

# The growth and carcass traits of commercial red-feathered roosters in Taiwan <sup>(1)</sup>

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## Abstract

This study was conducted to measure the growth and carcass traits of commercial red-feathered roosters for understanding the present problems of native chicken industry in Taiwan. The commercial red-feathered roosters from 4 red-feathered breeder farms in Taiwan, which will measure the body weight, feed conversion ratio, carcass characteristics and muscle color. The results showed that the body weight of chickens from all farms reached  $2,241 \pm 155$  to  $2,627 \pm 158$  g at 12 weeks of age. Feed conversion ratios of 4 groups were  $2.50 \pm 0.32$  to  $2.98 \pm 0.46$  during 4 to 8 weeks of age. Dressing percentages at 12 weeks of age were  $74.3 \pm 1.2$  to  $78.1 \pm 0.7\%$ . The breast ratio of carcasses were  $19.0 \pm 0.8$  to  $21.8 \pm 0.7\%$ , the thigh ratio of carcasses were  $27.4 \pm 0.3$  to  $28.4 \pm 0.7\%$ . There were significant differences among 4 farms in dressing percentages and the breast ratio of carcasses. The b values of back skin and thigh meat were significantly different among 4 groups. No significant differences were observed among 4 groups on L, a and b values of abdomen and breast meat. Compared the results of this study with the previous reports, there were slowly declined in body weight, feed conversion ratio, and dressing percentage of the commercial red-feathered roosters in Taiwan.

Key words: Carcass characteristics, Native chicken, Growth trait, Muscle color.

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