420 day-old chicks were randomly assigned to 7 treatments: no feed, dextrose, boiled eggwhite, mixture of 50% boiled egg-white and 50% dextrose, oat hulls and 2 commercial products. All fed chicks received 5 gram of feed per bird per day, without additional water, till 3 days posthatch. Twenty chicks per day were evaluated on chick length, body weight, intestine length, residual yolk, heart, spleen, liver and bursa of Fabricius till 3 days post-hatch.

Residual yolk weight decreased from hatch till 3 days post-hatch, regardless of treatment

P>0.01. Egg-white, dextrose or a mixture of both, resulted in an advanced development of chicks, demonstrated by a significant increase in chick weight, yolk free body mass, heart weight, liver weight and longer intestine.

Post-hatch feeding can positively affect post-hatch chick development. However, type of feed is important for final results and might be related to the availability of water in the feed, and the digestibility of nutrients, as the digestive tract is not fully developed yet.