THE REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF FEMALE RABBIT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE "HUMILID" FEED ADDITIVE OF HUMIC NATURE

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Professional rabbit farming in Ukraine is a promising industry, one of the most profitable agricultural areas. The sale of rabbit meat has great potential, because rabbits are fast-growing, highly productive animals that produce excellent proteins and fats, warm wool, as well as skins for leather craftsmen. However, animal numbers and rabbit production have declined sharply in recent years. In recent years, the search, development and implementation of environmentally friendly, low-toxic and highly-effective preparations and natural feed additives for use in animals have become more relevant. One of these is feed additives from humic substances used in livestock and poultry. Humic substances are known for their regulatory and antioxidant properties [Stepchenko L. M., 2001–2018, Stepchenko L. M., Galuzina L. I., 2009–2018]. "Humilid" feed additive (TU U 15.7-00493675004: 2009) has the ability to activate metabolic processes in the organism of animals and provides its resistance, while exhibiting resistance to stress factors [Stepchenko L. M., Galuzina L. I., 2009–2018, Stepchenko L. M., Galuzina L. I., Utkina V. A., 2018]. However, issues related features influence of additives on the reproductive performance of female rabbits meat breeds are unknown.

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of the "Humilid" feed supplement on the reproductive performance of female rabbits of Termonets meat breed.

Experimental studies were conducted on the basis of a farm for the production of rabbits of meat breeds for meat production of "DniproKril" LLC of Dnipropetrovsk region, Dnipro district, Slobozhanske town. Female rabbits of the Termonets meat breed were selected for experimental studies. Two groups (control and experimental) were formed by the method of pair-analogues, in the amount of 100 animals in each group. The feeding and keeping conditions in both groups of animals were the same. Female rabbits of the experimental group drank the "Humilid" biologically active feed additive in the optimal dose with water [Stepchenko L. M., Galuzina L. I., 2012–2015, Stepchenko L. M., Galuzina L. I., Utkina V. A., 2018]. The evaluation of the statistical probability of quantitative performance criterion was performed using Student's *t*-test of *Microsoft Excel*.

According to the results of research it is found that under the conditions of using the "Humilid" biologically active feed additive females in rabbits there is an increase in the body weight of female rabbits, an increase in the number of rabbits received per one female rabbit, an increase in the conservation rate of rabbits, as well as an increase in the body weight of rabbits at the time of weaning. Thus, at the time of weaning of the rabbits, the body weight of the rabbits obtained from the experimental group of female rabbits was on average 13.0 % higher than this figure in the rabbits obtained from the control female rabbits. Against this background, there was an improvement in the physiological state of rabbits obtained from female rabbits in the experimental group, which was manifested by a decrease in the incidence of diseases. It should also be noted that with the action of "Humilid" decreases the number of rabbits with a minimum body weight, this figure becomes less disparate.

Thus, the addition of the "Humilid" humic feed additive to the main diet of female rabbits contributed to the increase and improvement of their reproductive performance, which was reflected in the rabbits they received, which had higher body weight at the time of weaning, saving and improvement of their physiological condition.

Keywords: FEMALE RABBITS, HUMILID, REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT