

Research and Development of Pheasant for Income of Highland Communities

Abstract

The work consisted of 2 experiments in which ring neck pheasant chicks from 4 crossbred lines of Suchon *et al.* (2014) research work were used. Experiment 1, three male plus 15 female pheasant of each line were raised together in a cage at the ratio of 1:5. The chicks from these F_1 parent stock were sent to 9 highland farmers of Royal Project Foundation. Each farmer raised 120-185 heads of chicks according to the farm size for 16 weeks. Experiment 2, the chicks from F_1 were sent to 4 highland farmers, lived at different elevation, i.e. 700 vs. 900 m above sea level. The farm has 0.7-0.8 vs. 1.5-1.9 m²/head of outdoor area for scavenging. Perching facility was either from homemade bamboo rod or natural tree. The other management was according to GAP for highland poultry. Each farm raised 120-185 heads of pheasant chicks for 16 weeks. The result revealed that these 4 breed lines in experiment 1 had similar performances. The average results were as follows: The onset of laying was at the age of 273 ± 1.41 days. Egg weight was 25.12 ± 1.78 g. Egg production was $48.10 \pm 1.78\%$. The fertile egg was $76.29 \pm 5.43\%$ of the incubated eggs. Hatchability rate was $47.79 \pm 2.11\%$ of the fertile eggs. Unfertile and death in shell eggs was as $15.78 \pm 1.71\%$. The chicks from F_1 which were raised by 9 farmers had average body weight 0.242 ± 0.01 and 0.419 ± 0.010 kg. at 4 and 8 weeks while feed consumption was 21.33 ± 2.26 and 27.19 ± 0.39 g/d. FCR was 2.68 ± 0.25 and 3.65 ± 0.08 . Body weights of male and female pheasant at 16 weeks of age were 1.126 and 0.873 kg. while feed intake and FCR were 31.49 ± 1.18 g/d and 3.60 ± 0.59 , respectively. The survival rate through the first 16 week of age was 88.41%. The economic return evaluated by deduction only chick and feed cost was 7,600 Baht/lot of 4 months. In experiment 2, no significant effects of different elevation, size for free range and type of perch were found on performances of pheasant but feather falling and wound from picking around 1-5% of the flock was noticed especially in the farm that has less free range area.

Key words: Ring neck pheasant, Highland, Royal Project Foundation, GAP for highland farm