

# The effect of cellulose added to straw bedding on turkeys' welfare and production results

Oryna Szobodzian-Ksenicz<sup>1\*</sup>, Hanna Houszka<sup>2</sup>, Andrzej Michalski<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Land and Environmental Engineering, Zielona Góra University, Szafrana 15, 65-516 Zielona Góra, Poland, <sup>2</sup> Institute of Building, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Pl. Grunwaldzki 24, 50-363 Wrocław, Poland, <sup>3</sup> Department of Mathematics, Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Grunwaldzka 53, 50-357 Wrocław, Poland

### **Abstract :**

The study was conducted to investigate the effect of addition of cellulose to straw litter on the degree of bedding encrustation as well as on turkeys' welfare and production results. Birds were kept either on straw mixed with cellulose (sector PC) or on straw only (sector PS). During the experiment, once a week, degree of litter surface encrustation and health state of turkeys legs were determined. Birds' weight and mortality were recorded. The addition of cellulose to straw litter resulted in slower tempo of bedding encrustation and lesser occurrence of leg deformation. Cellulose application contributed to improved welfare of birds and increased production results (lower mortality and higher final body weight).

### **Key Word :**

cellulose, straw litter, turkeys, welfare

*Volume 28, Number 4, - 2010*