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Penulis : Rizki Palupi, Fitri Nova Liya Lubis, Anggriawan Naidilah Tetra Pratama

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2	Bukti Revisi editorial dan Konfirmasi proses review yang pertama.	14 September 2022 – 1 November 2022
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## The Duration of Feeding Fermented with *Lactobacillus* In The Ration Towards The Production Performance and Carcass Quality of Broilers

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### ABSTRACT

This current research aims to investigate the use of probiotics that develop in feed during the fermentation process in broiler rations instead of antibiotics in broiler rations by utilizing probiotics that develop in feed during the fermentation process, which can be used to improve broiler chickens' health and digestive process function of broilers. This study used a total of 180 one-day-old broiler chickens were used in the study. This research was carried out experimentally using a Completely Completely Randomized Design design, which consisted of 4 four treatments and 4 four replications for each treatment. The treatments were classified into four groups based on the duration of fermented feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* (P1 = 2 weeks of feeding, P2 = 3 weeks of feeding, P3 = 4 weeks of feeding, and P4 = 5 weeks of feeding). The Observed investigated parameters included: P performance of broilers, namely: ration consumption, body weight gain, and ration conversion. Carcass quality was also observed, namely: evaluated by considering broiler chickens' live weight, percentage of the carcass, and broilers' percentage of abdominal fat. The results showed indicated that the duration of fermented feed significantly (P<0.05) increased ration consumption by 40.07% and increased body weight gain by 13.77%, and decreased ration conversion by 25.33%. Subsequently, the duration of the fermented feed significantly (P<0.05) increased live weight by 17.80% and increased the carcass percentage by 8.84%, and decreased the percentage of increased the carcass percentage by 8.84%, and decreased abdominal fat by 12.90%.

**Keywords:** Broiler, Carcass quality, Fermented feed, Performance

### INTRODUCTION

Broiler The broiler is one of the sources of animal protein that is in great demand among consumers. This is because the quality of broiler carcasses is more superior when compared to other types of poultry. The quality of broiler carcasses is greatly influenced by feeding management and the amount of nutrients digested in the digestive tract which will be utilized for optimal meat production. Efforts to increase the amount of digested nutrients are often done by processing the feed before consumption. One of the feed processing that can be done is by fermenting the feed. The fermentation process can increase feed digestibility and increase crude protein content, and also can reduce crude fiber in feed (Khemapaka et al., 2014; Wongs and Werukhamkul, 2007). Fermented The fermented feed provides a number of several benefits,

including serving as a feed preservative to extend the shelf life and increasing increase appetite, so that it will accelerate the growth of broilers.

The fermentation process requires an inoculant that is used to speed up the breakdown of nutrients in the feed. One of the inoculants that can be used is by adding *Lactobacillus*. *Lactobacillus* are lactic acid bacteria that are often used in the fermentation process. Lactic acid bacteria will grow and develop on the substrate during fermentation, so that the feed contains probiotics that will be utilized by livestock to help the food digestion process. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that probiotics can be given at a concentration of 0.6 v/w in broiler up to 28 days of age. The higher the level of use of the probiotic *Lactobacillus* species in feed the better the effect on the growth (Pradikta et al., 2018). Previously, Mcnaught and MacFie (2000) stated that there are a number of probiotics that

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have a strong attachment to intestinal cells, including those from several types of lactic acid bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum* and a large number of *Bifidobacteria*. The ability to stick to the digestive tract will cause probiotic microbes to develop properly and pathogenic microbes such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhimurium-Typhimurium* in the digestive tract will be reduced from the animal host cells.

The feeding duration of certain feeds will allow probiotics to stick to the digestive tract of poultry for a longer period of time, affecting livestock production. The results of the research by Zulfan and Zulfikar (2020); Naji et al. (2016) reported that fermented feed ingredients can be given to commercial rations without disturbing the growth and increasing the income over feed costs of broiler. Feeding broilers at the beginning of growth, namely during the brooding period will affect the growth of broiler DOC. When chicks are 1 to 14 days old, there will be cell multiplication or hyperplasia. The multiplication of these cells includes the development of the digestive tract, the development of the respiratory tract, and the development of the immune system. Body cells will increase in number by way of cell division. The hyperplasia process will affect further growth in the form of hypertropia growth, cells will increase in size or cell maturation (Fatmaningsih et al., 2016). The duration of feeding fermented feed to broilers will affect the mechanism of absorption of food substances in the ration, so that broilers can grow with optimal weight and are expected to optimize the resulting body weight gain.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study used 160 DOC (day-day-old chicks) broilers placed in a postal cage measuring 100 cm x 100 cm as many as 16 cages. The feed used during the starter period comes from PT. Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, and at the time the finisher, it was came from PT. Cj Cheiljedang Feed Lampung. The composition of the nutrients in the feed used during the study is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.-** Nutrient composition of feed given at the starter and finisher period in broiler chickens

Nutrient	Starter Feed (HI Pro)*	Finisher Feed (MR1 - P)**
Water content (%)	13,00	13,00
Crude Protein (%)	22,00 – 23,00	21,50 – 23,00
Crude Fiber (%)	5,00	4,00
Fat (%)	5,00	8,00

Ash (%)	7,00	6,50
Calcium (%)	0,90	0,90 – 1,20
Phosphor (%)	0,60	0,70 – 1,00
Energy Metabolism (kcal/kg)	3,020 – 3,120	2,750 – 2,768

\* The feed is produced by PT. Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia.  
 \*\* The feed is produced by PT. Cheil Jedang Super Feed, Lampung.

Before the feed was given to broilers, it was fermented using Superlakt containing *Lactobacillus burigarius* bacteria for 7 days. The fermentation process was carried out by diluting Superlacto with a concentration of 15% percent. Afterwards, it is continued with the process of inoculation of the feed by evenly spraying the inoculant (4% w/v). Furthermore, incubation is carried out for 7 days before being given to broilers.

This research was conducted using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of 4 treatments and 4 replications. The treatment in this study was the duration of fermented feed, namely: P1 (Feeding fermented feed for 2 weeks), P2 (Feeding fermented feed for 3 weeks), P3 (Feeding fermented feed for 4 weeks), and P4 (Feeding fermented feed for 5 weeks).

Mathematic model of completely randomized design:  
 $Y_{ij} = \mu + T_i + s_{ij}$

$i = 1, 2, \dots, t$   
 $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$   
 $Y_{ij}$  = observation value in treatment i, repetition j  
 $\mu$  = common mean  
 $T_i$  = effect of treatment i  
 $s_{ij}$  = random effect (trial error) on treatment i and replication j  
 $t$  = many treatments  
 $n$  = number of replications

The investigated parameters observed were the performance of broiler chickens which included: (1) Consumption of ration (g/head/day) which was measured based on the difference between the ration given (g) and the rest of the ration given (g) during a certain period (days); (2) Body weight gain (g/head/day) which measured by weighing the difference between body weight at the end of the study (g) and the initial body weight (g) then divided by the length of rearing time (days); (3) Conversion of rations, which is measured based on the ratio between weight gain and ration consumption. Then measure the quality of the broiler carcass, including: (4) Live weight, which is measured based on the results of weighing at the end of the study (g); (5) Percentage of the carcass (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of weight comparison of broilers without blood, feathers, head, legs, and digestive organs (g) divided by live weight (g); (6) Percentage of abdominal fat (%), which calculated based on the percentage of the comparison between the

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weight of abdominal fat contained in the abdominal cavity and fat attached to the digestive organs (g) with the live weight of broilers (g).

#### Statistical analysis

Data from observation during the study are analyzed by Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). If there is a significant difference, then a further test is carried out using Duncan's Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Stell and Torrie, 1995).

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### Broiler production performance during the research

The average performance of broiler production observed during the research were ration consumption, body weight gain and feed conversion. The data are presented in Table 2.

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**Table 2.- Average Production performance of broiler chickens production performance during the study.**

Treatment	Feed Consumption (g/head/day)	Weight Gain (g/head/day)	Feed Conversion Ratio
P1	78.17±3.45 <sup>a</sup>	51.83±6.24 <sup>a</sup>	1.50±0.22 <sup>a</sup>
P2	86.71±4.12 <sup>b</sup>	55.55±4.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.56±1.45 <sup>a</sup>
P3	96.43±3.41 <sup>c</sup>	60.28±5.61 <sup>b</sup>	1.60±1.03 <sup>a</sup>
P4	118.24±2.66 <sup>d</sup>	65.80±3.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.80±1.56 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abcd</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). P1 = fermented feed for 2 weeks, P2 = fermented feed for 3 weeks, P3 = fermented feed for 4 weeks, P4 = fermented feed for 5 weeks.

**Ration Consumption**

The results of the analysis of variance revealed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the consumption of broiler ration. The average consumption of broiler rations during the study ranged from 78.17 to 118.24 (g/head/day). The longer the feed is fermented, the more the ration consumption increases, this is presumably because the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* has better palatability, so it is preferred by broilers. Widodo et al. (2013) reported the use of fermented feed can be given to a level of 15% in the ration, because the fermented feed provides the aroma, taste, and shape that broiler chickens prefer, thereby increasing the ration consumption.

Further test results showed that the ration consumption in P1 differed significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) with from P2. The increase in consumption in each treatment in this study was thought to be due to the duration of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* addition which could lead to an increase in feed quality. Widodo et al. (2013) stated that fermented feed will experience an increase in quality compared to feed that does not undergo a fermentation process. This increase in feed quality is due to the fact that the feed contains *Lactobacillus* which can help speed up the digestive process, thereby increasing feed digestibility. Kompiang (2009) reported that *Lactobacillus* are able to live and develop in the intestines of livestock, produce enzymes, such as proteases and amylase that can help improve digestion, and produce short-chain fatty acids that have antimicrobial properties that maintain the nutritional value in the feed to be absorbed, so that the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can improve ration consumption.

The ration consumption in P2 was significantly different from that in P3, it was suspected that the increase in consumption was due to the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* having palatability and texture favored by livestock. This is presumably due to the lactic acid produced by *Lactobacillus* in the intestine playing a maximum role in getting rid of pathogenic bacteria, so that they do not compete in utilizing the nutrients to be absorbed, thereby maximizing feed digestibility, which has an impact on increasing consumption (Wikanastri et

al., 2012).

The consumption of rations at P3 was significantly different from that in P4, it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* could improve palatability. Moreover, those 4-5 weeks of maintenance could increase the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine, so that the longer feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the greater the number of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broilers, this causes ration consumption and feed digestibility to increase. Zainuddin (2006) reported that broiler rations supplemented with *Lactobacillus* could increase palatability, feed consumption, broiler immune system (health), productivity, efficiency, and feed consumption. According to Hardiningsih et al. (2006) the benefits of providing *Lactobacillus* in mixed feed to broilers include increasing palatability, maintaining microflora, being useful in increasing digestive enzyme activity, reducing bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production, increasing ration consumption and digestion, and neutralizing both enterotoxins and toxins and also stimulates the immune system.

**Body Weight Gain**

The results of the analysis of variance showed that the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the increase in the body weight of broilers. It is suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase feed digestibility in the digestive tract. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will have a positive effect on the growth of broilers because *Lactobacillus* bacteria have the ability to can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can maintain the balance of other good bacteria populations in the small intestine, so that the digestibility of feed improves which affects the increase in body weight of broilers.

The results of further tests showed that the body weight gain of broilers in treatment P1 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with treatment P2, but significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with treatment P3 and P4. This result is thought to be due to the number of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broiler chickens; because the P1 treatment is the same as the P2 treatment, this could be due to a variety of factors. Uzer et al. (2013) reported that *Lactobacillus* functions to maintain beneficial microflora in the digestive tract and conversely inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria, increase digestive enzyme activity, decrease bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production, increase food intake and digestion as well as neutralize enterotoxins and stimulate the immune system so that it does not compete in digesting feed.

The body weight gain of broilers in P2 was significantly different from that in P3, it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* was able to protect the digestive tract from pathogenic bacteria and streamline feed consumption. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will

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have a positive effect on the growth of chickens. *Lactobacillus* bacteria have the ability to can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus*, in addition to maintaining the digestive tract, and can also maintain and improve the nutritional value of feed. Body weight gain is closely related to feeding, in terms of quantity related to feeding consumption, if feed consumption is disturbed it will interfere with growth and vice versa, if feed consumption is sufficient, it will increase broiler body weight.

The weight gain of broilers in P1 and P2 treatments was significantly different from that in P3 and P4 treatments. It is suspected that feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* can increase body weight gain due to its ability to suppress pathogenic bacteria, so it does not compete with pathogenic bacteria. Furthermore, it can also increase feed digestibility, which has a good effect on protein digestibility, where feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* produces proteolytic enzymes in the digestive tract which then can help digest protein thereby increasing body weight. Fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* in addition to suppressing pathogenic bacteria can also improve the performance of digestive organs, and stimulate bile, and pancreatic juice so that it affects the body weight gain of broiler chickens. Nurhayati et al. (2015) reported that the use of fermented feed in broiler chickens has the function of increasing the work of the digestive organs of broilers, namely stimulating the gallbladder wall to secrete bile and stimulating the secretion of pancreatic juice which contains amylase, lipase, and protease enzymes so as to improve the digestion of feed ingredients such as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Thus, the longer the feeding of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* resulted in better body weight gain.

**Ration conversion ratio**

The results of the analysis of variance showed that the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect (P<0.05) on the conversion of broiler rations. It was reported that Allegedly because the role of fermented *Lactobacillus* in feed is quite good, because the feed provided is efficient in increasing the body weight of broilers. Kiha et al. (2012) indicated that *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract can suppress pathogenic bacteria, so they do not compete in digesting nutrients, and maximize nutrient absorption in the digestive tract. The longer the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase the body weight gain of broiler chickens, in addition, the increase in body weight of broiler chickens can be influenced by the consumption of feed and the nutritional content contained in the feed or the consumption of nutrients in the feed. The longer the feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the greater the body weight gain.

**Carcass quality of broiler during of the research**

The average of carcass quality of broilers during the study observed were live weight, carcass percentage, and abdominal fat percentage. The data are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Average carcass quality of broiler chickens during the study.

Treatment	Live Weight (g)	Carcass Percentage (%)	Abdominal Fat Percentage (%)
P1	1699,50±13,44 <sup>a</sup>	72,02±6,43 <sup>a</sup>	1,24±0,12 <sup>a</sup>
P2	1797,50±21,06 <sup>a</sup>	75,02±11,03 <sup>b</sup>	1,32±0,11 <sup>b</sup>
P3	1900,75±20,11 <sup>b</sup>	77,65±5,44 <sup>b</sup>	1,40±0,80 <sup>b</sup>
P4	2002,00±16,37 <sup>c</sup>	78,39±7,18 <sup>b</sup>	1,34±0,32 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a, b, c</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference (p<0.05). P1 = fermented feed for 2 weeks, P2 = fermented feed for 3 weeks, P3 = fermented feed for 4 weeks, P4 = fermented feed for 5 weeks.

**Live body weight**

The average live weight obtained in this study ranged between 1699.50-2002.00 gr. The results of the analysis of diversity on the final weight of broiler chickens showed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect (P <0.05) on the live weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that *Lactobacillus* can produce lactic acid in the digestive tract so that it can lower the pH in the digestive tract. Low pH conditions will multiply good bacteria, allowing for faster nutrient absorption and increased growth, which will affect the live weight of broiler chickens (Akhadiarto, 2010).

Further testing revealed that the live weight of broiler chickens at P1 was not significantly different (P>0.05) from P2, but was significantly different (P<0.05) from P3 and P4 regarding the live weight of broilers. This shows that the effect of feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus* for 2 weeks to 3 weeks gives the same live weight. This was due to the fact that because *Lactobacillus* activity on the duration of feeding fermented at P1 and P2 gave the same effect, while the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for 4 weeks and for 5 weeks could increase live weight higher than P1 and P2. This is presumably because of the length of time *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract is able to increase the surface area of the intestinal villi so that nutrient absorption is better, reducing the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. In line with the research results of Ignatova et al. (2009), it was shown that giving a probiotic supplement (*Lactobacillus*) for 5 weeks have a positive effect on increasing the live weight of broilers and livestock products that are safe for consumption.

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Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P2 was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared to P3 and P4 on the results of weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for 3 weeks is still in normal conditions to produce live weight. This is because the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* is given only up to 3 weeks; so that after more than 3 weeks the lactic acid bacteria produced from the *Lactobacillus* fermented feed will be less so that the acidic conditions in the digestive tract are normal. According to Rodriguez et al. (2010), the addition of *Lactobacillus* in the feed will reduce pH and can increase the number of microorganisms in the digestive tract, accelerating the growth of digestive organs and allowing them to develop optimally. Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at 4 weeks and 5 weeks resulted in high body weight gain. It can be assumed that the longer feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* will result in greater body weight.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for 4 weeks was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared to with feeding fermented feed for 5 weeks. Presumably the longer the feeding is fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the more lactic acid bacteria are produced, which function to lower the pH of the digestive tract, facilitating the metabolic process and producing a high body weight. This is in accordance with the opinion of Agustina et al. (2007) which indicated that the use of *Lactobacillus* in feed aims to balance the microflora in the digestive tract in order to increase the absorption of nutrients to produce great body weight.

**Carcass Percentage**

The average percentage of broiler carcass for each treatment during the study can be seen in Table 3. The average percentage of broiler carcasses obtained in this study ranged from 72.02% to 78.39%. The results of the analysis of variance on broiler carcasses showed that the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the percentage of broilers. This is due to the fact that because the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* is able to lower the pH of the digestive tract, and facilitate the work of the pepsin enzymes so that protein absorption increases. Amrullah (2004) stated that the average percentage of broiler carcasses is around 65-78% of the final body weight.

The results of further tests on the percentage of broiler carcasses showed that the percentage of carcasses in P1 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with P2, but significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4. This indicated that the effect of feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus* for 2 weeks and 3 weeks resulted in a carcass percentage of 72.02%-75.02% lower than P3 and P4. This is because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for 2 weeks and 3 weeks has the potential for the growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *Salmonella* bacteria because

fermented feed has a function to minimize the growth of *Salmonella* pathogenic bacteria, so that the protein digestion process assisted by enzymes will be slower compared to P3 and P4, while the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for 4 weeks to 5 weeks resulted in a higher carcass percentage than P1 and P2, ranging from 77.64% to 78.39%. This is because *Lactobacillus* acts as a growth promoter which is able to increase the work of the pepsin enzyme in the digestive tract so that the absorption of nutrients in the intestines and the resulting metabolic products can be utilized by the livestock body to form and add new tissues such as meat formation (Ignatova et al., 2009).

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* in treatment P2 was significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4 on the percentage of carcasses. This is because the length of time of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* will produce a good percentage of the carcass because after all, *Lactobacillus* will produce lactic acid bacteria which function to facilitate the work of the digestive tract, resulting in a high percentage of the carcass. Maunatin and Khanifa (2012) stated that lactic acid bacteria found in the digestive system are able to neutralize toxins produced by pathogenic bacteria, affecting enzyme activity in the small intestine so that nutrients will be circulated by the blood throughout the body to form meat.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P3 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with P4. This reason is because because the fermented feed for 4 weeks had the same number of *Lactobacillus* bacteria as the fermented feed treatment for 5 weeks, so that the enzyme performance produced was the same in the P3 and P4 treatments. One of the increased enzyme performances due to the increase in the microbial population is the pepsin enzyme to break down protein and then the absorption of feed nutrients will be spread throughout the body to form meat deposition. In line with the research of Mountzouris et al. (2010) reported that the use of probiotics in feed can work optimally in the digestive tract by increasing the number of microbial populations, thereby balancing the microflora in the digestive tract, protecting the digestive system, improving intestinal health and increasing livestock productivity.

**Abdominal Fat Percentage**

The average percentage of abdominal fat weight ranged from 1.24 to 1.40%. It can be assumed that feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* facilitates the hydrolysis of carbohydrates in the digestive tract, facilitating the absorption of glucose and monosaccharides. Meanwhile, feed containing easily digestible carbohydrates will result in increased abdominal fat. In accordance with the view of Jha and Mishra (2021), poultry that are fed carbohydrate-based diets have a higher abdominal fat content than fibrous, easily digestible carbohydrates have a tendency to be converted into energy reserves in the form of fat. Hidayat (2015) reported that fat formation

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occurs due to excess energy consumed. Excess energy in broilers will be stored in the form of abdominal fat.

Further test results revealed that the percentage of abdominal fat given fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was significantly different (P<0.05) from P2, P3, and P4 in terms of abdominal fat percentage. It is suspected that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was still in normal condition resulting in a lower percentage of abdominal fat, while at P2, P3, and P4 the length of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* could reduce the activity of the lipase enzyme that plays a role in the rate of acid synthesis, fat, Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) reported that the decrease in abdominal fat deposition with a decrease in the energy content of the ration was caused by the reduced activity of lipase enzymes associated with lipogenic processes in the liver. Lipogenesis is a fat deposition process which that includes fatty acid synthesis and then triglyceride synthesis that occurs in the liver in the mitochondria and cytoplasm as well as adipose tissue (Pratikno, 2012). Fat in the body originated from feed and is produced from the synthesis process in the liver (Jensen-Urstad and Semenkovich, 2012). Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P2 and P3 was not significantly different (P>0.05) but significantly different from P4. This is presumably because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can optimize the absorption of the digestive tract so that the nutritional content of the feed is more directed at the formation of meat and bones than fat in each treatment. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) stated that nutrition affects the deposition of abdominal fat on the body of broiler chickens. Reduction of body fat deposits in broilers, including abdominal fat, occurs due to a reduction in fatty acid synthesis in the liver and a decrease in lipase enzyme secretion, thereby reducing fat absorption. Zhang et al. (2007) stated that fatty acids reduce the amount of body fat deposition in broilers by suppressing the activity of the lipase enzyme in plasma.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

According to the findings of the present study research, adding fermented *Lactobacillus* feed for 5 weeks could increase body weight gain by 16.30%, decrease feed conversion by 11.10% and improve the carcass quality of broiler chickens.

**Acknowledgments**

**Authors' contribution**

**Competing interests**

**Ethical consideration**

Ethical issues (including plagiarism, consent to publish, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, and redundancy) have been checked by all the authors.

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## Reviewers Guide

### **PART A:** *Editorial Board*

Manuscript Number:	#185
Title:	The Duration of Feeding Fermented with Lactobacillus in the Ration Towards the Production Performance and Carcass Quality of Broilers
Authors:	Rizki Palupi, Fitri N. L. Lubis , and Muhakka
E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:palupiarda@yahoo.com">palupiarda@yahoo.com</a>

### **PART B:** *Reviewer Only*

#### **SECTION 1: Comments per Section of Manuscript**

General comment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The article should be linguistically edited by a native English editor.</li> <li>We have many types of broiler, for example: broiler ducks, broiler quails. So the type of the broiler should be mentioned in whole the text.</li> </ul>
Introduction:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of the sentences should be add the reference and rephrase according to the marginal comment.</li> <li>Please mention the aim of the study at the end of the introduction.</li> </ul>
Methodology:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please add the section for ethical approval</li> <li>What about the control group?</li> <li>You should compare the results with control group.</li> <li>Where did you purchase the chicks?</li> <li>How many chicks divided in each group and replicates?</li> <li>What was the form of feed?</li> <li>Water and feed were ad libitum?</li> <li>What was the breed of chicks?</li> <li>What was the average of weight of chickens?</li> <li>How many chicks slaughtered in each group for analysis of these parameters?</li> <li>How much the temperature and humidity rate of the place where the chickens are kept?</li> <li>What was the lighting schedule?</li> <li>Did you perform the vaccination program?</li> <li>What about nutrient composition of the grower feed?</li> <li>Please add the nutrient composition of methionine, cysteine, lysine and vitamins Table 1.</li> <li>Which days/weeks did you consider as starter and finisher.</li> <li>What was the significant level?</li> </ul>

Results and Discussion:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of the sentences should be clarify, rephrase and add the p value according to the marginal comments.</li> </ul>
Bibliography/References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reference should be revised according to the journal formatting.</li> </ul>
Others:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ORCID of authors must be added.</li> </ul>
<b>Decision:</b>	Major revisions

**SECTION 2 - Please rate the following: (1 = Excellent) (2 = Good) (3 = Fair) (4 = poor)**

Originality:	1
Contribution To The Field:	2
Technical Quality:	2
Clarity Of Presentation :	2
Depth Of Research:	2

### SECTION 3 - Recommendation: (Kindly Mark With An X)

Accept as is	
Requires Minor Corrections:	
Requires Major Revision:	X
Invite Resubmission for a New Review after Major Revisions	
Submit To Another Publication Such As:	
Reject On Grounds Of (Please Be Specific):	

### SECTION 4: Additional Comments

Please add any additional comments (Including comments/suggestions regarding online supplementary materials, if any):

### SECTION 5: Graphical Abstract

Authors should provide a graphical abstract (a beautifully designed feature figure) to represent the paper aiming to catch the attention and interest of readers. Graphical abstract will be published online in the table of content. The graphical abstract should be *colored*, and kept within an area of 12 cm (width) x 6 cm (height) or with similar format. Image should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and line art 1200dpi. Note: *Height of the image should be no more than the width*. **Please avoid putting too much information into the graphical abstract as it occupies only a small space.** Authors can provide the graphical abstract in the format of PDF, Word, PowerPoint, jpg, or png, after a manuscript is accepted for publication. See more sample graphical abstracts in [archive](http://iwpr.science-line.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=11) at ([http://iwpr.science-line.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=11](http://iwpr.science-line.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=11)).







## Reviewers Guide

### **PART A:** *Editorial Board*

Manuscript Number:	JWPR #185
Title:	The duration of feeding fermented with Lactobacillus in the ration towards the production performance and carcass quality of broilers
Authors:	
E-Mail:	

### **PART B:** *Reviewer Only*

#### **SECTION 1: Comments per Section of Manuscript**

General comment:	The rephrasing of the title should be considered to reflect what the research entails. Check through the manuscript and make necessary corrections and adjustments  - There many typos and linguistic errors that must be revised by a native language editor.
Introduction:	The introduction was well written but some statements were not referenced and most importantly, the objective of the research was not clearly spelt out
Methodology:	The presentation and order of arrangement of the methodology should be corrected. The numbering should be removed
Results:	Indicate if the results were presented with Standard deviation or Standard error of mean. The results should be interpreted per Table. Performance is the first one and carcass quality is the second one and therefore parameters under performance should be covered under performance and not listing each parameter under performance as a separate heading and this applies also for carcass
Discussion:	The discussion is too ambiguous. Avoid unnecessary repetitions in discussing the treatments for a parameter. The discussion should be adjusted to be precise as much as possible
Bibliography/References:	Some references are missing
Others:	Check correctly the use of P value in the interpretation of result
<b>Decision:</b>	Consider after revision

**SECTION 2 - Please rate the following: (1 = Excellent) (2 = Good) (3 = Fair) (4 = poor)**

Originality:	2
Contribution to the Field:	2
Technical Quality:	3
Clarity of Presentation:	3
Depth of Research:	3

**SECTION 3 - Recommendation: (Kindly Mark With An X)**

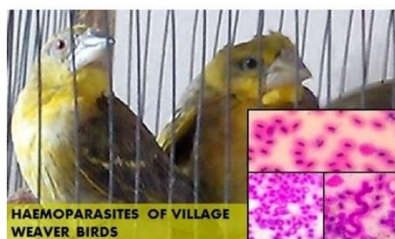
Accept as is	
Requires Minor Corrections:	
Requires Major Revision:	X
Invite Resubmission for a New Review after Major Revisions	
Submit to Another Publication such as:	
Reject on Grounds of (Please Be Specific):	

**SECTION 4: Additional Comments**

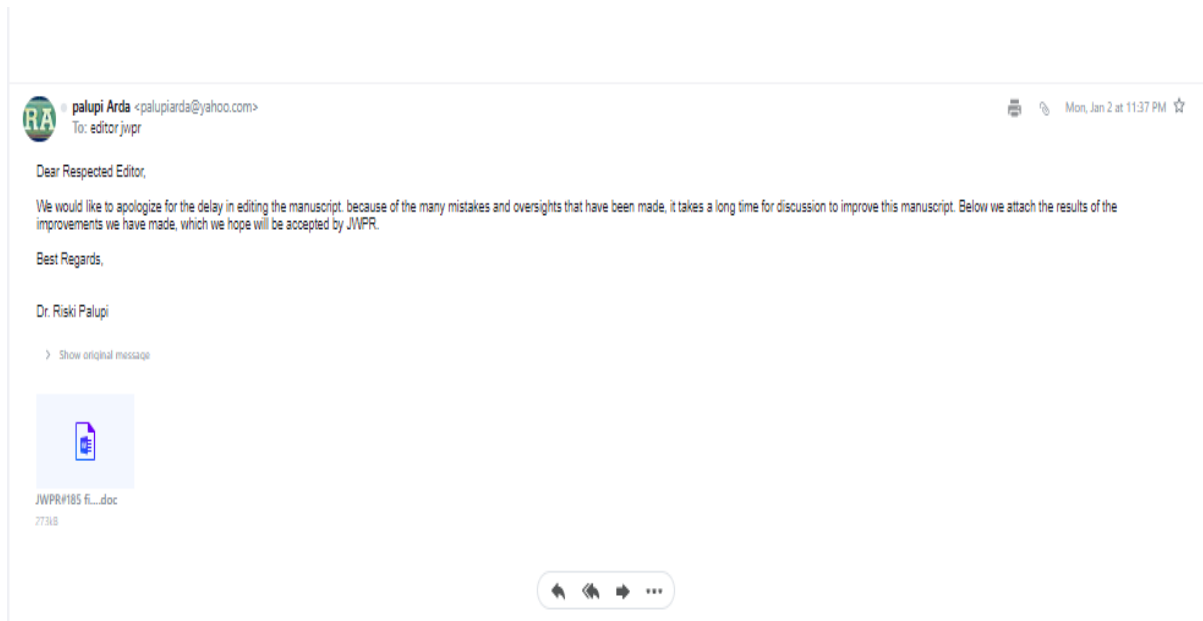
Please add any additional comments (Including comments/suggestions regarding online supplementary materials, if any):

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#### 4. Bukti konfirmasi Submit hasil Revisi Pertama (2 Januari 2022)





## Original Research

# The effect of fermented feeding at different times on the Performance of production and the quality of broiler chicken carcasses

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## ABSTRACT

The quality of broiler carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production. The study aimed to determine the effect of feeding fermented feed at different times on the production performance and quality of broiler chicken carcasses. The number of Day Old Chick (DOC) used in this study was 180 broiler chickens strain Cobb. This study was carried out experimentally using a Complete Randomized Design consisting of 4 treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); 3 weeks (P2); 4 weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4). Experimental parameters include ration consumption, weight gain, and ration conversion. In addition, the quality of carcasses is also observed: live weight, carcass percentage, and percentage of broiler chicken abdominal fat. The results showed that the longer the time of fermentation feed significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) increased ration consumption by 40.07% and increased 13.77% weight gain, as well as decreased ration conversion by 25.33%. Furthermore, the same results were also shown in the observation of live weight by 17.80% and increased the percentage of the carcass by 8.84% while the percentage of abdominal fat decreased by 12.90%.

**Keywords:** Broiler, Carcass quality, Fermented feed, Performance

## INTRODUCTION

Broiler chickens have a role as a source of animal protein that is in demand by consumers. This demand is because broiler chicken carcasses can be produced faster than other livestock. However, the quality of broiler carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production (Baéza et al., 2022). Various attempts have been made to increase the amount of digested nutrients and increase digestibility by processing feed before consumption. Feed processing that can be pursued is fermenting the feed. One of the feed processing that can be done is by fermenting the feed. The fermentation process can increase feed digestibility and crude protein content and reduce crude fiber in feed (Khempaka et al., 2014). The fermented feed provides several benefits, including improving nutritional properties (reducing fiber and increasing protein content) and

intestinal health. It will accelerate broilers' growth (Sugiharto, 2019).

The fermentation process requires an inoculant to speed up the breakdown of nutrients in the feed. One of the inoculants that can be used is by adding *Lactobacillus*. *Lactobacillus* are lactic acid bacteria that are often used in the fermentation process. Lactic acid bacteria will grow and develop on the substrate during fermentation, so the feed contains probiotics utilized by livestock to help the food digestion process. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that probiotics could be given at a concentration of 0.6 v/w in broiler up to 28 days of age. The higher the level of the probiotic *Lactobacillus* species in feed, the better the effect on the growth (Pradikta et al., 2018). Previously, Mcnaught and MacFie (2001) stated that many probiotics could attach firmly to intestinal cells, including several types of lactic acid bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, and large number of *Bifidobacteria*. The ability to stick to the



digestive tract will cause probiotic microbes to develop appropriately, and pathogenic microbes such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in the digestive tract will be reduced from the animal host cells. The feeding duration of specific feeds will allow probiotics to stick to poultry's digestive tract for a more extended period, affecting livestock production. The results of the research by Zulfan *et al.* (2020) and Naji *et al.* (2015) reported that fermented feed ingredients could be given in commercial rations without disturbing the growth and increasing the income over feed costs of broiler. Furthermore, feeding in the early phase of growth or during the brooding period can affect the growth of broiler DOC. When chicks are 1 to 14 days old, cell multiplication or hyperplasia will occur. The multiplication of these cells includes the development of the digestive tract, respiratory tract, and immune system. Body cells will increase in number by way of cell division. The hyperplasia process will affect further growth in the form of hypertropia growth, cells will increase in size or cell maturation (Fatmaningsih & Nova, 2016). Based on the description above, a study was aimed to determine the effect of fermented feed at different times on production performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Animal Ethics

An animal feeding experiment was conducted at the experimental station, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. The birds were cared for according to the Indonesian Institute of Sciences Animal Welfare Guidelines. The approval of the experiment was granted from Universitas Sriwijaya with approval number KPPHP-2021-1.

### Method and sampling preparation

This study used 180 DOC (day-old chicks) of Cobb strain broilers with an average weight of 38 g and placed in 20 postal cages with a size of 100 cm x 100 cm. Nine broilers were placed in each cage. The cages had food dishes, water containers, and 60-watt incandescent lamps for lighting and warmth while the chicks were in them. The feed used during the starter period was HI Pro from Incorporated Company Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, and at the time, the finisher was MR1-P from Incorporated Company Cj Cheiljedang Feed Lampung. The composition of the nutrients in the feed used during the study is shown in Table 1.

Before the feed is given to the experimental animals, the feed is fermented for 7 days using Super lacto which contains the *Lactobacillus burlgarius* bacteria and is a product of the Central Proteina Prima Tbk company. The fermentation process is carried out by diluting Super lacto

at a concentration of 15 percent based on the rules for use on the product label. After that, proceed with the feed inoculation process by spraying the inoculant evenly (4% w/v).

**Table 1.** Nutrient composition of feed given at the starter and finisher period in broiler chickens strain cobb

Nutrient	Starter feed (HI Pro)*	Finisher feed (MR1 – P)**
Water content (%)	13.00	13.00
Crude protein (%)	22.00 – 23.00	21.50 – 23.00
Crude fibre (%)	5.00	4.00
Fat (%)	5.00	8.00
Ash (%)	7.00	6.50
Calcium (%)	0.90	0.90 – 1.20
Phosphor (%)	0.60	0.70 – 1.00
Metabolism Energy (kcal/kg)	3.020 – 3.120	2.750 – 2.768

\* Incorporated Company Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, produces the feed.

\*\* Incorporated Company Cheil Jedang Super Feed, Lampung produce the feed.

### Experimental Design

This research was conducted using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of four treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); 3 weeks (P2); 4 weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4).

### Observed Variables

All parameters for calculating the value of observations made in this study are based on research conducted by Palupi *et al.* (2022).

### Feed Consumption

The investigated parameters included consumption of ration (g/head/day), which was measured based on the difference between the ration given (g) and the rest of the ration given (g) during a specific period (days)

### Body weight gain

body weight gain (g/head/day), which was measured by weighing the difference between body weight at the end of the study (g) and the initial body weight (g), then divided by the length of rearing time (days)

### Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR)

conversion of rations, measured based on the ratio between weight gain and ration consumption.

**Live weight**

Then measure, the quality of the broiler carcass, including: Live weight, was measured based on the results of weighing at the end of the study (g).

**Carcass percentage**

Percentage of the carcass (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of weight comparison of broilers without blood, feathers, head, legs, and digestive organs (g) divided by live weight (g).

**Percentage of abdominal fat**

Percentage of abdominal fat (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of the comparison between the weight of abdominal fat contained in the abdominal cavity and fat attached to the digestive organs (g) with the live weight of broilers (g).

**Statistical Analysis**

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) analyzes data from observation during the study. If there is a significant difference, a further test is carried out using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Steel & Torrie, 1980).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Production performance**

The average Performance of broiler production observed during the research was ration consumption, body weight gain, and feed conversion. The data are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Production performance at the starter and finisher period in broiler chicken strain cobb

Treatment	Feed consumption (g/head/day)	Weight gain (g/head/day)	Feed conversion ratio
P1	78.17 ± 3.45 <sup>a</sup>	51.83 ± 6.24 <sup>a</sup>	1.50 ± 0.22 <sup>a</sup>
P2	86.71 ± 4.12 <sup>b</sup>	55.55 ± 4.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.56 ± 1.45 <sup>a</sup>
P3	96.43 ± 3.41 <sup>c</sup>	60.28 ± 5.61 <sup>b</sup>	1.60 ± 1.03 <sup>a</sup>
P4	118.24 ± 2.66 <sup>d</sup>	65.80 ± 3.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.80 ± 1.56 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference (p < 0.05). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed for 4 weeks, P4 = fermented feed for 5 weeks

**Ration consumption**

The analysis of variance revealed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect on the consumption of broiler ration (P<0.05). The average consumption of broiler rations during the study ranged from 78.17 to 118.24 (g/head/day). The most extended fermented feed would affect the ration consumption; this was assumed because adding feed

fermented with *Lactobacillus* has better palatability, so broilers prefer it. Widodo *et al.* (2013) reported that fermented feed could be given to a level of 15% in the ration. Because fermented feed provides aromas, flavors, and shapes that broilers prefer, thereby increasing ration consumption.

Further test results showed that the consumption ratio of P1 was significantly different from P2 (P<0.05). It was hypothesized that the increased consumption at each treatment in this study was due to the duration of the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* supplementation, which could lead to improved feed quality. Widodo *et al.* (2013) found that fermented feed had improved quality compared to feed that had not undergone the fermentation process. This improvement in feed quality is because the feed contains *Lactobacillus*, which helps speed up the digestive process, thereby improving the digestibility of the feed. Getachew (2016) reported that lactic acid bacteria could live and grow in the intestine and produce enzymes, such as proteases and amylases, which could help improve digestion and produce short-chain fatty acids with antibacterial properties to protect nutritive feed. Therefore, feed intake can be improved by adding feed fermented with lactic acid bacteria.

Feed consumption in P2 was significantly different from P3, suggesting that the increased consumption was due to the palatability of the lactobacillus-fermented feed, which was preferred by livestock. Furthermore, the lactic acid produced by lactobacilli in the gut plays a tremendous role in eliminating pathogenic bacteria and maximizing the digestibility of the feed by ensuring that there is no competition for the utilization of the nutrients ingested. This statement is believed to be due to its impact on consumption (Wikanatsiri *et al.*, 2012).

The consumption of rations at P3 was significantly different from that in P4 (P<0.05), it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* could improve palatability. Furthermore, throughout these 4-5 weeks of treatment, the amount of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine could be increased so that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* caused the more significant population of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broilers, which caused the ratio consumption and feed digestibility increased. Elbaz (2021) reported that broiler rations supplemented with *Lactobacillus* could increase palatability, feed consumption, broiler immune system (health), productivity, efficiency, and feed consumption. According to Hardiningsih *et al.* (2006), the benefits of providing *Lactobacillus* in mixed feed to broilers were increased palatability; maintaining microflora; helping increase digestive enzyme activity; reducing bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production; increased ration consumption and digestion; neutralizing both enterotoxins and toxins; and also stimulates the immune system.

**Body weight gain**

The analysis of variance showed that the feed fermented

with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the increase in the body weight of broilers. It is suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase feed digestibility in the digestive tract. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect broilers' growth because *Lactobacillus* bacteria can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can maintain the balance of other beneficial bacteria populations in the small intestine so that feed digestibility improves, affecting the increase in broilers' body weight.

The results of further tests showed that the body weight gain of broilers in treatment P1 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with treatment P2 but significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with treatment P3 and P4. This result is thought to be due to the number of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broiler chickens because the P1 treatment is the same as the P2 treatment; this could be due to various factors. Uzer et al. (2013) *Lactobacilli* maintain beneficial microflora in the gastrointestinal tract, conversely, suppress the growth of pathogenic bacteria, increase digestive enzyme activity, decrease bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production, increase food intake and digestion, and enterotoxins and neutralize immunity. A stimulating system that does not compete in digesting food.

The body weight gain of broilers in P2 was significantly different from that in P3; it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* was able to protect the digestive tract from pathogenic bacteria and streamline feed consumption. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect the growth of chickens. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus*, in addition to maintaining the digestive tract and improving the nutritional value of feed. Body weight gain is closely related to feeding in terms of quantity related to feeding consumption. If feed consumption is disturbed, it will interfere with growth and vice versa; if feed consumption is sufficient, it will increase broiler body weight.

The weight gain of broilers in the P1 and P2 treatments was significantly different from that in P3 and P4 treatments. It is suspected that feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* can increase body weight gain due to its ability to suppress pathogenic bacteria, so it does not compete with pathogenic bacteria. Furthermore, it can also increase feed digestibility, which has a good effect on protein digestibility, where feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* produces proteolytic enzymes in the digestive tract, which then can help digest protein, thereby increasing body weight. A fermented feed with *Lactobacillus*, suppressing pathogenic bacteria, can also improve the Pof digestive organs, stimulating bile and pancreatic juice so that it affects the body weight gain of broiler chickens. Nurhayati et al. (2015) reported that the use of fermented feed in broiler chickens has the function

of increasing the work of the digestive organs of broilers, namely stimulating the gallbladder wall to secrete bile and stimulating the secretion of pancreatic juice, which contains amylase, lipase, and protease enzymes to improve the digestion of feed ingredients such as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Thus, the more extended feeding of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* resulted in better body weight gain.

#### Ration conversion ratio

The analysis of variance showed that the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the conversion of broiler rations. It was reported that the role of fermented *Lactobacillus* in feed is quite good because the feed provided is efficient in increasing the body weight of broilers. Kiha et al. (2012) indicated that *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract could suppress pathogenic bacteria, so they do not compete in digesting nutrients and maximize nutrient absorption in the digestive tract. The longer the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase the body weight gain of broiler chickens; in addition, the increase in body weight of broiler chickens can be influenced by the consumption of feed and the nutritional content contained in the feed or the consumption of nutrients in the feed. The longer the feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the greater the body weight gain.

#### Carcass quality

The average carcass quality of broilers during the study observed was live weight, carcass percentage, and abdominal fat percentage. The data are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Average carcass quality of broiler chickens

Treatment	Live body weight (g)	Carcass percentage (%)	Abdomen fat percentage (%)
P1	1699.50 ± 13.44 <sup>a</sup>	72.02 ± 6.43 <sup>a</sup>	1.24 ± 0.12 <sub>a</sub>
P2	1797.50 ± 21.06 <sup>a</sup>	75.02 ± 11.03 <sup>a</sup>	1.32 ± 0.11 <sup>b</sup>
P3	1900.75 ± 20.11 <sup>b</sup>	77.65 ± 5.44 <sup>b</sup>	1.40 ± 0.80 <sup>b</sup>
P4	2002.00 ± 16.37 <sup>c</sup>	78.39 ± 7.18 <sup>b</sup>	1.34 ± 0.32 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed four weeks, P4 = fermented feed five weeks

#### Live body weight

The average live weight obtained in this study ranged between 1699.50-2002.00 gr. The results of the analysis of diversity on the final weight of broiler chickens showed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus*

had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the live weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that *Lactobacillus* can produce lactic acid in the digestive tract so that it can lower the pH in the digestive tract. Low pH conditions will multiply beneficial bacteria, allowing for faster nutrient absorption and increased growth, affecting broiler chickens' live weight (Akhadiarto, 2010).

Further testing revealed that the live weight of broiler chickens at P1 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) from P2 but was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) from P3 and P4 regarding the live weight of broilers. This result shows that the effect of feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks to three weeks gives the same live weight. This case was because *lactobacillus* activity on the duration of feeding fermented at P1 and P2 gave the same effect while feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks and five weeks could increase live weight higher than P1 and P2. This result is presumably because of the length of time *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract can increase the intestinal villi's surface areas, so that nutrient absorption is better, reducing the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. In line with the research results of Ignatova *et al.* (2009), it was shown that giving a probiotic supplement (*Lactobacillus*) for five weeks positively increases the live weight of broilers and livestock products that are safe for consumption.

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P2 was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared to P3 and P4 on the results of the weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for three weeks is still in average conditions to produce a live weight. Moreover, because the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* is given only up to 3 weeks, after more than three weeks, the lactic acid bacteria produced from the *lactobacillus* fermented feed will be less so that the acidic conditions in the digestive tract are normal. According to Rodriguez *et al.* (2010), adding *Lactobacillus* to the feed will reduce pH and increase the number of microorganisms in the digestive tract, accelerating the growth of digestive organs and allowing them to develop optimally. Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at four weeks and five weeks resulted in high body weight gain. It can be assumed that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* will result in greater body weight.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared to feeding fermented feed for five weeks. Presumably, the longer the feeding is fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the more lactic acid bacteria are produced, which lower the digestive tract's pH, facilitating the metabolic process and producing a high body weight. This case follows the opinion of Elbaz *et al.* (2021), which indicated that the use of *Lactobacillus* in feed aims to balance the microflora in the digestive tract to increase the absorption of nutrients to produce ideal body weight.

#### Carcass percentage

The average percentage of broiler carcass for each treatment during the study can be seen in Table 3. The average percentage of broiler carcasses obtained in this study ranged from 72.02 to 78.39%. The results of the analysis of variance on broiler carcasses showed that the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $P < 0.05$ ) on the percentage carcasses of broilers. This result was because the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can lower the pH of the digestive tract and facilitate the work of the pepsin enzyme so that protein absorption increases. Baeza *et al.* (2022) stated that the average percentage of broiler carcasses is around 65-78% of the final body weight.

The results of further tests on the percentage carcasses of broiler carcasses showed that the percentage of carcasses in P1 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with P2 but significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4. This result indicated that the effect of feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks resulted in a carcass percentage of 72.02%-75.02% lower than P3 and P4. This case was because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks has the potential for the growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *salmonella* bacteria because the fermented feed has a function to minimize the growth of *salmonella* pathogenic bacteria so that the protein digestion process assisted by enzymes will be slower compared to P3 and P4, while the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks to 5 weeks resulted in a higher carcass percentage than P1 and P2, ranging from 77.64% to 78.39%. On This case was because *Lactobacillus* acts as a growth promoter which can increase the work of the pepsin enzyme in the digestive tract so that the absorption of nutrients in the intestines and the resulting metabolic products can be utilized by the livestock body to form and add new tissues such as meat formation (Ignatova *et al.*, 2009).

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* in treatment P2 was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4 on the percentage of carcasses. This case is because the length of time of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* will produce a great percentage of the carcass. After all, *Lactobacillus* will produce lactic acid bacteria, which facilitate the work of the digestive tract, resulting in a high percentage of the carcass. Maunatin and Khanifa (2012) stated that lactic acid bacteria found in the digestive system could neutralize toxins produced by pathogenic bacteria, affecting enzyme activity in the small intestine so that the blood will circulate nutrients throughout the body to form meat.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P3 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) with P4. This case was because the four-week fermented feed had the same number of *lactobacillus* bacteria as the fermented feed treatment for five weeks, so the enzyme performance produced was the same in the P3 and P4 treatments. One of the increased enzyme performances due to the increase in the microbial population is the pepsin enzyme to break



down protein. Then feed nutrients will be absorbed throughout the body to form meat deposition. In line with the research of Mountzouris *et al.* (2010) reported that the use of probiotics in feed can work optimally in the digestive tract by increasing the number of microbial populations, thereby balancing the microflora in the digestive tract, protecting the digestive system, improving intestinal health and increasing livestock productivity.

#### Abdominal fat percentage

The average percentage of abdominal fat weight ranged from 1.24 to 1.40%. It can be assumed that feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* facilitates the hydrolysis of carbohydrates in the digestive tract, facilitating the absorption of glucose and monosaccharides. Meanwhile, feed containing easily digestible carbohydrates will result in increased abdominal fat. Following the view of Jha and Mishra (2021), poultry-fed carbohydrate-based diets have a higher abdominal fat content than fibrous; easily digestible carbohydrates tend to be converted into energy reserves in the form of fat. Hidayat (2015) reported that fat formation occurs due to excess energy consumed. Excess energy in broilers will be stored in the form of abdominal fat.

Further test results revealed that the percentage of abdominal fat given fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) from P2, P3, and P4 in terms of abdominal fat percentage. It is suspected that the feeding duration fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was still in normal condition resulting in a lower percentage of abdominal fat. In contrast, at P2, P3, and P4, the length of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* could reduce the activity of the lipase enzyme that plays a role in the rate of acid synthesis. Fat. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) reported that the decrease in abdominal fat deposition with a decrease in the energy content of the ration was caused by the reduced activity of lipase enzymes associated with lipogenic processes in the liver. Lipogenesis is a fat deposition process that includes fatty acid synthesis and triglyceride synthesis that occurs in the liver in the mitochondria, cytoplasm, and adipose tissue. Fat in the body originates from feed and is produced from the synthesis process in the liver (Jensen-Urstad & Semenkovich, 2012). Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P2 and P3 was not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) but significantly different from P4. In this case, presumably because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can optimize the absorption of the digestive tract so that the nutritional content of the feed is more directed at the formation of meat and bones than fat in each treatment. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) stated that nutrition affects the deposition of abdominal fat in the body of broiler chickens. Reduction of body fat deposits in broilers, including abdominal fat, occurs due to a reduction in fatty acid synthesis in the liver and a decrease in lipase enzyme secretion, thereby reducing fat absorption. Zhang *et al.* (1999) stated that fatty acids reduce the amount of body

fat deposition in broilers by suppressing the activity of the lipase enzyme in plasma.

#### CONCLUSION

According to the present study's findings, adding fermented *Lactobacillus* feed for five weeks could increase body weight gain by 16.30%, decrease feed conversion by 11.10% and improve the carcass quality of broiler chickens.

#### Acknowledgments

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#### Authors' contribution

All authors developed the theory and supervised the research. Rizki Palupi contributed to the sample collection and analysis calculations. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript for publishing in the present journal.

#### Competing interests

The authors have declared that no competing interest exists

#### Ethical consideration

All authors have reviewed the manuscripts for ethical concerns, such as plagiarism, consent to publish, misconduct, data fabrication and falsification, double publishing and submission, and redundancy.

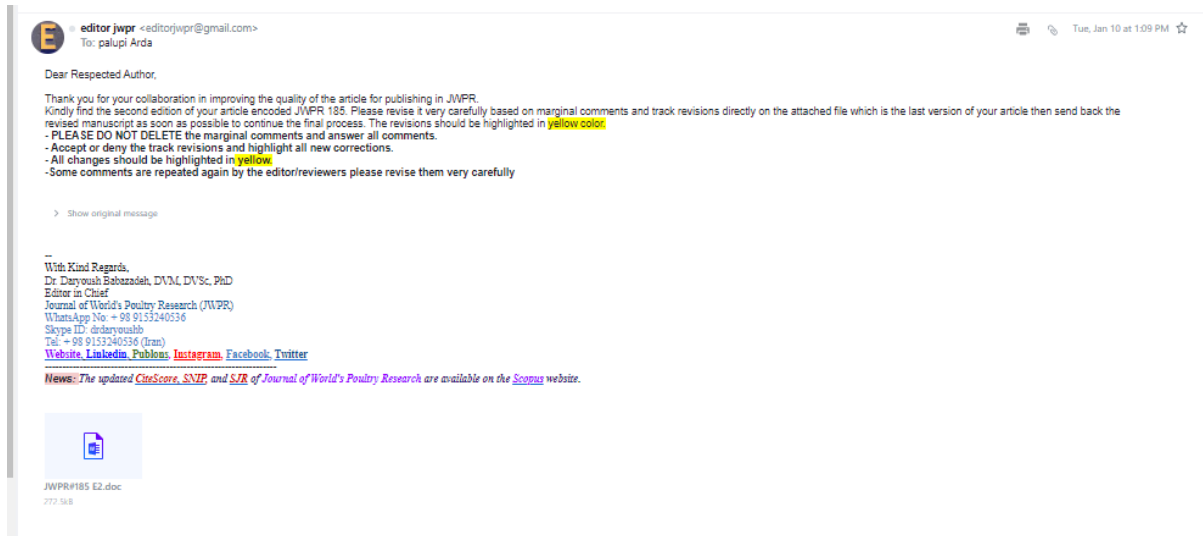
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## 5. Bukti konfirmasi Hasil review kedua (10 Januari 2022)









**Original Research**

**The Effect of Fermented Feeding at Different Times on The Performance of Production and of Carcasses Quality of Broiler Chickens**

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**ABSTRACT**

The quality of broiler chicken's carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production. The study aimed to determine the effect of feeding fermented feed at different times on the production performance and quality of broiler chicken carcasses. The number of Day Old Chick (DOC) used in this study was 180 broiler chickens strain Cobb. This study was carried out experimentally using a Complete Randomized Design consisting of 4 treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely, feeding for two weeks (P1); 3 weeks (P2); 4 weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4). Experimental parameters include ration consumption, weight gain, and ration conversion. In addition, the quality of carcasses is also observed: live weight, carcass percentage, and percentage of broiler chicken abdominal fat. The results showed that the longer the time of fermentation feed significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) increased ration consumption by 40.07% and increased 13.77% weight gain, as well as decreased ration conversion by 25.33%. Furthermore, the same results were also shown in the observation of live weight by 17.80% and increased the percentage of the carcass by 8.84% while the percentage of abdominal fat decreased by 12.90%.

**Keywords:** Broiler chicken, Carcass quality, Fermented feed, Performance

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**Komentar [P2]:** Please add a sentence for conclusion to show the value of your study at the end of the abstract.

**INTRODUCTION**

Broiler chickens have a role as a source of animal protein that is in demand by consumers. This demand is because broiler chicken carcasses can be produced faster than other livestock. However, the quality of broiler carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production (Bařza et al., 2022). Various attempts have been made to increase the amount of digested nutrients and increase digestibility by processing feed before consumption. Feed processing that can be pursued is fermenting the feed. One of the feed processing that can be done is by fermenting the feed. The fermentation process can increase feed digestibility and crude protein content and reduce crude fiber in feed (Khempaka et al., 2014). The fermented feed provides several benefits, including improving nutritional properties (reducing fiber and increasing protein content) and

intestinal health. It will accelerate broiler chickens' growth (Sugiharto, 2019).

The fermentation process requires an inoculant to speed up the breakdown of nutrients in the feed. One of the inoculants that can be used is by adding *Lactobacillus*. *Lactobacillus* are lactic acid bacteria that are often used in the fermentation process. Lactic acid bacteria will grow and develop on the substrate during fermentation, so the feed contains probiotics utilized by livestock to help the food digestion process. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that probiotics could be given at a concentration of 0.6 v/w in broiler up to 28 days of age. The higher the level of the probiotic, *Lactobacillus* species in feed, the better the effect on the growth (Pradikta et al., 2018). Previously, Menaught and MacFie (2001) stated that many probiotics could attach firmly to intestinal cells, including several types of lactic acid bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, and large number of *Bifidobacteria*. The ability to stick to the

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digestive tract will cause probiotic microbes to develop appropriately, and pathogenic microbes such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in the digestive tract will be reduced from the animal host cells. The feeding duration of specific feeds will allow probiotics to stick to poultry's digestive tract for a more extended period, affecting livestock production. The results of the research by Zulfan et al. (2020) and Naji et al. (2015) reported that fermented feed ingredients could be given in commercial rations without disturbing the growth and increasing the income over feed costs of broiler. Furthermore, feeding in the early phase of growth or during the brooding period can affect the growth of broiler DOC. When chicks are 1 to 14 days old, cell multiplication or hyperplasia will occur. The multiplication of these cells includes the development of the digestive tract, respiratory tract, and immune system. Body cells will increase in number by way of cell division. The hyperplasia process will affect further growth in the form of hypertropia growth, cells will increase in size or cell maturation (Fatmaningsih and Nova, 2016). Based on the description above, a study was aimed to determine the effect of fermented feed at different times on production performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Ethical approval/Animal Ethics**

An animal feeding experiment was conducted at the experimental station, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya. The birds were cared for according to the Indonesian Institute of Sciences Animal Welfare Guidelines. The approval of the experiment was granted from Universitas Sriwijaya with approval number KPPHP-2021-1.

**Method and sampling preparation**

This study used 180 one-day-old chicks (DOC (DOC day-old chicks)) of Cobb strain broilers with an average weight of 38 g and placed in 20 postal cages with a size of 100 cm x 100 cm. Nine broilers were placed in each cage. The cages had food dishes, water containers, and 60-watt incandescent lamps for lighting and warmth while the chicks were in them. The feed used during the starter period was HI Pro from Incorporated (Company) Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, and at the time, the finisher was MR1-P (from Incorporated Company) CJ Cheiljedang Feed, Indonesia-Lampung. The composition of the nutrients in the feed used during the study is shown in Table 1.

Before the feed is given to the experimental animals, the feed is fermented for 7 days using Super lacto which contains the *Lactobacillus burlgarius* bacteria and is a

product of the Central Proteina Prima Tbk company, Indonesia. The fermentation process is carried out by diluting Super lacto at a concentration of 15 percent based on the rules for use on the product label. After that, proceed with the feed inoculation process by spraying the inoculant evenly (4% w/v).

**Table 1.** Nutrient composition of feed given at the starter and finisher period in broiler chickens strain cobb

Nutrient	Starter feed (HI Pro)*	Finisher feed (MR1 - P)**
Water content (%)	13.00	13.00
Crude protein (%)	22.00 – 23.00	21.50 – 23.00
Crude fibre (%)	5.00	4.00
Fat (%)	5.00	8.00
Ash (%)	7.00	6.50
Calcium (%)	0.90	0.90 – 1.20
Phosphor (%)	0.60	0.70 – 1.00
Metabolism Energy (kcal/kg)	3.020 – 3.120	2.750 – 2.768

\* Incorporated Company Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, produces the feed.  
 \*\* Incorporated Company Cheil Jedang Super Feed, Lampung produce the feed.

**Experimental Design**

This research was conducted using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of four treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); three weeks (P2); four weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4).

**Observed Variables**

All parameters for calculating the value of observations made in this study are based on research conducted by Palupi et al. (2022).

**Feed Consumption**

The investigated parameters included consumption of ration (g/head/day), which was measured based on the difference between the ration given (g) and the rest of the ration given (g) during a specific period (days).

**Body weight gain**

Body weight gain (g/head/day), which was measured by weighing the difference between body weight at the end of the study (g) and the initial body weight (g), then divided by the length of rearing time (days).

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**Komentar [P18]:** Which days did you consider finisher?

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**Komentar [P22]:** How many chickens divided in each group?

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**Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR)**

Conversion of rations, measured based on the ratio between weight gain and ration consumption.

**Live weight**

Then measure, the quality of the broiler carcass, including; Live weight, was measured based on the results of weighing at the end of the study (g).

**Carcass percentage**

Percentage of the carcass (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of weight comparison of broilers without blood, feathers, head, legs, and digestive organs (g) divided by live weight (g).

**Percentage of abdominal fat**

Percentage of abdominal fat (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of the comparison between the weight of abdominal fat contained in the abdominal cavity and fat attached to the digestive organs (g) with the live weight of broilers (g).

**Statistical Analysis**

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) analyzes data from observation during the study. If there is a significant difference, a further test is carried out using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Steel and Torrie, 1980).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Production performance**

The average Performance of broiler production observed during the research was ration consumption, body weight gain, and feed conversion. The data are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Production performance at the starter and finisher period in broiler chicken strain cobb

Treatment	Feed consumption (g/head/day)	Weight gain (g/head/day)	Feed conversion ratio
P1	78.17 ± 3.45 <sup>a</sup>	51.83 ± 6.24 <sup>a</sup>	1.50 ± 0.22 <sup>a</sup>
P2	86.71 ± 4.12 <sup>b</sup>	55.55 ± 4.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.56 ± 1.45 <sup>b</sup>
P3	96.43 ± 3.41 <sup>c</sup>	60.28 ± 5.61 <sup>b</sup>	1.60 ± 1.03 <sup>b</sup>
P4	118.24 ± 2.66 <sup>d</sup>	65.80 ± 3.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.80 ± 1.56 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>ab</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed for 4 weeks, P4 = fermented feed for 5 weeks

**Ration consumption**

The analysis of variance revealed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect on the consumption of broiler ration ( $p < 0.05$ ). The average consumption of broiler rations during the study ranged from 78.17 to 118.24 (g/head/day). The most extended fermented feed would

affect the ration consumption; this was assumed because adding feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* has better palatability, so broilers prefer it. Widodo *et al.* (2013) reported that fermented feed could be given to a level of 15% in the ration, because fermented feed provides aromas, flavors, and shapes that broilers prefer, thereby increasing ration consumption.

Further test results showed that the consumption ratio of P1 was significantly different from P2 ( $p < 0.05$ ). It was hypothesized that the increased consumption at each treatment in this study was due to the duration of the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* supplementation, which could lead to improved feed quality. Widodo *et al.* (2013) found that fermented feed had improved quality compared to feed that had not undergone the fermentation process. This improvement in feed quality is because the feed contains *Lactobacillus*, which helps speed up the digestive process, thereby improving the digestibility of the feed. Getachew (2016) reported that lactic acid bacteria could live and grow in the intestine and produce enzymes, such as proteases and amylases, which could help improve digestion and produce short-chain fatty acids with antibacterial properties to protect nutritive feed. Therefore, feed intake can be improved by adding feed fermented with lactic acid bacteria.

Feed consumption in P2 was significantly different from P3, suggesting that the increased consumption was due to the palatability of the lactobacillus-fermented feed, which was preferred by livestock. Furthermore, the lactic acid produced by lactobacilli in the gut plays a tremendous role in eliminating pathogenic bacteria and maximizing the digestibility of the feed by ensuring that there is no competition for the utilization of the nutrients ingested. This statement is believed to be due to its impact on consumption (Wikanatsiri *et al.*, 2012).

The consumption of rations at P3 was significantly different from that in P4 ( $p < 0.05$ ), it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* could improve palatability. Furthermore, throughout these 4-5 weeks of treatment, the amount of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine could be increased so that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* caused the more significant population of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broilers, which caused the ratio consumption and feed digestibility increased. Elbaz (2021) reported that broiler rations supplemented with *Lactobacillus* could increase palatability, feed consumption, broiler immune system (health), productivity, efficiency, and feed consumption. According to Hardiningsih *et al.* (2006), the benefits of providing *Lactobacillus* in mixed feed to broilers were increased palatability; maintaining microflora; helping increase digestive enzyme activity; reducing bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production; increased ration consumption and digestion; neutralizing both enterotoxins and toxins; and also stimulates the immune system.

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**Body weight gain**

The analysis of variance showed that the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05^{P<0.05}$ ) on the increase in the body weight of broilers. It is suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase feed digestibility in the digestive tract. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect broilers' growth because *Lactobacillus* bacteria can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can maintain the balance of other beneficial bacteria populations in the small intestine so that feed digestibility improves, affecting the increase in broilers' body weight.

The results of further tests showed that the body weight gain of broilers in treatment P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05^{P>0.05}$ ) with treatment P2 but significantly different ( $p < 0.05^{P<0.05}$ ) with treatment P3 and P4. This result is thought to be due to the number of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broiler chickens because the P1 treatment is the same as the P2 treatment; this could be due to various factors. Uzer et al. (2013)

*Lactobacilli* maintain beneficial microflora in the gastrointestinal tract, conversely, suppress the growth of pathogenic bacteria, increase digestive enzyme activity, decrease bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production, increase food intake and digestion, and enterotoxins and neutralize immunity. A stimulating system that does not compete in digesting food.

The body weight gain of broilers in P2 was significantly different from that in P3; it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* was able to protect the digestive tract from pathogenic bacteria and streamline feed consumption. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect the growth of chickens. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus*, in addition to maintaining the digestive tract and improving the nutritional value of feed. Body weight gain is closely related to feeding in terms of quantity related to feeding consumption. If feed consumption is disturbed, it will interfere with growth and vice versa; if feed consumption is sufficient, it will increase broiler body weight.

The weight gains of broilers in the P1 and P2 treatments was significantly different from that in P3 and P4 treatments. It is suspected that feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* can increase body weight gain due to its ability to suppress pathogenic bacteria, so it does not compete with pathogenic bacteria. Furthermore, it can also increase feed digestibility, which has a good effect on protein digestibility, where feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* produces proteolytic enzymes in the digestive tract, which then can help digest protein, thereby increasing body weight. A fermented feed with *Lactobacillus*, suppressing pathogenic bacteria, can also improve the digestive organs, stimulating bile and

pancreatic juice so that it affects the body weight gain of broiler chickens. Nurhayati et al. (2015) reported that the use of fermented feed in broiler chickens has the function of increasing the work of the digestive organs of broilers, namely stimulating the gallbladder wall to secrete bile and stimulating the secretion of pancreatic juice, which contains amylase, lipase, and protease enzymes to improve the digestion of feed ingredients such as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Thus, the more extended feeding of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* resulted in better body weight gain.

**Ration conversion ratio**

The analysis of variance showed that the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05^{P<0.05}$ ) on the conversion of broiler rations. It was reported that the role of fermented *Lactobacillus* in feed is quite good because the feed provided is efficient in increasing the body weight of broilers. Kiba et al. (2012) indicated that *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract could suppress pathogenic bacteria, so they do not compete in digesting nutrients and maximize nutrient absorption in the digestive tract. The longer the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase the body weight gain of broiler chickens; in addition, the increase in body weight of broiler chickens can be influenced by the consumption of feed and the nutritional content contained in the feed or the consumption of nutrients in the feed. The longer the feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the greater the body weight gain.

**Carcass quality**

The average carcass quality of broilers during the study observed was live weight, carcass percentage, and abdominal fat percentage. The data are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Average carcass quality of broiler chickens

Treatment	Live body weight (g)	Carcass percentage (%)	Abdomen fat percentage (%)
P1	1699.50 ± 13.44 <sup>a</sup>	72.02 ± 6.43 <sup>a</sup>	1.24 ± 0.12 <sub>a</sub>
P2	1797.50 ± 21.06 <sup>a</sup>	75.02 ± 11.03 <sup>a</sup>	1.32 ± 0.11 <sup>b</sup>
P3	1900.75 ± 20.11 <sup>b</sup>	77.65 ± 5.44 <sup>b</sup>	1.40 ± 0.80 <sup>b</sup>
P4	2002.00 ± 16.37 <sup>c</sup>	78.39 ± 7.18 <sup>b</sup>	1.34 ± 0.32 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed four weeks, P4 = fermented feed five weeks

**Live body weight**

**Kommentar [P29]:** tell how the feeding of fermented diet influenced body weight gain

**Kommentar [P39]:** add the reference.

**Kommentar [P40]:** With which bacteria?

**Kommentar [P41]:** in which group and compare to which group?

**Kommentar [P42]:** change the word

**Kommentar [P43]:** add the reference.

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**Formatiert:** Schriftart: Kursiv

**Kommentar [P44]:** Add the reference.

**Kommentar [P45]:** rephrase

**Kommentar [P31]:** Add p value

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**Kommentar [P33]:** Add the reference

**Kommentar [P34]:** Add p value

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**Kommentar [P36]:** change the word

**Kommentar [P37]:** add the reference.

**Kommentar [P38]:** ?

The average live weight obtained in this study ranged between 1699.50-2002.00 gr. The results of the analysis of diversity on the final weight of broiler chickens showed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) on the live weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that *Lactobacillus* can produce lactic acid in the digestive tract so that it can lower the pH in the digestive tract. Low pH conditions will multiply beneficial bacteria, allowing for faster nutrient absorption and increased growth, affecting broiler chickens' live weight (Akhadiarto, 2010).

Further testing revealed that the live weight of broiler chickens at P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$  ~~$p > 0.05$~~ ) from P2 but was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) from P3 and P4 regarding the live weight of broilers. This result shows that the effect of feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks to three weeks gives the same live weight. This case was because *lactobacillus* activity on the duration of feeding fermented at P1 and P2 gave the same effect while feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks and five weeks could increase live weight higher than P1 and P2. This result is presumably because of the length of time *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract can increase the intestinal villi's surface areas, so that nutrient absorption is better, reducing the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. In line with the research results of Ignatova *et al.* (2009), it was shown that giving a probiotic supplement (*Lactobacillus*) for five weeks positively increases the live weight of broilers and livestock products that are safe for consumption.

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P2 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) compared to P3 and P4 on the results of the weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for three weeks is still in average conditions to produce a live weight. Moreover, because the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* is given only up to 3 weeks, after more than three weeks, the lactic acid bacteria produced from the *lactobacillus* fermented feed will be less so that the acidic conditions in the digestive tract are normal. According to Rodriguez *et al.* (2010), adding *Lactobacillus* to the feed will reduce pH and increase the number of microorganisms in the digestive tract, accelerating the growth of digestive organs and allowing them to develop optimally. Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at four weeks and five weeks resulted in high body weight gain. It can be assumed that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* will result in greater body weight.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) compared to feeding fermented feed for five weeks. Presumably, the longer the feeding is fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the more lactic acid bacteria are produced, which lower the digestive tract's pH, facilitating the metabolic process and producing a high body weight. This case follows the opinion of Elbaz *et al.* (2021), which indicated that the use

of *Lactobacillus* in feed aims to balance the microflora in the digestive tract to increase the absorption of nutrients to produce ideal body weight.

#### Carcass percentage

The average percentage of broiler carcass for each treatment during the study can be seen in Table 3. The average percentage of broiler carcasses obtained in this study ranged from 72.02 to 78.39%. The results of the analysis of variance on broiler carcasses showed that the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) on the percentage carcasses of broilers. This result was because the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can lower the pH of the digestive tract and facilitate the work of the pepsin enzyme so that protein absorption increases. Baeza *et al.* (2022) stated that the average percentage of broiler carcasses is around 65-78% of the final body weight.

The results of further tests on the percentage carcasses of broiler carcasses showed that the percentage of carcasses in P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$  ~~$p > 0.05$~~ ) with P2 but significantly different ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) with P3 and P4. This result indicated that the effect of feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks resulted in a carcass percentage of 72.02%-75.02% lower than P3 and P4. This case was because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks has the potential for the growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *salmonella* bacteria because the fermented feed has a function to minimize the growth of *salmonella* pathogenic bacteria so that the protein digestion process assisted by enzymes will be slower compared to P3 and P4, while the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks to 5 weeks resulted in a higher carcass percentage than P1 and P2, ranging from 77.64% to 78.39%. On This case was because *Lactobacillus* acts as a growth promoter which can increase the work of the pepsin enzyme in the digestive tract so that the absorption of nutrients in the intestines and the resulting metabolic products can be utilized by the livestock body to form and add new tissues such as meat formation (Ignatova *et al.*, 2009).

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* in treatment P2 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$  ~~$p < 0.05$~~ ) with P3 and P4 on the percentage of carcasses. This case is because the length of time of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* will produce a great percentage of the carcass. After all, *Lactobacillus* will produce lactic acid bacteria, which facilitate the work of the digestive tract, resulting in a high percentage of the carcass. Maunatin and Khanifa (2012) stated that lactic acid bacteria found in the digestive system could neutralize toxins produced by pathogenic bacteria, affecting enzyme activity in the small intestine so that the blood will circulate nutrients throughout the body to form meat.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P3 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$  ~~$p > 0.05$~~ ) with P4. This case

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Komentar [P47]: Which further testing?

Komentar [P48]: In which group and compared to which group?

was because the four-week fermented feed had the same number of *Lactobacillus* bacteria as the fermented feed treatment for five weeks, so the enzyme performance produced was the same in the P3 and P4 treatments. One of the increased enzyme performances due to the increase in the microbial population is the pepsin enzyme to break down protein. Then feed nutrients will be absorbed throughout the body to form meat deposition. In line with the research of Mountzouris *et al.* (2010) reported that the use of probiotics in feed can work optimally in the digestive tract by increasing the number of microbial populations, thereby balancing the microflora in the digestive tract, protecting the digestive system, improving intestinal health and increasing livestock productivity.

#### Abdominal fat percentage

The average percentage of abdominal fat weight ranged from 1.24 to 1.40%. It can be assumed that feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* facilitates the hydrolysis of carbohydrates in the digestive tract, facilitating the absorption of glucose and monosaccharides. Meanwhile, feed containing easily digestible carbohydrates will result in increased abdominal fat. Following the view of Jha and Mishra (2021), poultry-fed carbohydrate-based diets have a higher abdominal fat content than fibrous; easily digestible carbohydrates tend to be converted into energy reserves in the form of fat. Hidayat (2015) reported that fat formation occurs due to excess energy consumed. Excess energy in broilers will be stored in the form of abdominal fat.

Further test results revealed that the percentage of abdominal fat given fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from P2, P3, and P4 in terms of abdominal fat percentage. It is suspected that the feeding duration fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was still in normal condition resulting in a lower percentage of abdominal fat. In contrast, at P2, P3, and P4, the length of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* could reduce the activity of the lipase enzyme that plays a role in the rate of acid synthesis. Fat. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) reported that the decrease in abdominal fat deposition with a decrease in the energy content of the ration was caused by the reduced activity of lipase enzymes associated with lipogenic processes in the liver. Lipogenesis is a fat deposition process that includes fatty acid synthesis and triglyceride synthesis that occurs in the liver in the mitochondria, cytoplasm, and adipose tissue. Fat in the body originates from feed and is produced from the synthesis process in the liver (Jensen-Urstad & Semenkovich, 2012). Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P2 and P3 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) but significantly different from P4. In this case, presumably because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can optimize the absorption of the digestive tract so that the nutritional content of the feed is more directed at the formation of meat and bones than fat in each treatment. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) stated

that nutrition affects the deposition of abdominal fat in the body of broiler chickens. Reduction of body fat deposits in broilers, including abdominal fat, occurs due to a reduction in fatty acid synthesis in the liver and a decrease in lipase enzyme secretion, thereby reducing fat absorption. Zhang *et al.* (1999) stated that fatty acids reduce the amount of body fat deposition in broilers by suppressing the activity of the lipase enzyme in plasma.

#### CONCLUSION

According to the present study's findings, adding fermented *Lactobacillus* feed for five weeks could increase body weight gain by 16.30%, decrease feed conversion by 11.10% and improve the carcass quality of broiler chickens.

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#### Authors' contribution

All authors developed the theory and supervised the research. Rizki Palupi contributed to the sample collection and analysis calculations. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript for publishing in the present journal.

#### Competing interests

The authors have declared that no competing interest exists

#### Ethical consideration

All authors have reviewed the manuscripts for ethical concerns, such as plagiarism, consent to publish, misconduct, data fabrication and falsification, double publishing and submission, and redundancy.

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**Komentar [P51]:** Revise the name of journal for all references based on the journal format, please. It shouldn't be in italic form and full name of the journal is needed.

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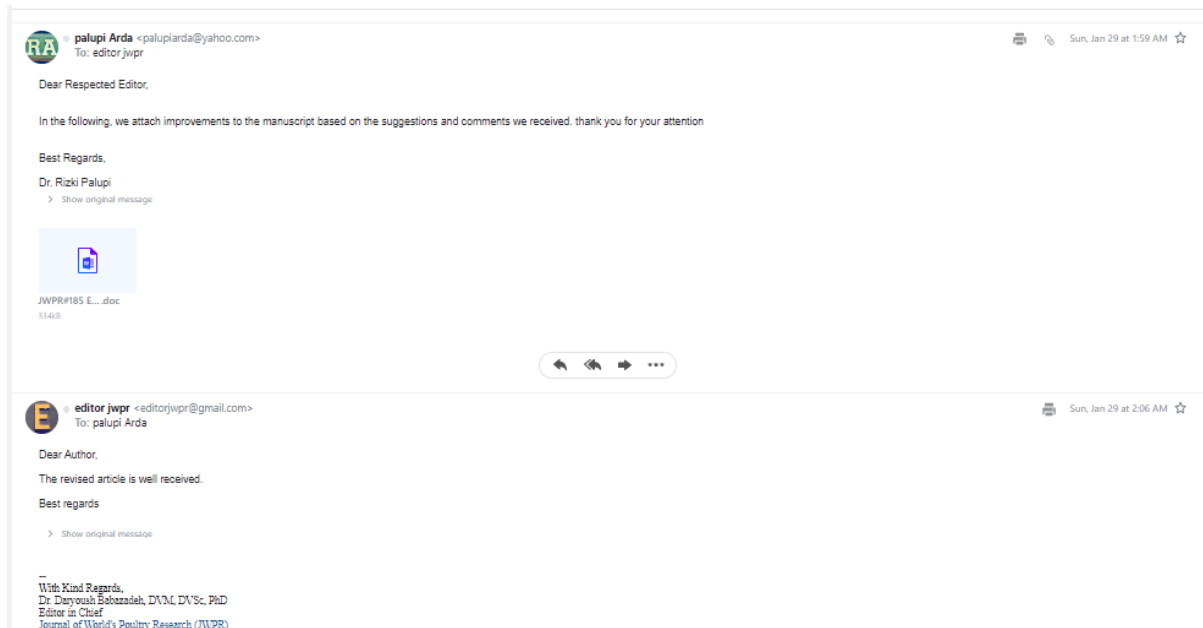


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## 6. Bukti Konfirmasi Submit hasil revisi ke-dua (29 Januari 2023)



The screenshot displays an email conversation. The first email is from Dr. Rizki Palupi to the editor, dated Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 1:59 AM. It includes a greeting, a statement of improvements, and a signature. An attachment named 'JWPR185 E...doc' is shown. The second email is from the editor to Dr. Rizki Palupi, dated Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 2:06 AM. It confirms the receipt of the revised article and includes a signature block for Dr. Deryousli Saboodeh, Editor in Chief of the Journal of World's Poultry Research (JWPR).

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Sun, Jan 29 at 1:59 AM ☆

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Dear Author,

The revised article is well received.

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With Kind Regards,  
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Please find the attached manuscript.

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Original Research

**Effect of Duration of Feeding Fermented Feed by *Lactobacillus* on Production Performance and Carcass Quality of Broiler Chickens**

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ABSTRACT

The quality of broiler chicken carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production. The study aimed to determine the effect of feeding fermented feed at different times on the production performance and quality of broiler chicken carcasses. The number of Day Old Chick (DOC) used in this study was 180 broiler chickens strain Cobb. This study was carried out experimentally using a Complete Randomized Design consisting of 4 treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); 3 weeks (P2); 4 weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4). Experimental parameters include ration consumption, weight gain, and ration conversion. In addition, the quality of carcasses is also observed: live weight, carcass percentage, and percentage of broiler chicken abdominal fat. The results showed that the longer the time of fermentation feed significantly increased ration consumption by 40.07% and increased 13.77% weight gain, as well as decreased ration conversion by 25.33%. Furthermore, the same results were also shown in the observation of live weight by 17.80% and increased the percentage of the carcass by 8.84% while the percentage of abdominal fat decreased by 12.90%. Based on these results, it was concluded that the provision of fermented feed for 5 weeks can improve the production performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens.

**Keywords:** Broiler chicken, Carcass quality, Fermented feed, Performance

INTRODUCTION

Broiler chickens have a role as a source of animal protein that is in demand by consumers. This demand is because broiler chicken carcasses can be produced faster than other livestock. However, the quality of broiler carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production (Bařza et al., 2022). Various attempts have been made to increase the amount of digested nutrients and increase digestibility by processing feed before consumption. Feed processing that can be pursued is fermenting the feed. One of the feed processing that can be done is by fermenting the feed. The fermentation process can increase feed digestibility and crude protein content and reduce crude fiber in feed (Khempaka et al., 2014). The fermented feed provides

several benefits, including improving nutritional properties (reducing fiber and increasing protein content) and intestinal health. It will accelerate broiler chicken's growth (Sugiharto, 2019).

The fermentation process requires an inoculant to speed up the breakdown of nutrients in the feed (Romero et al., 2017). One of the inoculants that can be used is by adding *Lactobacillus*. *Lactobacillus* are lactic acid bacteria that are often used in the fermentation process (Nair et al., 2019; Romero et al., 2017; Singracha et al., 2017). Lactic acid bacteria will grow and develop on the substrate during fermentation, so the feed contains probiotics utilized by livestock to help the food digestion process. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that probiotics could be given at a concentration of 0.6 v/w in broiler up to 28 days of age. The higher the level of the probiotic *Lactobacillus* species in feed, the better the effect on the growth

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(Pradikta et al., 2018). Previously, McNaught and MacFie (2001) stated that many probiotics could attach firmly to intestinal cells, including several types of lactic acid bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, and a large number of *Bifidobacteria*. The ability to stick to the digestive tract will cause probiotic microbes to develop appropriately, and pathogenic microbes such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in the digestive tract will be reduced from the animal host cells (McNaught & MacFie, 2001).

The feeding duration of specific feeds will allow probiotics to stick to poultry's digestive tract for a more extended period, affecting livestock production (Al-Khalifa et al., 2019; Al-Khalifa, 2018). The results of the research by Zulfan et al. (2020) and Naji et al. (2015) reported that fermented feed ingredients could be given in commercial rations without disturbing the growth and increasing the income over feed costs of broiler. Furthermore, feeding in the early phase of growth or during the brooding period can affect the growth of broiler DOC (Al-Khalifa et al., 2019). When chicks are 1 to 14 days old, cell multiplication or hyperplasia will occur. The multiplication of these cells includes the development of the digestive tract, respiratory tract, and immune system. Body cells will increase in number by way of cell division. The hyperplasia process will affect further growth in the form of hypertropia growth, cells will increase in size or cell maturation (Fatmaningsih and Nova, 2016). Based on the description above, a study was aimed to determine the effect of fermented feed at different times on the production performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Ethical approval**

An animal feeding experiment was conducted at the experimental station, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya, South Sumatera, Indonesia. The animals were cared for according to the Indonesian Institute of Sciences Animal Welfare Guidelines. The approval of the experiment was granted from Universitas Sriwijaya with approval number KPPHP-2021-1.

**Method and sampling preparation**

This study used 180 one-day-old chicks (DOC) of Cobb strain broilers obtained from Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia with an average weight of 38 g and placed in 20 postal cages with a size of 100 cm x 100 cm. Nine broilers were placed in each cage. The cages had food dishes, water containers, and 60-watt incandescent lamps for lighting and warmth while the chicks were in them. The

feed used during the starter period was HI Pro (Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia), the feed is given to DOC up to the age of 14 days, and at the time, the finisher was MR1-P (Cheiljedang, Indonesia), the finisher feed given at the age of 3 weeks to 5 weeks of age. The composition of the nutrients in the feed used during the study is shown in Table 1.

Before the feed is given to the experimental animals, the feed is fermented for 7 days using Super lacto which contains the *Lactobacillus burigarius* bacteria and is a product of the Central Proteina Prima Tbk company, Indonesia. The fermentation process is carried out by diluting Super lacto at a concentration of 15 percent based on the rules for use on the product label. After that, proceed with the feed inoculation process by spraying the inoculant evenly (4% w/v).

As for the measurement of carcass quality in research carried out at the final stage of the study. Samples were taken randomly as many as 2 in each treatment and replicated. Then the chicken samples were fasted for 8 hours before being slaughtered.

**Table 1.** Nutrient composition of feed given at the starter and finisher period in broiler chickens strain cobb

Nutrient	Starter feed (HI Pro)*	Finisher feed (MR1 - P)**
Water content (%)	13	13
Crude protein (%)	22.00-23.00	21.50-23.00
Crude fibre (%)	5.00	4.00
Fat (%)	5.00	8.00
Ash (%)	7.00	6.50
Calcium (%)	0.90	0.90-1.20
Phosphor (%)	0.60	0.70-1.00
Metabolizable energy (kcal/kg)	3,020-3,120	2,750-2,768
Methionine	0.61	0.56
Methionin+Cysteine	0.78	0.75
Lysine	1.28	1.28
Vitamin C (IU)	300	300
Selenium (ppm)	0.1	0.5

\* Incorporated Company Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, produces the feed.  
 \*\* Incorporated Company Cheil Jedang Super Feed, Lampung produce the feed.

**Experimental design**

**Komentar [P4]:** Which days did you consider starter?

**Komentar [P5R4]:** Pay attention to the comment

**Komentar [P6]:** Which days did you consider finisher?

**Komentar [P7R6]:** Pay attention to the comment

**Komentar [P2]:** What were the temperature and humidity rate?

**Komentar [P3R2]:** Pay attention to the comment

This research was conducted using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of four treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); three weeks (P2); four weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4).

**Observed variables**

All parameters for calculating the value of observations made in this study are based on research conducted by Palupi et al. (2022).

**Feed Consumption**

The investigated parameters included consumption of ration (g/head/day), which was measured based on the difference between the ration given (g) and the rest of the ration given (g) during a specific period (days).

**Body weight gain**

Body weight gain (g/head/day), was measured by weighing the difference between body weight at the end of the study (g) and the initial body weight (g), then divided by the length of rearing time (days).

**Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR)**

Conversion of rations measured based on the ratio between weight gain and ration consumption.

**Live weight**

Then measure, the quality of the broiler carcass, including; Live weight, was measured based on the results of weighing at the end of the study (g).

**Carcass percentage**

Percentage of the carcass (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of weight comparison of broilers without blood, feathers, head, legs, and digestive organs (g) divided by live weight (g).

**Percentage of abdominal fat**

Percentage of abdominal fat (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of the comparison between the weight of abdominal fat contained in the abdominal cavity and fat attached to the digestive organs (g) with the live weight of broilers (g).

**Statistical analysis**

The data will be processed using SPSS software (version 20), based on the design used. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) analyzes data from observation during the study. If there is a significant difference, a further test is carried out using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Steel and Torrie, 1980).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Production performance**

The average Performance of broiler production observed during the research was ration consumption, body weight gain, and feed conversion. The data are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Production performance at the starter and finisher period in broiler chicken strain cobb

Treatment	Feed consumption (g/head/day)	Weight gain (g/head/day)	Feed conversion ratio
P1	78.17 ± 3.45 <sup>a</sup>	51.83 ± 6.24 <sup>a</sup>	1.50 ± 0.22 <sup>a</sup>
P2	86.71 ± 4.12 <sup>b</sup>	55.55 ± 4.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.56 ± 1.45 <sup>a</sup>
P3	96.43 ± 3.41 <sup>c</sup>	60.28 ± 5.61 <sup>b</sup>	1.60 ± 1.03 <sup>a</sup>
P4	118.24 ± 2.66 <sup>d</sup>	65.80 ± 3.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.80 ± 1.56 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference (p < 0.05). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed for 4 weeks, P4 = fermented feed for 5 weeks

**Ration consumption**

The analysis of variance revealed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect on the consumption of broiler chicken ration (p < 0.05). The average consumption of broiler rations during the study ranged from 78.17 to 118.24 (g/head/day). The most extended fermented feed would affect the ration consumption; this was assumed because adding feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* has better palatability, so broilers prefer it. Widodo *et al.* (2013) reported that fermented feed could be given to a level of 15% in the ration, because fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* provides aromas, flavors, and shapes that broilers prefer, thereby increasing ration consumption.

Further test results showed that the consumption ratio of P1 was significantly different from P2 (p < 0.05). It was hypothesized that the increased consumption at each treatment in this study was due to the duration of the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* supplementation, which could lead to improved feed quality. Widodo et al. (2013) found that fermented feed had improved quality compared to feed that had not undergone the fermentation process. This improvement in feed quality is because the feed contains *Lactobacillus*, which helps speed up the digestive process, thereby improving the digestibility of the feed. Getachew (2016) reported that lactic acid bacteria could live and grow in the intestine and produce enzymes, such as proteases and amylases, which could help improve digestion and produce short-chain fatty acids with antibacterial properties to protect nutritive feed. Therefore, feed intake can be improved by adding feed fermented with lactic acid bacteria.

Feed consumption in P2 was significantly different from P3, suggesting that the increased consumption was due to the palatability of the lactobacillus-fermented feed, which was preferred by livestock (p < 0.05). Furthermore, the lactic acid produced by lactobacilli in the gut plays a

**Komentar [P12]:** Not italic. Please revise it in whole the text.

**Komentar [P8]:** How many chicks slaughtered in each group for analysis of these parameters?

**Komentar [AN9R8]:** We think it was clear, because each broiler chicken was slaughtered

**Komentar [P10R8]:** Do you mean all chickens were slaughtered? Generally, a specific number of each group should be slaughtered.

**Komentar [P11]:** What was the significant level?



tremendous role in eliminating pathogenic bacteria and maximizing the digestibility of the feed by ensuring that there is no competition for the utilization of the nutrients ingested. This statement is believed to be due to its impact on consumption (Wikanatsiri et al., 2012).

The consumption of rations at P3 was significantly different from that in P4 ( $p < 0.05$ ), it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* could improve palatability. Furthermore, throughout these 4-5 weeks of treatment, the amount of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine could be increased so that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* caused the more significant population of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broilers, which caused the ratio consumption and feed digestibility increased. Elbaz (2021) reported that broiler rations supplemented with *Lactobacillus* could increase palatability, feed consumption, broiler immune system (health), productivity, efficiency, and feed consumption. According to Hardiningsih et al. (2006), the benefits of providing *Lactobacillus* in mixed feed to broilers were increased palatability; maintaining microflora; helping increase digestive enzyme activity; reducing bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production; increased ration consumption and digestion; neutralizing both enterotoxins and toxins; and also stimulates the immune system.

#### Body weight gain

The analysis of variance showed that the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the increase in the body weight of broilers. It is suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase feed digestibility in the digestive tract. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect broilers' growth because *Lactobacillus* bacteria can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can maintain the balance of other beneficial bacteria populations in the small intestine so that feed digestibility improves, affecting the increase in broilers' body weight.

The results of further tests showed that the body weight gain of broilers in treatment P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) with treatment P2 but significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) with treatment P3 and P4. This result is thought to be due to the number of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broiler chickens because the P1 treatment is the same as the P2 treatment; this could be due to various factors. Uzer et al. (2013) *Lactobacilli* maintain beneficial microflora in the gastrointestinal tract, conversely, suppress the growth of pathogenic bacteria, increase digestive enzyme activity, decrease bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production, increase food intake and digestion, and enterotoxins and neutralize immunity. A stimulating system that does not compete in digesting food.

The body weight gain of broilers in P2 was significantly different from that in P3 ( $p < 0.05$ ); it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* was able to protect the

digestive tract from pathogenic bacteria and streamline feed consumption. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect the growth of chickens which could break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus*, in addition to maintaining the digestive tract and improving the nutritional value of feed. Body weight gain is closely related to feeding in terms of quantity related to feeding consumption. If feed consumption is disturbed, it will interfere with growth and vice versa; if feed consumption is sufficient, it will increase broiler body weight.

The weight gains of broilers in the P1 and P2 treatments were significantly different from that in P3 and P4 treatments ( $p < 0.05$ ). It is suspected that feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* can increase body weight gain due to its ability to suppress pathogenic bacteria. Furthermore, it can also increase feed digestibility, which has the effect of increasing the digestibility of protein, where feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* produces proteolytic enzymes in the digestive tract, which then can help digest protein, thereby increasing body weight (Muck et al., 2018). A fermented feed with *Lactobacillus*, suppressing pathogenic bacteria, can also improve the digestive organs, stimulating bile and pancreatic juice so that it affects the body weight gain of broiler chickens (Uguru et al., 2022). Nurhayati et al. (2015) reported that the use of fermented feed in broiler chickens has the function of increasing the work of the digestive organs of broilers, namely stimulating the gallbladder wall to secrete bile and stimulating the secretion of pancreatic juice, which contains amylase, lipase, and protease enzymes to improve the digestion of feed ingredients such as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Thus, the more extended feeding of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* resulted in better body weight gain.

#### Ration conversion ratio

The analysis of variance showed that the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* with 5 weeks curing time (P4) had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the conversion of broiler rations. It was reported that the role of fermented *Lactobacillus* in feed is essential because the feed provided is efficient in increasing the body weight of broilers. Kiha et al. (2012) indicated that *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract could suppress pathogenic bacteria, so they do not compete in digesting nutrients and maximize nutrient absorption in the digestive tract. The longer the addition of feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase the body weight gain of broiler chickens; in addition, the increase in body weight of broiler chickens can be influenced by the consumption of feed and the nutritional content contained in the feed or the consumption of nutrients in the feed. The longer the feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the greater the body weight gain.

Kommentar [P13]: Add the reference

Kommentar [P14R13]: Please add the reference.

Kommentar [P15]: With which bacteria?

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Kommentar [P17]: add the reference.

Kommentar [P18R17]: Pay attention to the comment

Kommentar [P19]: Rephrase it

**Carcass quality**

The average carcass quality of broilers during the study observed was live weight, carcass percentage, and abdominal fat percentage. The data are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Average carcass quality of broiler chickens

Treatment	Live body weight (g)	Carcass percentage (%)	Abdomen fat percentage (%)
P1	1699.50 ± 13.44 <sup>a</sup>	72.02 ± 6.43 <sup>a</sup>	1.24 ± 0.12 <sup>a</sup>
P2	1797.50 ± 21.06 <sup>a</sup>	75.02 ± 11.03 <sup>a</sup>	1.32 ± 0.11 <sup>b</sup>
P3	1900.75 ± 20.11 <sup>b</sup>	77.65 ± 5.44 <sup>b</sup>	1.40 ± 0.80 <sup>b</sup>
P4	2002.00 ± 16.37 <sup>c</sup>	78.39 ± 7.18 <sup>b</sup>	1.34 ± 0.32 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>ab</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed four weeks, P4 = fermented feed five weeks

**Live body weight**

The average live weight obtained in this study ranged between 1699.50-2002.00 gr. The results of the analysis of diversity on the final weight of broiler chickens showed the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* with 5 weeks curing time (P4) had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the live weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that *Lactobacillus* can produce lactic acid in the digestive tract so that it can lower the pH in the digestive tract. Low pH conditions will multiply beneficial bacteria, allowing for faster nutrient absorption and increased growth, affecting broiler chickens' live weight (Akhadiarto, 2010). On the other hand, based on this results revealed that the live weight of broiler chickens at P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) from P2 but was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from P3 and P4 regarding the live weight of broilers. This result shows that the effect of feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks to three weeks gives the same live weight. This case was because *lactobacillus* activity on the duration of feeding fermented at P1 and P2 gave the same effect while feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks and five weeks could increase live weight higher than P1 and P2. This result is presumably because of the length of time *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract can increase the intestinal villi's surface areas, so that nutrient absorption is better, reducing the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. In line with the research results of Ignatova *et al.* (2009), it was shown that giving a probiotic supplement (*Lactobacillus*) for five weeks positively increases the live weight of broilers and livestock products that are safe for consumption.

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P2 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared to P3 and P4

on the results of the weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for three weeks is still in average conditions to produce a live weight. Moreover, because the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* is given only up to 3 weeks, after more than three weeks, the lactic acid bacteria produced from the *lactobacillus* fermented feed will be less so that the acidic conditions in the digestive tract are normal. According to Rodriguez *et al.* (2010), adding *Lactobacillus* to the feed will reduce pH and increase the number of microorganisms in the digestive tract, accelerating the growth of digestive organs and allowing them to develop optimally. Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at four weeks and five weeks resulted in high body weight gain. It can be assumed that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* will result in greater body weight.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) compared to feeding fermented feed for five weeks. Presumably, the longer the feeding is fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the more lactic acid bacteria are produced, which lower the digestive tract's pH, facilitating the metabolic process and producing a high body weight. This case follows the opinion of Elbaz *et al.* (2021), which indicated that the use of *Lactobacillus* in feed aims to balance the microflora in the digestive tract to increase the absorption of nutrients to produce ideal body weight.

**Carcass percentage**

The average percentage of broiler carcass for each treatment during the study can be seen in Table 3. The average percentage of broiler carcasses obtained in this study ranged from 72.02 to 78.39%. The results of the analysis of variance on broiler carcasses showed the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* with 5 weeks curing time (P4) had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the percentage carcasses of broilers. This result was because the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can lower the pH of the digestive tract and facilitate the work of the pepsin enzyme so that protein absorption increases. Baeza *et al.* (2022) stated that the average percentage of broiler carcasses is around 65-78% of the final body weight.

The results of further tests on the percentage carcasses of broiler carcasses showed that the percentage of carcasses in P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) with P2 but significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4. This result indicated that the effect of feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks resulted in a carcass percentage of 72.02%-75.02% lower than P3 and P4. This case was because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks has the potential for the growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *salmonella* bacteria because the fermented feed has a function to minimize the growth of *salmonella* pathogenic bacteria so that the protein digestion process assisted by



enzymes will be slower compared to P3 and P4, while the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks to 5 weeks resulted in a higher carcass percentage than P1 and P2, ranging from 77.64% to 78.39%. On This case was because *Lactobacillus* acts as a growth promoter which can increase the work of the pepsin enzyme in the digestive tract so that the absorption of nutrients in the intestines and the resulting metabolic products can be utilized by the livestock body to form and add new tissues such as meat formation (Ignatova et al., 2009).

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* in treatment P2 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4 on the percentage of carcasses. This case is because the length of time of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* will produce a great percentage of the carcass. After all, *Lactobacillus* will produce lactic acid bacteria, which facilitate the work of the digestive tract, resulting in a high percentage of the carcass. Maunatin and Khanifa (2012) stated that lactic acid bacteria found in the digestive system could neutralize toxins produced by pathogenic bacteria, affecting enzyme activity in the small intestine so that the blood will circulate nutrients throughout the body to form meat.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P3 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) with P4. This case was because the four-week fermented feed had the same number of *Lactobacillus* bacteria as the fermented feed treatment for five weeks, so the enzyme performance produced was the same in the P3 and P4 treatments. One of the increased enzyme performances due to the increase in the microbial population is the pepsin enzyme to break down protein. Then feed nutrients will be absorbed throughout the body to form meat deposition. In line with the research of Mountzouris et al. (2010) reported that the use of probiotics in feed can work optimally in the digestive tract by increasing the number of microbial populations, thereby balancing the microflora in the digestive tract, protecting the digestive system, improving intestinal health and increasing livestock productivity.

#### Abdominal fat percentage

The average percentage of abdominal fat weight ranged from 1.24 to 1.40%. It can be assumed that feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* facilitates the hydrolysis of carbohydrates in the digestive tract, facilitating the absorption of glucose and monosaccharides. Meanwhile, feed containing easily digestible carbohydrates will result in increased abdominal fat. Following the view of Jha and Mishra (2021), poultry-fed carbohydrate-based diets have a higher abdominal fat content than fibrous; easily digestible carbohydrates tend to be converted into energy reserves in the form of fat. Hidayat (2015) reported that fat formation occurs due to excess energy consumed. Excess energy in broilers will be stored in the form of abdominal fat.

Further test results revealed that the percentage of abdominal fat given fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at

P1 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from P2, P3, and P4 in terms of abdominal fat percentage. It is suspected that the feeding duration fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was still in normal condition resulting in a lower percentage of abdominal fat. In contrast, at P2, P3, and P4, the length of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* could reduce the activity of the lipase enzyme that plays a role in the rate of acid synthesis. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) reported that the decrease in abdominal fat deposition with a decrease in the energy content of the ration was caused by the reduced activity of lipase enzymes associated with lipogenic processes in the liver. Lipogenesis is a fat deposition process that includes fatty acid synthesis and triglyceride synthesis that occurs in the liver in the mitochondria, cytoplasm, and adipose tissue. Fat in the body originates from feed and is produced from the synthesis process in the liver (Jensen-Urstad & Semenkovich, 2012). Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P2 and P3 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) but significantly different from P4. In this case, presumably because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can optimize the absorption of the digestive tract so that the nutritional content of the feed is more directed at the formation of meat and bones than fat in each treatment. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) stated that nutrition affects the deposition of abdominal fat in the body of broiler chickens. Reduction of body fat deposits in broilers, including abdominal fat, occurs due to a reduction in fatty acid synthesis in the liver and a decrease in lipase enzyme secretion, thereby reducing fat absorption. Zhang et al. (1999) stated that fatty acids reduce the amount of body fat deposition in broilers by suppressing the activity of the lipase enzyme in plasma.

#### CONCLUSION

According to the present study's findings, adding fermented *Lactobacillus* feed for five weeks could increase body weight gain by 16.30%, decrease feed conversion by 11.10% and improve the carcass quality of broiler chickens. Recommendations for further research are the increased application of fermented feed by *Lactobacillus* as a feed mixture to the number of pathogenic and non-pathogenic microbial populations and the characteristics of the digestive organs in broiler chickens.

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#### Authors' contribution

All authors developed the theory and supervised the research. Rizki Palupi contributed to the sample collection and analysis calculations. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript for publishing in the present journal.

#### Competing interests

The authors have declared that no competing interest exists

**Ethical consideration**

All authors have reviewed the manuscripts for ethical concerns, such as plagiarism, consent to publish, misconduct, data fabrication and falsification, double publishing and submission, and redundancy.

**Availability data and material**

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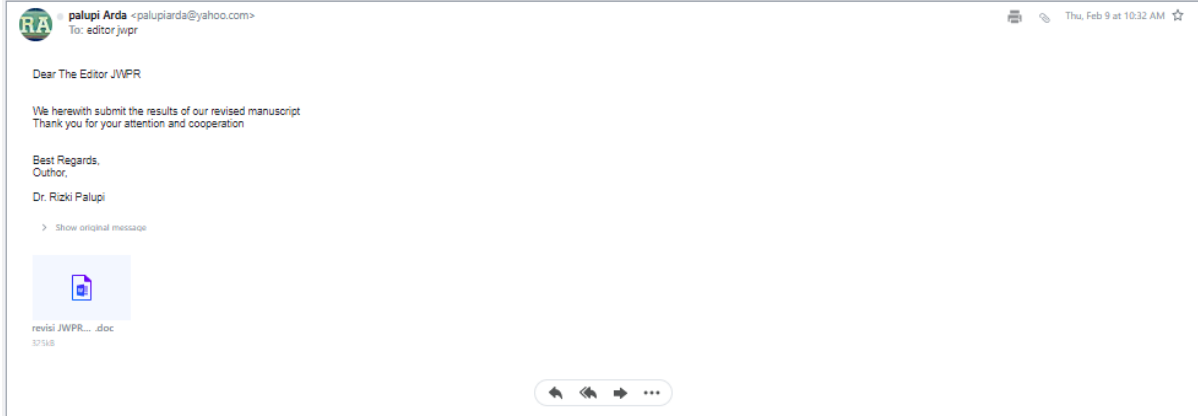
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**Komentar [P21]:** The references should be carefully revised based on the journal formatting.

- Revise the name of journal for all references based on the journal format, please.
- It shouldn't be in Italic form and full name of the journal is needed.

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## 8. Bukti konfirmasi Submit hasil revisi ke-tiga





Original Research

**Effect of Duration of Feeding Fermented Feed by *Lactobacillus* on Production Performance and Carcass Quality of Broiler Chickens**

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**ABSTRACT**

The quality of broiler chicken carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production. The study aimed to determine the effect of feeding fermented feed at different times on the production performance and quality of broiler chicken carcasses. The number of Day Old Chick (DOC) used in this study was 180 broiler chickens strain Cobb. This study was carried out experimentally using a Complete Randomized Design consisting of 4 treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); 3 weeks (P2); 4 weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4). Experimental parameters include ration consumption, weight gain, and ration conversion. In addition, the quality of carcasses is also observed: live weight, carcass percentage, and percentage of broiler chicken abdominal fat. The results showed that the longer the time of fermentation feed significantly increased ration consumption by 40.07% and increased 13.77% weight gain, as well as decreased ration conversion by 25.33%. Furthermore, the same results were also shown in the observation of live weight by 17.80% and increased the percentage of the carcass by 8.84% while the percentage of abdominal fat decreased by 12.90%. Based on these results, it was concluded that the provision of fermented feed for 5 weeks can improve the production performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens.

**Keywords:** Broiler chicken, Carcass quality, Fermented feed, Performance

**INTRODUCTION**

Broiler chickens have a role as a source of animal protein that is in demand by consumers. This demand is because broiler chicken carcasses can be produced faster than other livestock. However, the quality of broiler carcasses is greatly influenced by feed management and the number of nutrients digested in the digestive tract that will be utilized for optimal meat production (Baéza et al., 2022). Various attempts have been made to increase the amount of digested nutrients and increase digestibility by processing feed before consumption. Feed processing that can be pursued is fermenting the feed. One of the feed processing that can be done is by fermenting the feed. The fermentation process can increase feed digestibility and crude protein content and reduce crude fiber in feed (Khempaka et al., 2014). The fermented feed provides

several benefits, including improving nutritional properties (reducing fiber and increasing protein content) and intestinal health. It will accelerate broiler chicken's growth (Sugiharto, 2019).

The fermentation process requires an inoculant to speed up the breakdown of nutrients in the feed (Romero et al., 2017). One of the inoculants that can be used is by adding *Lactobacillus*. *Lactobacillus* are lactic acid bacteria that are often used in the fermentation process (Nair et al., 2019; Romero et al., 2017; Singracha et al., 2017). Lactic acid bacteria will grow and develop on the substrate during fermentation, so the feed contains probiotics utilized by livestock to help the food digestion process. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that probiotics could be given at a concentration of 0.6 v/w in broiler up to 28 days of age. The higher the level of the probiotic *Lactobacillus* species in feed, the better the effect on the growth

**Komentar [P1]:** Please paraphrase the title of is repeated 3 times and feeding fermented feed should be paraphrased.

**Komentar [a2R1]:** Effect of Duration of Fermented Feed by *Lactobacillus* in Rations on Production Performance and Carcass Quality of Broiler Chickens



(Pradikta et al., 2018). Previously, McNaught and MacFie (2001) stated that many probiotics could attach firmly to intestinal cells, including several types of lactic acid bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, and a large number of *Bifidobacteria*. The ability to stick to the digestive tract will cause probiotic microbes to develop appropriately, and pathogenic microbes such as *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella Typhimurium* in the digestive tract will be reduced from the animal host cells (McNaught & MacFie, 2001).

The feeding duration of specific feeds will allow probiotics to stick to poultry's digestive tract for a more extended period, affecting livestock production (Al-Khalaifa et al., 2019; Al-Khalaifa, 2018). The results of the research by Zulfan et al. (2020) and Naji et al. (2015) reported that fermented feed ingredients could be given in commercial rations without disturbing the growth and increasing the income over feed costs of broiler. Furthermore, feeding in the early phase of growth or during the brooding period can affect the growth of broiler DOC (Al-Khalaifa et al., 2019). When chicks are 1 to 14 days old, cell multiplication or hyperplasia will occur. The multiplication of these cells includes the development of the digestive tract, respiratory tract, and immune system. Body cells will increase in number by way of cell division. The hyperplasia process will affect further growth in the form of hypertropia growth, cells will increase in size or cell maturation (Fatmaningsih and Nova, 2016). Based on the description above, a study was aimed to determine the effect of fermented feed at different times on the production performance and carcass quality of broiler chickens.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Ethical approval**

An animal feeding experiment was conducted at the experimental station, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Universitas Sriwijaya, South Sumatera, Indonesia. The animals were cared for according to the Indonesian Institute of Sciences Animal Welfare Guidelines. The approval of the experiment was granted from Universitas Sriwijaya with approval number KPPHP-2021-1.

**Method and sampling preparation**

This study used 180 one-day-old chicks (DOC) of Cobb strain broilers obtained from Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia with an average weight of 38 g and placed in 20 postal cages with a size of 100 cm x 100 cm. **Nine broilers were placed in each cage.** The cages had food dishes, water containers, and 60-watt incandescent lamps for lighting and warmth while the chicks were in them. The

feed used during the starter period was HI Pro (Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia), the feed is given to DOC up to the age of 14 days, and at the time, the finisher was MR1-P (Cheiljedang, Indonesia), the finisher feed given at the age of 3 weeks to 5 weeks of age. The composition of the nutrients in the feed used during the study is shown in Table 1.

Before the feed is given to the experimental animals, the feed is fermented for 7 days using Super lacto which contains the *Lactobacillus burigarius* bacteria and is a product of the Central Proteina Prima Tbk company, Indonesia. The fermentation process is carried out by diluting Super lacto at a concentration of 15 percent based on the rules for use on the product label. After that, proceed with the feed inoculation process by spraying the inoculant evenly (4% w/v).

As for the measurement of carcass quality in research carried out at the final stage of the study. Samples were taken randomly as many as 2 in each treatment and replicated. Then the chicken samples were fasted for 8 hours before being slaughtered.

**Table 1.** Nutrient composition of feed given at the starter and finisher period in broiler chickens strain cobb

Nutrient	Starter feed (HI Pro)*	Finisher feed (MR1 - P)**
Water content (%)	13	13
Crude protein (%)	22.00-23.00	21.50-23.00
Crude fibre (%)	5.00	4.00
Fat (%)	5.00	8.00
Ash (%)	7.00	6.50
Calcium (%)	0.90	0.90-1.20
Phosphor (%)	0.60	0.70-1.00
Metabolizable energy (kcal/kg)	3,020-3,120	2,750-2,768
Methionine	0.61	0.56
Methionin+Cysteine	0.78	0.75
Lysine	1.28	1.28
Vitamin C (IU)	300	300
Selenium (ppm)	0.1	0.5

\* Incorporated Company Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia, produces the feed.  
 \*\* Incorporated Company Cheil Jedang Super Feed, Lampung produce the feed.

**Experimental design**

**Komentar [P6]:** Which days did you consider starter?

**Komentar [P7R6]:** Pay attention to the comment

**Komentar [a8R6]:** the starter period starts from DOC aged 1 day up to 21 days old

**Komentar [P9]:** Which days did you consider finisher?

**Komentar [P10R9]:** Pay attention to the comment

**Komentar [a11R9]:** broiler chicken finisher period after the starter period, which starts at the age of 22 days until the age of 35 days

**Komentar [P3]:** What were the temperature and humidity rate?

**Komentar [P4R3]:** Pay attention to the comment

**Komentar [a5R3]:** the temperature of the cage environment when conducting the study ranged from 32.2 - 33.0 Celsius with humidity ranged from 68.1 to 85.7

This research was conducted using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) consisting of four treatments and five replications. Each treatment carried out in this experiment consisted of a different length of time, namely feeding for two weeks (P1); three weeks (P2); four weeks (P3); and five weeks (P4).

**Observed variables**

All parameters for calculating the value of observations made in this study are based on research conducted by Palupi et al. (2022).

**Feed Consumption**

The investigated parameters included consumption of ration (g/head/day), which was measured based on the difference between the ration given (g) and the rest of the ration given (g) during a specific period (days).

**Body weight gain**

Body weight gain (g/head/day), was measured by weighing the difference between body weight at the end of the study (g) and the initial body weight (g), then divided by the length of rearing time (days).

**Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR)**

Conversion of rations measured based on the ratio between weight gain and ration consumption.

**Live weight**

Then measure, the quality of the broiler carcass, including; Live weight, was measured based on the results of weighing at the end of the study (g).

**Carcass percentage**

Percentage of the carcass (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of weight comparison of broilers without blood, feathers, head, legs, and digestive organs (g) divided by live weight (g).

**Percentage of abdominal fat**

Percentage of abdominal fat (%), which is calculated based on the percentage of the comparison between the weight of abdominal fat contained in the abdominal cavity and fat attached to the digestive organs (g) with the live weight of broilers (g).

**Statistical analysis**

The data will be processed using SPSS software (version 20), based on the design used. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) analyzes data from observation during the study. If there is a significant difference, a further test is carried out using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Steel and Torrie, 1980).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Production performance**

The average Performance of broiler production observed during the research was ration consumption, body weight gain, and feed conversion. The data are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Production performance at the starter and finisher period in broiler chicken strain cobb

Treatment	Feed consumption (g/head/day)	Weight gain (g/head/day)	Feed conversion ratio
P1	78.17 ± 3.45 <sup>a</sup>	51.83 ± 6.24 <sup>a</sup>	1.50 ± 0.22 <sup>a</sup>
P2	86.71 ± 4.12 <sup>b</sup>	55.55 ± 4.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.56 ± 1.45 <sup>a</sup>
P3	96.43 ± 3.41 <sup>b</sup>	60.28 ± 5.61 <sup>b</sup>	1.60 ± 1.03 <sup>a</sup>
P4	118.24 ± 2.66 <sup>d</sup>	65.80 ± 3.87 <sup>b</sup>	1.80 ± 1.56 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>abc</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference (p < 0.05). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed for 4 weeks, P4 = fermented feed for 5 weeks

**Ration consumption**

The analysis of variance revealed that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect on the consumption of broiler chicken ration (p < 0.05). The average consumption of broiler rations during the study ranged from 78.17 to 118.24 (g/head/day). The most extended fermented feed would affect the ration consumption; this was assumed because adding feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* has better palatability, so broilers prefer it. Widodo et al. (2013) reported that fermented feed could be given to a level of 15% in the ration, because fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* provides aromas, flavors, and shapes that broilers prefer, thereby increasing ration consumption.

Further test results showed that the consumption ratio of P1 was significantly different from P2 (p < 0.05). It was hypothesized that the increased consumption at each treatment in this study was due to the duration of the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* supplementation, which could lead to improved feed quality. Widodo et al. (2013) found that fermented feed had improved quality compared to feed that had not undergone the fermentation process. This improvement in feed quality is because the feed contains *Lactobacillus*, which helps speed up the digestive process, thereby improving the digestibility of the feed. Getachew (2016) reported that lactic acid bacteria could live and grow in the intestine and produce enzymes, such as proteases and amylases, which could help improve digestion and produce short-chain fatty acids with antibacterial properties to protect nutritive feed. Therefore, feed intake can be improved by adding feed fermented with lactic acid bacteria.

Feed consumption in P2 was significantly different from P3, suggesting that the increased consumption was due to the palatability of the lactobacillus-fermented feed, which was preferred by livestock (p < 0.05). Furthermore, the lactic acid produced by lactobacilli in the gut plays a

**Kommentar [P18]:** Not italic. Please revise it in whole the text.

**Kommentar [a19R18]:** We will revise it.

**Kommentar [P12]:** How many chicks slaughtered in each group for analysis of these parameters?

**Kommentar [AN13R12]:** We think it was clear, because each broiler chicken was slaughtered.

**Kommentar [P14R12]:** Do you mean all chickens were slaughtered? Generally, a specific number of each group should be slaughtered.

**Kommentar [a15R12]:** Carcass quality parameters were measured at the end of the study. Slaughtering of chickens is done as many as 2 chickens every replication.

**Kommentar [P16]:** What was the significant level?

**Kommentar [a17R16]:** significant level is the effect of treatment on each parameter observed

tremendous role in eliminating pathogenic bacteria and maximizing the digestibility of the feed by ensuring that there is no competition for the utilization of the nutrients ingested. This statement is believed to be due to its impact on consumption (Wikanatsiri et al., 2012). The consumption of rations at P3 was significantly different from that in P4 ( $p < 0.05$ ), it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* could improve palatability. Furthermore, throughout these 4-5 weeks of treatment, the amount of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine could be increased so that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* caused the more significant population of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broilers, which caused the ratio consumption and feed digestibility increased. Elbaz (2021) reported that broiler rations supplemented with *Lactobacillus* could increase palatability, feed consumption, broiler immune system (health), productivity, efficiency, and feed consumption. According to Hardiningsih et al. (2006), the benefits of providing *Lactobacillus* in mixed feed to broilers were increased palatability; maintaining microflora; helping increase digestive enzyme activity; reducing bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production; increased ration consumption and digestion; neutralizing both enterotoxins and toxins; and also stimulates the immune system.

#### Body weight gain

The analysis of variance showed that the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the increase in the body weight of broilers. It is suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* can increase feed digestibility in the digestive tract. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect broilers' growth because *Lactobacillus* bacteria can break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus* bacteria can maintain the balance of other beneficial bacteria populations in the small intestine so that feed digestibility improves, affecting the increase in broilers' body weight. The results of further tests showed that the body weight gain of broilers in treatment P1 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) with treatment P2 but significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) with treatment P3 and P4. This result is thought to be due to the number of *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract of broiler chickens because the P1 treatment is the same as the P2 treatment; this could be due to various factors. Uzer et al. (2013) *Lactobacilli* maintain beneficial microflora in the gastrointestinal tract, conversely, suppress the growth of pathogenic bacteria, increase digestive enzyme activity, decrease bacterial enzyme activity and ammonia production, increase food intake and digestion, and enterotoxins and neutralize immunity. A stimulating system that does not compete in digesting food.

The body weight gain of broilers in P2 was significantly different from that in P3 ( $p < 0.05$ ); it was suspected that feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* was able to protect the

digestive tract from pathogenic bacteria and streamline feed consumption. Astuti et al. (2015) reported that increasing the number of *Lactobacillus* in the intestine will positively affect the growth of chickens which could break down simple carbohydrates into lactic acid. *Lactobacillus*, in addition to maintaining the digestive tract and improving the nutritional value of feed. Body weight gain is closely related to feeding in terms of quantity related to feeding consumption. If feed consumption is disturbed, it will interfere with growth and vice versa; if feed consumption is sufficient, it will increase broiler body weight. The growth of various types of broiler chickens is highly dependent on the feed consumed and is also determined by the development of the digestive tract (Fanatico et al., 2005; Torrey et al., 2021; Singh et al., 2021)

The weight gains of broilers in the P1 and P2 treatments were significantly different from that in P3 and P4 treatments ( $p < 0.05$ ). It is suspected that feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* can increase body weight gain due to its ability to suppress pathogenic bacteria. Furthermore, it can also increase feed digestibility, which has the effect of increasing the digestibility of protein, where feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* produces proteolytic enzymes in the digestive tract, which then can help digest protein, thereby increasing body weight (Muck et al., 2018). A fermented feed with *Lactobacillus*, suppressing pathogenic bacteria, can also improve the digestive organs, stimulating bile and pancreatic juice so that it affects the body weight gain of broiler chickens (Uguru et al., 2022). Nurhayati et al. (2015) reported that the use of fermented feed in broiler chickens has the function of increasing the work of the digestive organs of broilers, namely stimulating the gallbladder wall to secrete bile and stimulating the secretion of pancreatic juice, which contains amylase, lipase, and protease enzymes to improve the digestion of feed ingredients such as carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Thus, the more extended feeding of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* resulted in better body weight gain.

#### Ration conversion ratio

The analysis of variance showed that the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* with 5 weeks curing time (P4) had a significant effect ( $p < 0.05$ ) on the conversion of broiler rations. It was reported that the role of fermented *Lactobacillus* in feed is essential because the feed provided is efficient in increasing the body weight of broilers. *Lactobacillus* is a gram-positive microorganism found in milk, fruits and soil. These lactobacilli can maintain the natural balance of the chicken intestine, so they can function as natural antibiotics (Chen et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2017). Kiha et al. (2012) indicated that *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract could suppress pathogenic bacteria, so they do not compete in digesting nutrients and maximize nutrient absorption in the digestive tract. The longer addition of feed fermented with

**Komentar [P20]:** Add the reference

**Komentar [P21R20]:** Please add the reference.

**Komentar [a22R20]:** The growth of various types of broiler chickens is highly dependent on the feed consumed and is also determined by the development of the digestive tract (Fanatico et al., 2005; Torrey et al., 2021; Singh et al., 2021)

**Komentar [P23]:** With which bacteria?

**Komentar [P24R23]:** Pay attention to the comment

**Komentar [a25R23]:** The bacteria used are *Lactobacillus*



*Lactobacillus* can increase the body weight gain of broiler chickens; in addition, the increase in body weight of broiler chickens can be influenced by the consumption of feed and the nutritional content contained in the feed or the consumption of nutrients in the feed. The longer the feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the greater the body weight gain.

**Carcass quality**

The average carcass quality of broilers during the study observed was live weight, carcass percentage, and abdominal fat percentage. The data are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Average carcass quality of broiler chickens

Treatment	Live body weight (g)	Carcass percentage (%)	Abdomen fat percentage (%)
P1	1699.50 ± 13.44 <sup>a</sup>	72.02 ± 6.43 <sup>a</sup>	1.24 ± 0.12 <sub>a</sub>
P2	1797.50 ± 21.06 <sup>a</sup>	75.02 ± 11.03 <sup>a</sup>	1.32 ± 0.11 <sup>b</sup>
P3	1900.75 ± 20.11 <sup>b</sup>	77.65 ± 5.44 <sup>b</sup>	1.40 ± 0.80 <sup>b</sup>
P4	2002.00 ± 16.37 <sup>c</sup>	78.39 ± 7.18 <sup>b</sup>	1.34 ± 0.32 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>ab</sup> Different superscript letters in the same column showed a significant difference (p < 0.05). P1 = fermented feed for two weeks, P2 = fermented feed for three weeks, P3 = fermented feed four weeks, P4 = fermented feed five weeks

**Live body weight**

The average live weight obtained in this study ranged between 1699.50-2002.00 gr. The results of the analysis of diversity on the final weight of broiler chickens showed the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* with 5 weeks curing time (P4) had a significant effect (p < 0.05) on the live weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that *Lactobacillus* can produce lactic acid in the digestive tract so that it can lower the pH in the digestive tract. Low pH conditions will multiply beneficial bacteria, allowing for faster nutrient absorption and increased growth, affecting broiler chickens' live weight (Akhadiarto, 2010). On the other hand, based on this results revealed that the live weight of broiler chickens at P1 was not significantly different (p > 0.05) from P2 but was significantly different (p < 0.05) from P3 and P4 regarding the live weight of broilers. This result shows that the effect of feeding time fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks to three weeks gives the same live weight. This case was because *lactobacillus* activity on the duration of feeding fermented at P1 and P2 gave the same effect while feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks and five weeks could increase live weight higher than P1 and P2. This result is presumably because of the length of time *Lactobacillus* in the digestive tract can increase the intestinal villi's surface

areas, so that nutrient absorption is better, reducing the growth of pathogenic microorganisms. In line with the research results of Ignatova et al. (2009), it was shown that giving a probiotic supplement (*Lactobacillus*) for five weeks positively increases the live weight of broilers and livestock products that are safe for consumption.

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P2 was significantly different (p < 0.05) compared to P3 and P4 on the results of the weight of broiler chickens. It is suspected that the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for three weeks is still in average conditions to produce a live weight. Moreover, because the feed fermented with *Lactobacillus* is given only up to 3 weeks, after more than three weeks, the lactic acid bacteria produced from the *lactobacillus* fermented feed will be less so that the acidic conditions in the digestive tract are normal. According to Rodriguez et al. (2010), adding *Lactobacillus* to the feed will reduce pH and increase the number of microorganisms in the digestive tract, accelerating the growth of digestive organs and allowing them to develop optimally. Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* at four weeks and five weeks resulted in high body weight gain. It can be assumed that the more extended feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* will result in greater body weight.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks was significantly different (p < 0.05) compared to feeding fermented feed for five weeks. Presumably, the longer the feeding is fermented with *Lactobacillus*, the more lactic acid bacteria are produced, which lower the digestive tract's pH, facilitating the metabolic process and producing a high body weight. This case follows the opinion of Elbaz et al. (2021), which indicated that the use of *Lactobacillus* in feed aims to balance the microflora in the digestive tract to increase the absorption of nutrients to produce ideal body weight.

**Carcass percentage**

The average percentage of broiler carcass for each treatment during the study can be seen in Table 3. The average percentage of broiler carcasses obtained in this study ranged from 72.02 to 78.39%. The results of the analysis of variance on broiler carcasses showed the addition of fermented feed containing *Lactobacillus* with 5 weeks curing time (P4) had a significant effect (p < 0.05) on the percentage carcasses of broilers. This result was because the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can lower the pH of the digestive tract and facilitate the work of the pepsin enzyme so that protein absorption increases. Baeza et al. (2022) stated that the average percentage of broiler carcasses is around 65-78% of the final body weight.

The results of further tests on the percentage carcasses of broiler carcasses showed that the percentage of carcasses in P1 was not significantly different (p > 0.05) with P2 but significantly different (p < 0.05) with P3 and P4. This result indicated that the effect of feeding fermented feed

**Kommentar [P26]:** Rephrase it

**Kommentar [a27R26]:** The longer the duration of feeding that has been fermented with *Lactobacillus*,



with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks resulted in a carcass percentage of 72.02%-75.02% lower than P3 and P4. This case was because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for two weeks and three weeks has the potential for the growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *salmonella* bacteria because the fermented feed has a function to minimize the growth of *salmonella* pathogenic bacteria so that the protein digestion process assisted by enzymes will be slower compared to P3 and P4, while the duration of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* for four weeks to 5 weeks resulted in a higher carcass percentage than P1 and P2, ranging from 77.64% to 78.39%. On This case was because *Lactobacillus* acts as a growth promoter which can increase the work of the pepsin enzyme in the digestive tract so that the absorption of nutrients in the intestines and the resulting metabolic products can be utilized by the livestock body to form and add new tissues such as meat formation (Ignatova et al., 2009).

Feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* in treatment P2 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) with P3 and P4 on the percentage of carcasses. This case is because the length of time of fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* will produce a great percentage of the carcass. After all, *Lactobacillus* will produce lactic acid bacteria, which facilitate the work of the digestive tract, resulting in a high percentage of the carcass. Maunatin and Khanifa (2012) stated that lactic acid bacteria found in the digestive system could neutralize toxins produced by pathogenic bacteria, affecting enzyme activity in the small intestine so that the blood will circulate nutrients throughout the body to form meat.

Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P3 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) with P4. This case was because the four-week fermented feed had the same number of *lactobacillus* bacteria as the fermented feed treatment for five weeks, so the enzyme performance produced was the same in the P3 and P4 treatments. One of the increased enzyme performances due to the increase in the microbial population is the pepsin enzyme to break down protein. Then feed nutrients will be absorbed throughout the body to form meat deposition. In line with the research of Mountzouris et al. (2010) reported that the use of probiotics in feed can work optimally in the digestive tract by increasing the number of microbial populations, thereby balancing the microflora in the digestive tract, protecting the digestive system, improving intestinal health and increasing livestock productivity.

#### Abdominal fat percentage

The average percentage of abdominal fat weight ranged from 1.24 to 1.40%. It can be assumed that feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* facilitates the hydrolysis of carbohydrates in the digestive tract, facilitating the absorption of glucose and monosaccharides. Meanwhile, feed containing easily digestible carbohydrates will result in increased abdominal fat. Following the view of Jha and Mishra (2021), poultry-fed carbohydrate-based diets have

a higher abdominal fat content than fibrous; easily digestible carbohydrates tend to be converted into energy reserves in the form of fat. Hidayat (2015) reported that fat formation occurs due to excess energy consumed. Excess energy in broilers will be stored in the form of abdominal fat.

Further test results revealed that the percentage of abdominal fat given fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was significantly different ( $p < 0.05$ ) from P2, P3, and P4 in terms of abdominal fat percentage. It is suspected that the feeding duration fermented with *Lactobacillus* at P1 was still in normal condition resulting in a lower percentage of abdominal fat. In contrast, at P2, P3, and P4, the length of feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* could reduce the activity of the lipase enzyme that plays a role in the rate of acid synthesis. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) reported that the decrease in abdominal fat deposition with a decrease in the energy content of the ration was caused by the reduced activity of lipase enzymes associated with lipogenic processes in the liver. Lipogenesis is a fat deposition process that includes fatty acid synthesis and triglyceride synthesis that occurs in the liver in the mitochondria, cytoplasm, and adipose tissue. Fat in the body originates from feed and is produced from the synthesis process in the liver (Jensen-Urstad & Semenkovich, 2012). Feeding fermented feed with *Lactobacillus* at P2 and P3 was not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) but significantly different from P4. In this case, presumably because feeding fermented with *Lactobacillus* can optimize the absorption of the digestive tract so that the nutritional content of the feed is more directed at the formation of meat and bones than fat in each treatment. Fouad and El-Senousey (2014) stated that nutrition affects the deposition of abdominal fat in the body of broiler chickens. Reduction of body fat deposits in broilers, including abdominal fat, occurs due to a reduction in fatty acid synthesis in the liver and a decrease in lipase enzyme secretion, thereby reducing fat absorption. Zhang et al. (1999) stated that fatty acids reduce the amount of body fat deposition in broilers by suppressing the activity of the lipase enzyme in plasma.

#### CONCLUSION

According to the present study's findings, adding fermented *Lactobacillus* feed for five weeks could increase body weight gain by 16.30%, decrease feed conversion by 11.10% and improve the carcass quality of broiler chickens. Recommendations for further research are the increased application of fermented feed by *lactobacillus* as a feed mixture to the number of pathogenic and non-pathogenic microbial populations and the characteristics of the digestive organs in broiler chickens.

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#### Authors' contribution

All authors developed the theory and supervised the research. Rizki Palupi contributed to the sample collection and analysis calculations. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript for publishing in the present journal.

#### Competing interests

The authors have declared that no competing interest exists

#### Ethical consideration

All authors have reviewed the manuscripts for ethical concerns, such as plagiarism, consent to publish, misconduct, data fabrication and falsification, double publishing and submission, and redundancy.

#### Availability data and material

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