



Book of Abstracts

**I INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND
XVII SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
OF AGRONOMISTS OF REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA**

*Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina
March 19 - 22, 2012*



CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна и универзитетска библиотека
Републике Српске, Бања Лука

631/635(048.3)

МЕЂУНАРОДНИ симпозијум (1 ; 2012 ; Требиње)
Zbornik sažetaka / I međunarodni simpozijum i
XVII naučno-stručno savjetovanje agronoma
Republike Srpske, 19-22. mart 2012. godine
Trebinje, Bosna i Hercegovina ; [organizator
Simpozijuma Poljoprivredni fakultet Univerziteta u
Banjaluci u saradnji sa Biotehničkim fakultetom
Univerziteta u Ljubljani ; urednik Boris Pašalić].
- Banja Luka : Poljoprivredni fakultet, 2012
(Laktaši : Grafomark). - 228, 324 str. ; 25 cm

Nasl. str. prištampanog engl. prevoda: Book of
Abstracts. - Oba teksta štampana u međusobno
obrnutim smjerovima. - Tiraž 300. - Registri.

ISBN 978-99938-93-20-2

1. Научно-стручно савјетовање агронома Републике
Српске (17 ; 2012 ; Требиње) 2. Пољопривредни
факултет (Бања Лука) 3. Биотехнички факултет
(Љубљана)

COBISS.BH-ID 2630424

**EFFECT OF PROTEASE ENZYME SUPPLEMENTATION ON THE
WEIGHT AND PROPORTION OF EDIBLE SLAUGHTER BY-PRODUCTS
OF BROILER CHICKENS**

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There has been relatively little research on protease enzyme supplementation of broiler feeds having a reduced crude protein level. The available literature suggests that reduced amounts of protein feedstuffs, primarily soybean meal, in complete broiler feeds coupled with protease enzyme supplementation produce a number of positive results such as increased feed conversion efficiency, enhanced digestibility of certain feed ingredients, reduced environmental pollution due to lower excretion of nitrogen-containing substances into the environment, reduced feeding costs, improved health, etc. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of protease enzyme supplementation of complete feeds for broiler fattening (at a rate of 0.2% and 0.3%) as compared to the control group (without protease enzyme supplementation) on the weight of edible slaughter by-products (liver, proventriculus, heart and abdominal fat) and their proportion in bird weight before slaughter. Cobb 500 hybrid was used in the trial. Length of fattening period was 49 days and it included three stages: starter (days 1-21), grower (days 22-42) and finisher (days 43-49).

Key words: *chickens, enzym protease, edible slaughter by-products.*