

EFFICIENCY OF PHYTOGENIC FEED ADDITIVES IN IMPROVING BROILER PERFORMANCE, INTESTINAL BACTERIA AND ILEAL HISTOMORPHOLOGY.

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(Received 15/5/2019, accepted 4/7/2019)

SUMMARY

Photogenic feed additives (PFA) have been suggested to promote broiler performance as alternative for antibiotics, which have been banned from the feed. The current study aimed to evaluate the effect of dietary PFA (Biostrong® 510) on performance of broiler chicks, ileal content of bacteria, intestinal histomorphology and blood characteristics under the environmental conditions of Saudi Arabia Kingdom. Four-hundred-day-old Ross broiler chicks were allocated to four treatment groups with five replicates of 20 birds each. For 35 days experimental period, the chicks were fed on four different experimental diets: 1) positive control diet containing 21.24% crude protein and 2850 Kcal ME; 2) positive control with 150 g/t Biostrong® 510 added to the diet; 3) negative control diet containing 20.49% crude protein and 2801 Kcal ME; 4) negative control with 150 g/t Biostrong 510 added to the diet. Dietary addition of Biostrong®510 significantly increased body weight gain and feed conversion compared to birds fed the two control diets at the second stage of growth (3-5 wk.). Photogenic feed additive supplementation significantly reduced ileal content of *E. coli* and increased *Lactobacillus* bacteria. Plasma total protein, albumin, globulin, cholesterol, or triglycerides were not affected by adding Biostrong®510 into the diet. There is no significant effect on relative weight of the liver, spleen, heart or bursa of Fabricius between the different treatments. The results revealed a significant increase in villi length associated with a reduction in crypt depth due to inclusion of PFA into broiler diets. The small intestine thickness significantly reduced due to inclusion of PFA into the diet. From the current study, we can conclude that PFA supplementation has a positive effect on increasing the number of beneficial bacteria and villi length which improves nutrient digestibility and broiler performance. **Keywords:** *phytogenic feed additive, broiler performance, blood constituents.*

INTRODUCTION

The use of antibiotics as a growth promoter for poultry diets have been banned several years ago (Cardoso *et al.*, 2012). Therefore, to keep the high production performance of poultry and livestock, most nutrition researchers have been aimed to find suitable alternatives for antibiotics, which increase nutrient digestibility and utilization via improving intestinal microflora and villi health.

The phytogenic term indicates a blend of plants, herbs, spices, or their extracts of essential oils, which have several beneficial properties as antimicrobial and antioxidant agents (Kang *et al.*, 2010). A wide variety of plants have been established as phytogenic feed additives (PFA) in poultry rations such as garlic, anise, oregano, thyme, rosemary, coriander, and cinnamon, as well as their bioactive components like allicin, carvacrol, thymol, capsaicin, and piperine (Murugesan *et al.*, 2015). These phytogenic compounds have a beneficial effect in enhancing efficiency of feed utilization, intestinal microflora pattern and stimulation of immune response of poultry (Saleh *et al.*, 2018). Several studies indicate that phytogenic compounds can be a natural alternative for antibiotics in poultry diets (Murugesan *et al.*, 2015; Wati *et al.*, 2015). The antimicrobial properties of PFA have been reported later by Cho *et al.* (2014). They reported that inclusion of PFA containing essential oils of thyme and star anise into broiler diets reduced the intestinal content of *Clostridium Perfringens* and *E. Coli* bacteria. Mountzouris *et al.* (2011) observed an increase of caecal *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, and a significant decrease in caecal coliform bacteria by adding a blend of essential oils from oregano, anise, and citrus into broiler diets. However, Ahsan *et al.* (2018) did not find any effect on caecal microbe populations due to supplementing broiler chicks with commercial PFA. The role of PFA in enhancing intestinal morphology and nutrient utilization was studied by Ahsan *et al.* (2018), Mohiti-Asli and Ghanaatparast-Rashti (2017) who

observed an increase in villus height, villus width and muscularis thickness in broilers fed different spices and oils. However, this improvement did not reflect on chick performance which did not response for PFA supplementation. Similar results were concluded by Murugesan *et al.* (2015). They noted a significantly increased villus height and nutrient digestibility of broiler chicks fed diets with commercial PFA, which enhance feed conversion and body weight gain. As well, numerous studies observed an improvement in nutrient digestibility, feed efficiency and body weight gain due to inclusion of different types of PFA into broiler diets (Cho *et al.*, 2014; Mountzouris *et al.*, 2011; Li *et al.*, 2015; Paraskeuas *et al.*, 2017).

A commercial PFA blend (Biostrong® 510, Delacon Biotechnik GmbH, Steyregg, Austria) has been studied in the past already under different environmental conditions in the world. Leopold *et al.* (2011), Amad *et al.* (2013) and El-Faham *et al.* (2014) showed that inclusion of Biostrong®510 into broiler diets improved feed conversion ratio, gut health, and nutrient digestibility. On the other hand, Scheuermann *et al.* (2009) and Beiki *et al.* (2013) did not find any differences in feed conversion ratio or body weight gain by adding Biostrong®510 into broiler diets.

Nowadays, the information concerning the efficacy of PFA products in improving performance of broiler chicks under hot, high humidity, like the typical environmental condition of Arabic Gulf countries is still lacking. Hence, the current study aimed to evaluate the effect of dietary PFA on performance characteristics of broiler chicks, ileal content of bacteria, intestinal histomorphology and blood characteristics under the environmental conditions of Saudi Arabia Kingdom.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental Procedure:

The current study was conducted at an experimental poultry farm, animal production department, at the College of Agriculture and food science, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia Kingdom. For 35 days, 400-day-old Ross broiler chicks were allocated randomly into 4 treatment groups with five replicates of 20 birds each. The four groups of chicks were fed on four different experimental diets as follows: 1) positive control diet containing 21.24% crude protein and 2850 Kcal ME; 2) positive control with 150 g/t Biostrong® 510 added to the diet; 3) negative control diet containing 20.49% crude protein and 2801 Kcal ME; 4) negative control with 150 g/t Biostrong®510 added to the diet. The diets were formulated to meet the requirements of broilers according to NRC (1994) and are shown in Table (1). Biostrong® 510 contains essential oils of thyme and anise, mixed with different herbs and spices.

Water and feed were provided *ad lib*. The chicks were placed in floor pens with wood-shavings litter. Electrical heaters were used for warming. Fan and air conditions were used for keeping a suitable temperature. Artificial lighting was provided constantly. Body weight was recorded weekly for each chick and the average weight was calculated for each replicate and treatment group. Feed consumption values were recorded weekly in gram, and feed conversion ratio was calculated as gram feed/gram gain.

Slaughtered traits and sample collection:

At the end of the experimental period, 10 chicks per treatment group were slaughtered, allowed to bleed for a blood sample. Internal organs were separated. The weight of the liver, spleen and bursa of Fabricus were recorded. Ileal content samples were collected in clean sterile glass bottles. Small intestine thickness was determined as the procedures described by Stutz *et al.* (1983) and calculated as: small intestine weight (g) / small intestine length (cm).

Blood analysis:

Blood samples were collected in heparinized tube and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes. Plasma was separated and stored at -20 °C until further analysis. Plasma total protein was determined according to the Biuret method (Henery, 1964) and albumin was determined according to Doumas *et al.* (1971). Plasma globulin was calculated by subtracting albumin from total protein. Plasma total lipid was determined according to Knight *et al.* (1972) and total cholesterol according to Watson (1960).

Table (1): Composition and calculated analysis of experimental control diets.

Ingredient	Control (+)	Control (-)
Yellow corn	60.0	59.0
Soybean meal (48%)	31.5	29.0
Wheat bran	5.5	9.0
Dicalcium phosphate	1.0	1.0
Limestone	1.3	1.3
Salt	0.25	0.25
Vit. & min. premix*	0.33	0.33
DL-Methionine	0.12	0.12
Total	100	100
Calculated composition		
Crude protein (%)	21.24	20.49
ME (Kcal/kg)	2850	2801
Calcium (%)	0.82	0.82
Av. phosphorus (%)	0.315	0.315
Meth + Cyst (%)	0.68	0.67
Lysine (%)	1.12	1.07

*Composition of vitamin and mineral premix. Each 2.5 kg of vitamin and mineral mixture contains: 12000000 IU vitamin A; 2000000 IU D3; 10g vitamin E; 1g vitamin K; 1 g vitamin B1; 5g vitamin B2; 1500mg vitamin B6; 10mg vitamin B12; 10g Pantothenic acid; 20g Nicotinic acid; 1g Folic acid; 50mg Biotin; 500g choline chloride; 4g copper; 300mg iodine; 30g iron; 60g manganese; 50g zinc; 100mg selenium

Intestinal bacteria:

For microbiological examination, one gram of ileal content was transferred into test tubes containing 9 ml of 0.1 sterile peptone. The samples were mixed well; a tenfold dilution was prepared and titrated on the following media:

Total aerobic bacteria were cultured on nutrient agar medium composed of 2.5 g yeast extract, 5 g trypton, 1 g glucose, 15 g agar and distilled water up to one liter.

Lactobacilli bacteria were cultured on M.R.S. agar medium which is composed of 10 g casein peptone, 10 g meat extract, 5 g yeast extract, 20 g glucose, 1 g tween 80, 2 g K_2HPO_4 , 5 g sodium acetate, 2 g diammonium citrate, 0.2 g $MnSO_4$ and distilled water up to 1 liter.

E. coli bacteria were cultured on MacConkey agar medium that is composed of 17 g pancreatic digest of gelatin, 1.5 g pancreatic digest of casein, 1.5 g peptic of animal tissue, 10 g lactose, 1.5 g bile salts, 5 g sodium chloride, 0.03 g neutral red, 0.001 g crystal violet, 3.5 g agar and distilled water up to 1 liter.

Enterobacteria were cultured on MacConkey agar No.2 medium that is composed of (peptone 20 g., lactose 10g., bile salt 5g., sodium chloride 5.0g., neutral red 0.075g and agar, 12g per liter). Salmonella bacteria were cultured on S.S. agar. Bacterial count was determined by microscopic examination of the cultured media.

Histomorphological examination:

A small portion (2.5cm) of the slaughtered birds' ileum was dissected and placed in 10% buffered neutral formalin for fixation. A microtome was used to make 5 μ sections that were mounted on glass slides and stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Villi length was measured from the apical to the basal region which corresponded to the superior portion of the crypts of Lieberkühn by using light microscope fitted with a digital camera and images were analyzed using image analysis software.

Statistical analysis:

Statistical analysis was carried out using the statistical program SAS (1988). Duncan's multiple range test (1955) was applied for significant differences among means of traits. The following model was used:

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + T_i + e_{ij}$$

Where Y_{ij} = observation, μ = overall means, T_i = effect of treatment and e_{ij} = experimental error.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Performance aspects of broiler chicks are summarized in Table (2). Body weight gain did not response for Biostrong®510 supplementation at the first stage of growth (0-3 wk), however there was a significant ($P \leq 0.05$) increase in body weight gain of birds fed negative control diet with Biostrong®510 at the second stage of growth (3-5 wk) and for the overall experimental period (0-5 wk). The interaction between PFA and age has been demonstrated earlier by Mountzouris *et al.* (2011) and Cho *et al.* (2014), who observed an improvement in broiler performance due to feeding dietary PFA after 21 days of age and concluded that the beneficial effect of PFA is age dependent. On the other hand, Amad *et al.* (2013) did not observe any significant effect on body weight of broilers feeding dietary Biostrong® 510. Mountzouris *et al.* (2011) reported that the gain to feed ratio improved with adding PFA during the finisher period. The role of Biostrong®510 in enhancing broiler performance may be related to its effect in improving intestinal bacteria balance and increasing nutrient digestibility (Cho *et al.*, 2014).

Table (2) Effect Biostrong®510 on Performance of Broiler Chicks

Item	Control (+)	Control (+) with Biostrong®510	Control (-)	Control (-) with Biostrong® 510
Body weight gain (g)				
0-3 wk. age	581.7 ± 16.4	595.6 ± 20.4	626.9 ± 15.1	627.0 ± 12.6
3-5 wk. age	856.4 ^b ± 37.7	889.9 ^{ab} ± 11.6	882.8 ^{ab} ± 23.0	960.3 ^a ± 31.1
0-5 wk. age	1438.1 ^b ± 49.6	1485.5 ^{ab} ± 30.9	1509.7 ^{ab} ± 17.2	1587.5 ^a ± 43.4
Feed intake (g)				
0-3 wk. age	945.9 ^a ± 31.3	951.9 ^b ± 30.0	1009.8 ^{ab} ± 14.7	1042.7 ^a ± 15.5
3-5 wk. age	1616.5 ^{ab} ± 53.9	1532.5 ^b ± 25.2	1659.5 ^{ab} ± 38.4	1756.3 ^a ± 67.4
0-5 wk. age	2562.5 ^b ± 72.4	2484.4 ^b ± 54.8	2669.3 ^{ab} ± 43.6	2799.1 ^a ± 82.8
Feed efficiency (g feed/g gain)				
0-3 wk. age	1.62 ± 0.02	1.60 ± 0.036	1.61 ± 0.025	1.67 ± 0.009
3-5 wk. age	1.89 ^a ± 0.04	1.72 ^b ± 0.022	1.88 ^a ± 0.033	1.83 ^a ± 0.027
0-5 wk. age	1.79 ^a ± 0.032	1.68 ^b ± 0.023	1.77 ^a ± 0.024	1.76 ^a ± 0.018

Means ± (Standard error)

Values within a row with different superscripts are significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$)

Ileal content of bacteria strains and bacterial total count are shown in Table (3). Adding Biostrong®510 into the broiler diet resulted in a significant ($P \leq 0.05$) reduction in pathogenic *E. coli* bacteria and a numerical reduction in count of Enterobacteria. In contrast, *Lactobacillus* bacterial strain and total count of ileal bacteria increased due to Biostrong®510 supplementation. The increase was significant ($P \leq 0.05$) for *Lactobacillus* only. The current results are in a good agreement with the previous studies which indicate the reduction of intestinal content of *E. coli* and Enterobacteria associated with the increase in the count of *Lactobacillus* bacteria due to inclusion of different types of PFA into broiler diets (Ahsan *et al.*, 2018; Saracila *et al.*, 2018; Mohiti-Asli and Ghanaatparast-Rashti, 2017; Murugesan *et al.*, 2015). Several reports related the antimicrobial activity of PFA to its content of herbal essential oils which showed in vitro antimicrobial activity (Hafeez *et al.*, 2016; Ahsan *et al.*, 2018). The essential oil of thyme (one of the Biostrong®510 components) disrupt the lipid structure of the bacterial cell membrane, damage its permeability for specific ions and its metabolic activity, which results in death of the bacterial cells (Ultee *et al.*, 2002; Mohiti-Asli and Ghanaatparast-Rashti, 2017). Supplementation of PFA may ensure proper conditions for inducing the proliferation of beneficial *Lactobacilli* bacteria (Saracila *et al.*, 2018) which selectively exclude the *E. coli* and pathogenic bacteria from adhering to the intestine due to their fast proliferation and acidification properties in the small intestine (Murugesan *et al.*, 2015).

Table (3) Effect of Biostrong® 510 on ileal content of bacteria

Bacterial Strain	Control (+)	Control (+) with Biostrong® 510	Control (-)	Control (-) with Biostrong® 510
Lactobacilli sp. (cfu/g)	0.68×10 ⁶ b ±4.62	3.7×10 ⁶ b ±5.55	1.9×10 ⁶ b ±2.60	33×10 ⁶ a ±4.36
E. coli (cfu/g)	3.4×10 ⁶ a ±13.91	0.8×10 ⁶ b ±9.24	1.3×10 ⁶ ab ±17.85	0.078×10 ⁶ c ±9.39
Enterobacteria (cfu/g)	6.4×10 ⁵ ±31.93	9.6×10 ⁵ ±39.44	10.1×10 ⁵ ±51.91	0.19×10 ⁶ ±10.54
Bacterial total count (cfu/g)	8.8×10 ⁶ ±12.50	6.1×10 ⁶ ±27.47	5.3×10 ⁶ ±23.95	13.5×10 ⁶ ±73.99

Means ± (Standard error)

Values within a row with different superscripts are significantly different (P≤0.05).

Plasma content of protein, lipids and their derivatives are shown in Table (4). The values of plasma total protein, albumin or globulin within different treatments were similar and lacked significance. As well, there is no significant effect of Biostrong®510 on plasma content of cholesterol or triglycerides. The results indicate that Biostrong®510 has no effect on protein or lipid metabolism of broiler chicks. The present results are in harmony with those of Paraskeuas *et al.* (2017), who didn't observe any effect on plasma cholesterol, triglycerides or total protein due to inclusion of Biostrong®510 into broiler diets. In contrary, Amad *et al.* (2013) reported an increase in serum cholesterol, total protein, and albumin by adding Biostrong®510 into broiler diets. There is no explanation for this disagreement which may be related to the differences in experimental conditions and determination means.

Table (4) Effect of Biostrong® 510 on blood constituents

Blood Parameter	Control (+)	Control (+) with Biostrong® 510	Control (-)	Control (-) with Biostrong® 510
Total Protein (mg/dl)	2.85 ±0.097	2.89 ± 0.051	2.92 ± 0.068	2.93 ± 0.086
Albumin (mg/dl)	1.69 ± 0.029	1.78 ± 0.039	1.67 ± 0.028	1.68 ± 0.037
Globulin (mg/dl)	1.148 ± 0.102	1.108 ± 0.72	1.260 ± 0.066	1.240 ± 0.095
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	128.6 ± 5.58	117.8 ± 5.05	119.8 ± 3.80	113.8 ± 9.15
Triglyceride (mg/dl)	59.4 ± 3.44	40.4 ± 2.73	61.4 ± 1.82	66.3 ± 1.73

Means ± (Standard error)

Values within a row with different superscripts are significantly different (P≤0.05).

The weight of internal organs as percentage to dressing carcass weight was cited in Table (5). There is no significant (P≤0.05) effect on relative weight of the liver, spleen, heart, or bursa of Fabricius due to supplementation of Biostrong® 510 to broiler diet. The previous results of Li *et al.* (2015), Saracila *et al.* (2018) and Saleh *et al.* (2018) did not find any significant effect on internal organ weight as a result of adding different types of PFA into broiler diets. On the other hand, Amad *et al.* (2011) noted a significant reduction in liver weight due to feeding different levels of Biostrong®510 to broiler chicks.

Ileal histomorphology results (Table 6 & Fig 1) revealed a significant (P≤0.05) increase in villi length associated with a reduction in crypt depth due to inclusion of PFA into broiler diets. Accordingly, the ratio of villi length to crypt depth was significantly higher due to feeding diets supplemented with PFA. As well, there were significant (P≤0.05) reductions in small intestine thickness for the birds fed Biostrong®510 supplemented diets. The current results are in a good agreement with those of Ahsan *et al.* (2018) and Mohiti-Asli and Ghanaatparast-Rashti (2017), who observed an increase in villi height and villi height to crypt depth ratio inherent with reductions in crypt depth and muscular thickness by including PFA into broiler diets. The morphological changes in the small intestine may illustrate the beneficial action of Biostrong®510 in enhancing the performance of broiler chicks. The reason is that the higher villi increase the surface area for nutrients absorption, ultimately increasing the efficiency of feed

utilization and body weight gain (Murugesan *et al.*, 2015). The intestinal crypts are a reservoir for epithelial cells renewal which consumes more nutrients for cell build up and turnover, so low value of crypt depth in Biostrong®510 feeding groups may allow more nutrients for body growth (Ahsan *et al.*, 2018). As well, the reduction in small intestine thickness usually associates with a low count of harmful bacteria which induce a chronic intestinal wall inflammation (Krink and Jamroz, 1996). Therefore, thinner wall of Biostrong®510 feeding groups indicate a low count of harmful bacteria and better nutrient absorption (Ahsan *et al.*, 2018).

Table (5) Effect of Biostrong® 510 on relative weight of internal organs

Organ	Control (+)	Control (+) with Biostrong® 510	Control (-)	Control (-) with Biostrong® 510
Dressing wt. (g)	1350.5 ±72.2	1274.0 ±42.5	1334.3 ±50.7	1358.2 ±41.6
% Liver	3.24 ±0.185	3.25 ±0.089	3.19 ±0.121	3.10 ±0.066
% Spleen	0.131 ±0.010	0.133 ±0.011	0.149 ±0.009	0.128 ±0.007
% Hart	0.758 ±0.029	0.757 ±0.031	0.722 ±0.044	0.721 ±0.019
Bursa wt. (g)	3.09 ±0.398	2.97 ±0.283	3.71 ±0.339	3.29 ±0.226

Means ± (Standard error)

Values within a row with different superscripts are significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$)

Table (6) Effect of PFA on Small Intestine Thickness and Ileal Histomorphology

Item	Control (+)	Control (+) with Biostrong® 510	Control (-)	Control (-) with Biostrong® 510
Villi length (µm)	467 ^b ± 17.4	534 ^{ab} ± 13.2	498 ^b ± 27.45	567 ^a ± 23.49
Crypt Depth (µm)	127 ^a ± 4.85	105 ^b ± 5.93	117 ^b ± 6.62	85 ^c ± 3.54
Villi length to Crypt Depth Ratios	3.7 ^c ± 0.329	5.08 ^{ab} ± 0.356	4.25 ^b ± 0.546	6.67 ^a ± 0.301
Small Intestine Thickness (g Weight/cm Length)	0.234 ^a ± 0.008	0.213 ^{ab} ± 0.006	0.221 ^{ab} ± 0.007	0.195 ^b ± 0.005

Means ± (Standard error)

Values within a row with different superscripts are significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$).

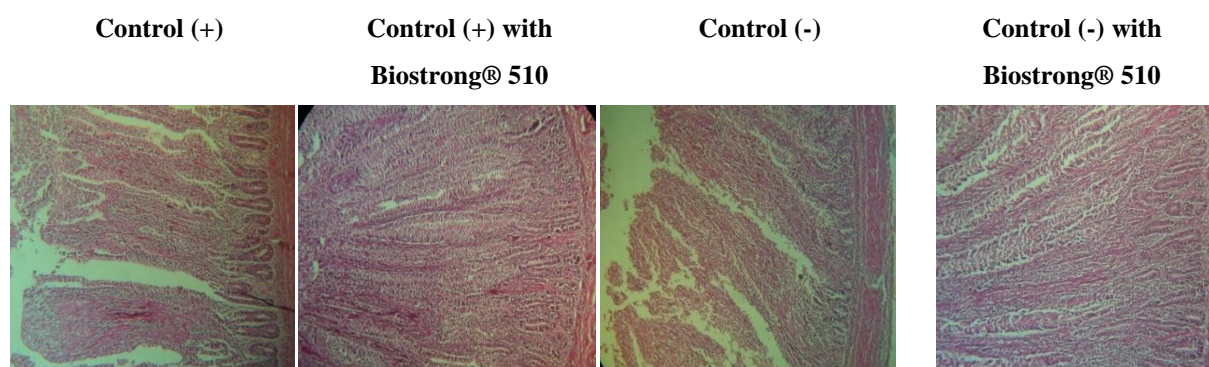


Fig. (1). Ileal villi height and crypt depth of chicks fed diets with or without PFA

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the main results indicate that addition of PFA (Biostrong® 510) can improve the performance of broiler chicks at the later stage of growth. The beneficial mode of action of PFA may be related to its effect in increasing the count of *Lactobacilli* and reducing the number of *E. coli* and other pathogenic bacteria. It may also be related to the increase of the length of intestinal villi. Ultimately, PFA improved the performance of broiler chicks.

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كفاءة منشطات النمو النباتية في تحسين الأداء الإنتاجي وبكتريا ونسيج الأمعاء لكتاكيت اللحم

نجلاء كمال سليمان

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منشطات النمو الطبيعية نباتية المصدر تم اختبارها في عديد من الأبحاث كمنشط للنمو بديل عن المضادات الحيوية التي تم تحريم استخدامها كإضافة لأعلاف الدواجن. الدراسة الحالية هدفت لمعرفة تأثير منشط النمو الطبيعي بيوسترونج (Biostrong® 510) على الأداء الإنتاجي لكتاكيت اللحم وبكتريا الأمعاء إضافة الى تأثيره على نسيج الأمعاء وبعض مكونات الدم في الكتاكيت.

استخدمت الدراسة عدد 400 كتكوت روس عمر يوم تم توزيعهم لأربع مجاميع تحوي 5 مكررات من 20 كتكوت بكل مكرر. الكتاكيت جرى تغذيتها لمدة 35 يوم على أربع علائق تجريبية هي: 1. كونترول موجب 21,24% بروتين و 2850 ككالورى طاقة ممثلة – 2. عليقة كونترول موجب مضاف إليها 150 جم /طن بيوسترونج 3. عليقة كونترول سالب تحوي 20.49% بروتين و 2801 ككالورى طاقة ممثلة 4. عليقة كونترول سالب مضاف إليها 150 جم /طن بيوسترونج.

أضافة البيوسترونج لعلائق كتاكيت اللحم أدى لزيادة وزن الجسم وتحسين معدل التحويل الغذائى للكتاكيت مقارنة بتلك المغذاة على عليقتى الكونترول الموجب والسالب وذلك خلال المرحلة الثانية من النمو. كذلك أدى لتخفيض محتوى الأمعاء من بكتريا الأيكولاي وزيادة أعداد بكتريا اللاكتوباسلاى. لم يكن هناك تأثير معنوى لأضافة البيوسترونج على محتوى الدم من البروتين الكلى والألبومين والجلوبيين كذلك لم يتأثر محتوى الدم من الكوليسترول أو الجليسيريدات الثلاثية. لم يكن هناك أختلاف معنوى فى الأوزان النسبية للأعضاء الداخلية القلب والكبد والطحال وغدة البرزا نتيجة للمعاملة. وقد أوضحت الدراسة ان هناك زيادة معنوية فى طول الخملات بصاحبها نقص فى Crypt depth نتيجة لأضافة البيوسترونج. وأنخفض معدل سمك الأمعاء الدقيقة نتيجة للتغذية على علائق البيوسترونج. وأستخلصت الدراسة أن أضافة منشطات النمو النباتية مثل البيوسترونج تؤدي الى زيادة أعداد البكتريا النافعة فى الأمعاء وزيادة طول الخملات وبالتالي تحسن معدلات الأستفادة من العناصر الغذائية والأداء الأنتاجى لكتاكيت اللحم.