Şimşek E, Kilic I, Balci F (2006) Effects of hen age and cage density on hen performance and egg quality in hot weather. Indian Veterinary Journal Vol. 83 No. 4, 409-413.

Abstract

This study was conducted to examine effects of hen age and cage density on egg production and egg quality characteristics. In this experiment at higher environmental temperatures, 25 wks-old Isa Brown hens were placed in 40 x50x40 cm cage at the rate of four and five hens per cage. Eggs were collected once a week in all cages until the end of study to determine characteristics of egg quality.

It was determined that hen age had significantly reduced the feed consumption ($P<0.05$), and improved the percentage hen-day egg production and feed efficiency ($P<0.01$). Characteristics of egg quality such as shell thickness, albumen index and Haugh unit were significantly affected by age of hen ($P<0.01$). Hens at higher cage density level had lower percentage hen-day egg production than hens at lower cage density level ($P<0.05$). Effects of cage density on characteristics of egg quality were non-significant.