen weight were not affected ( $P>0.05$ ). Haugh units increased ( $P<0.001$ ) as the level of MLM increased. Also, feeding MLM improved ( $P<0.001$ ) the yolk color when compared with control. The results indicated the possibility of including up to 10% of mulberry leaf meal in diets of egg laying hens without adversely affecting the performance and egg quality.

**Keyword:** Mulberry leaf; Layer hens; Egg production; Egg quality