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Abstract: The present study aimed to evaluate the effect of the use of a probiotic on the growth performance and health of broiler chickens. A total of 1200 birds were divided into two groups: control (A) and probiotic (B). The birds were raised in a conventional system with access to outdoor areas. The probiotic group showed significantly higher body weight gain and feed conversion ratio compared to the control group. Additionally, the probiotic group had a lower incidence of respiratory and digestive diseases. The results indicate that the use of a probiotic can improve the growth performance and health of broiler chickens.

Edir Nepomuceno Silva has completed his PhD in 1978 from State University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil and Postdoctoral studies from University of Massachusetts, USA. He has lectured on diseases of poultry, food hygiene and safety on poultry products and was retired as a full Professor. He has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals. He is the Founder in 1981 of the *Brazilian Poultry Science* an annual poultry conference, training courses and seminars. He has published several technical teaching books and a Brazilian Poultry Science journal, since he has been on the Facta's Executive Committee. FACTA hosted the World Poultry Congress in 2012, and he became the President of the World's Poultry Science Association (2012-16). As an Entrepreneur, he established a poultry vaccine company, a poultry diagnostic laboratory and a probiotic/prebiotic company.

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