

Abstract NVG

Preferences of fast- and slower-growing broilers for different light intensities and spectra

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Text (max 1000 characters): Our current knowledge of broiler preferences for different light intensities and spectra is limited. Therefore, we investigated the preferences of fast- and slower-growing broilers for a combination of light intensities (15 and 100 lux) and spectra (blue or green), by providing all four combinations in a choice test setup. We observed that both the fast-growing and the slower-growing breed showed a preference for bright, green light during the daytime in the first week of life. Later in life, the slower-growing breed showed a preference for low intensity light, regardless of spectrum, which was also reflected in the higher feed intake in the dimmer lit conditions at that point. In the brighter light conditions more active behaviour was observed, whereas in the dimmer light conditions more inactive behaviour was seen. The results of this study can provide input for functional lighting programs for broilers that meet the birds' preferences, and hereby potentially improve broiler welfare.