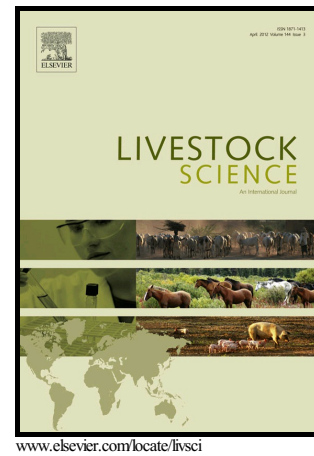


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Effects of light regimen and nutrient density on growth performance, carcass traits, meat quality, and health of slow-growing broiler chickens

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to examine the main and interactive effects of 4 light regimens [16 h light (L):8 h darkness (D), 23L:1D, decreasing-increasing (Dec-Inc), and intermittent lighting (3L:1D)], and 3 dietary nutrient densities (low-, medium-, and high-density) on the growth performance, carcass characteristics, meat quality, and health of slow-growing broiler chickens (Beijing-You). A total of 1,440 day-old chicks were assigned to light regimens and nutrient densities in a 4 × 3 factorial arrangement of treatments with 4 pens per treatment and 15 males and 15 females per pen. Body weight and accumulated feed intake were determined on d 28, 56, and 91. The gait score (GS)

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