

EFFECTS OF OREGANO (*ORIGANUM VULGARE*) AS A DIETARY SUPPLEMENT IN TURKEY FARMING - REVIEW

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Abstract

Over the last few years, some lethal protozoal diseases like histomonias (blackhead disease), coccidiosis and trichomonias have become a matter of concern in the industrial production of turkeys, due to the ban on a number of antihistomonic drugs and growth promotion antibiotics imposed in the European Union. This has stimulated many pharmacists and veterinary experts to focus their attention on using oregano extracts because of their diverse beneficial effects. The purpose of this publication is to review the possible use of oregano as a dietary supplement for disease prevention and growth promotion in the industrial production of turkeys.

With this objective in mind, we reviewed official documents and reports issued by international organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organisation - FAO, the official website of the European Commission, as well as numerous scientific publications on PubMed, ResearchGate and Elsevier, related to the active substances found in oregano, their properties and diverse applications. Oregano products have antibacterial, antioxidant, hepatoprotective and antitumor effects. We have paid special attention on the potential use of oregano as an antiprotozoal agent against *Histomonas meleagridis*, *Trichomonas gallinae*, *Trichomonas columbae*, and *Eimeria* spp. We have also outlined the application of oregano products as a turkey growth promotion stimulant as well as for improving the feed conversion ratio and the quality of turkey meat for human consumption.

In conclusion, oregano and its derivative products have the capacity to be successfully used for prevention and treatment of protozoal diseases in turkeys and as a growth promotion agent as well.

Key words: *Origanum vulgare*, Turkeys, Antimicrobial, Antiprotozoal, Hepatoprotective action, Absorption of feed.