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Prolonged exposure to two different sources of dietary phytoestrogens on semen characteristics and reproductive performance of rabbit bucks

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1 **Prolonged exposure to two different sources of dietary phytoestrogens on semen characteristics and**
2 **reproductive performance of rabbit bucks**

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11

12 **Abstract**

13 The effects of inclusion of two different sources of dietary phytoestrogens on antioxidant capacity,
14 hormonal balance, libido, semen quality and fertility of rabbit bucks were studied. Twenty one, adult,
15 fertile, V-line bucks were randomly allocated into three homogenous groups ($n=7/\text{treatment}$) and received
16 control diet (phytoestrogens-free diet, CON) or soybean meal isoflavones-containing diet (SMI) or
17 linseed meal lignans-containing diet (LML) for 12 wk. The diets were formulated to be isocaloric and
18 isonitrogenous. The concentrations of isoflavones in the SMI diet were 24.04 mg/100g dry matter (DM)
19 daidzein and 13.10 mg/100g DM genistein. The major phytoestrogen detected in the LML diet was
20 secoisolariciresinol (36.80 mg/100g DM). Treatment had no effects on BW, feed intake and rectal
21 temperature of bucks. Compared to control, bucks fed the SMI and LML diets had higher ($P < 0.001$)
22 blood plasma total antioxidant capacity (TCA; 0.98 ± 0.12 , 1.50 ± 0.13 and 2.29 ± 0.17 mM/L for CON,

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