

University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF PURE LOCAL, CROSSBRED AND EXOTIC CHICKENS REARED INTENSIVELY

M. W. Hetu, S. O. Peters, K. Akano, C. O. N. Ikeobi and Olufunmilayo A. Adebambo:
Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted to study the comparative growth performance of pure local, crossbred and exotic chickens reared intensively. Body weight and linear body measurements of some local, exotic and crossbred chickens were taken for 12 weeks. Effects of genotype were found to be significant ($P < 0.05$) for body weight, body length, breast girth, backbone length and breast length. The straight cross, (exotic female x local male) consistently produced higher values than the reciprocal crosses at all the ages for all the traits considered. Heterosis was found to be highest for body weight followed by breast girth, breast length, backbone length and then the shank length.