# Digestible Lysine Requirement of Liuzhou Mahua Broilers at Different Growth Stages

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## Abstract

Experiments were conducted to determine the digestible lysine (DLys) requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d and from 22 to 42 d of age. Monofactorial design was adopted in this study. 1200 one-day-old healthy broiler chicks were divided randomly and evenly into five treatments, and were all fed with isoenergetic diet (with ME of 3.0 Mcal/kg) but with graded levels of DLys: 1.22%, 1.12%, 1.02%, 0.91% and 0.81% during the period of 1 to 21 days; 1.13%, 1.02%, 0.92%, 0.82% and 0.71% during the period of 22 to 42 days. The results showed that the DLys level in diet had a quadratic relationship both with the average daily gain (ADG) and feed:gain ratio (F/G). For Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age, ADG was the highest at the DLys level of 1.12%, which was not significantly different from those at the levels of 1.22% and 1.02% (P>0.05), and F/G was the lowest at the DLys level of 1.22%. For Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 22 to 42 d of age, at the DLys level of 1.13% and 0.92% (P>0.05). According to regression analysis results, for Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age, the optimum DLys requirement was 1.07% with ADG as the indicator, and was 1.13% with F/G as the indicator. For Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 22 to 42 d of age the indicator, DLys requirement were 0.89% and 0.84%, respectively. Liuzhou Mahua broilers were not as sensitive to DLys concentration variation as fast-growing broilers from abroad.

Keywords: Liuzhou Mahua broilers, Digestible lysine, Requirement

# 1. Introduction

Liuzhou Mahua broilers are a breed of local chickens originally from Guangxi Province, China, and they have the features of tender meat, high feed conversion and high disease resistance. This study investigated the DLys requirements of Liuzhou Mahua broilers at different growth stages, in order to guide the feed preparation for Liuzhou Mahua broiler and to provide scientific references for the feeding standard of Liuzhou Mahua broilers. Due to the differences in genetics, body compositions and growth rates, different breeds of broiler chickens had different amino acid requirements, and the amino acid requirements resulted from different evaluation indicators were also different (Rostagno and Pack, 1995). In 1986, China issued a tentative feeding standard for local broiler chickens, but in this standard many indicators followed the feeding standards for Guangdong Sanhuang broilers and Taiwan local chickens, which may not be suitable for local chickens from other areas. Liuzhou Mahua broiler chicken is an excellent breed of local chicken, but there is almost no research on its nutritional requirements, let alone researches on its Lys requirement. Therefore, in this study graded DLys concentrations were adopted, and quadratic regression analysis was utilized to determine the DLys requirements of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d and from 22 to 42 d of age.

## 2. Materials and methods

## 2.1 Test chickens

In this study, monofactorial design was adopted. Based on the principles of male and female in half and minimum body weight difference, 1200 one-day-old Liuzhou Mahua broiler chicks were divided into five

treatments (the total body weight difference between treatments was less than 2 grams), with 4 replicates per treatment, and 60 chicks in each replicate. Upon finishing the first phase of the experiments (from 1 to 21 d of age), the second phase (from 22 to 42 d of age) was conducted on the same set of chicks used in the first phase.

## 2.2 Diets

In this study the energy level of diets was determined according to the research results of energy requirements of other local chickens obtained by other Chinese researchers, as well as the energy requirements in the China Feeding Standard of Chicken issued in 1986. The DLys concentration in the diets was set to five levels: 1.2%, 1.1%, 1.0%, 0.9% and 0.8% for 1 to 21 d of age, 1.1%, 1.0%, 0.9%, 0.8% and 0.7% for 22 to 42 d of age. The amino acid profile used in this study was the average of ideal amino acid profiles for broiler chickens in NRC (1984), SCA (1987), NRC (1994), IICP and Han & Baker (1994). The true amino acid digestibility was chosen according to the NRC (1994) recommendation. The amount of mineral premix and vitamin premix added to the diets followed the NRC (1994) recommendation for poultry nutritional requirement. The composition and nutrient levels of the diets for the test chickens at different growth stages were shown in Table 1 and Table 2. Chickens from 1 to 21 d of age were fed with powder feed, and chickens from 22 to 42 d of age were fed with pellet feed.

## 2.3 Feeding management

During the experiments, the feed intake and the health status of the test chickens, and any abnormal circumstances were recorded accurately. The chickens were weighed once a week. To ensure weighing accuracy, feed was removed from the cages in turn, with the time interval of 7 min, and the chickens were deprived of feed for 8.5 h before being weighed. The chickens were allowed ad libitum to the diets and water, and the chicken coop was kept at normal temperature and relative humidity, and with good ventilation. The room temperature was set as the following:  $32\sim35^{\circ}$ C during the first week,  $27\sim32^{\circ}$ C during the second week,  $22\sim29^{\circ}$ C during the third week, and not lower than  $21^{\circ}$ C after the third week. The chicken coop was disinfected and immunized using conventional methods.

## 2.4 Measuring indicators and methods

CP (Kjeldahl method) and crude water in the feed ingredients were determined, and CP, FE, CF, ASH, Ca, P and crude water in finished feed were determined.

Average daily feed intake, ADG and F/G were used as indicators of growth performance, in which F/G= average daily feed intake / ADG×100%.

## 2.5 Data processing and statistical analysis

Excel software and SPSS statistical software were used to analyze the data. Tukey test was adopted for multiple comparison, and quadratic regression analysis for the estimation of the optimum DLys requirement.

# 3. Results

# 3.1 DLys requirements of Liuzhou Mahua broiler chickens from 1 to 21 d of age

The results of ADG, daily feed intake and F/G of the test chickens from 1 to 21 d of age were shown in Table 3. As shown in Table 3, during the growth period of 1~21 days, ADG of the chickens increased with the increase of the DLys level in diets, but as the DLys level reached the highest level of 1.22%, ADG decreased instead. In all treatments, ADG was the highest when DLys level was at 1.12%, which was significantly higher than those at the DLys levels of 0.91% and 0.81% (P<0.01), but not significantly different from those at the levels of 1.22% and 1.02%. At the DLys level of 0.81%, ADG of 14.21g was the lowest, which was significantly lower than those at other levels (P<0.01). The DLys level had no significant effect on the chickens' feed intake. F/G decreased with the increase of the DLys level, and F/G was the best at the DLys level of 1.22%, which was significantly better than those at other DLys levels (P<0.01). F/G was the highest at the DLys level of 0.81%, which was significantly higher than those at other DLys level of 0.81%, which was significantly better than those at other DLys levels (P<0.05, or P<0.01). F/G was the highest at the DLys level of 0.81%, which was significantly higher than those at other DLys levels (P<0.01). There was no significant difference of F/G between the DLys levels of 1.12% and 1.02%, but they were significantly lower than that at the DLys levels of 0.91% and 0.81% (P<0.01).

The DLys requirement was estimated using a quadratic regression equation based on 99% of the optimum response, which was not significantly different from the best effects. As shown in Table 5, the DLys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age were 1.07% and 1.13%, respectively, and the converted total Lys requirements in this study were 1.23% and 1.30%, respectively, based on ADG and F/G.

## 3.2 DLys requirements of Liuzhou Mahua broiler chickens from 22 to 42 d of age

The results of ADG and F/G of the chickens from 22 to 42 d of age were shown in Table 4. As shown in Table 4, when the DLys level was in the range of  $0.71\%\sim1.02\%$ , for  $22\sim42$ -day-old chickens, ADG increased as DLys level increased. However, as the DLys reached the highest level of 1.13%, ADG decreased instead. ADG was the highest at the DLys level of 1.02%, followed by those at 1.13% and 0.92%, and the differences between the three levels were not significant. ADG was the lowest at the DLys level of 0.71%, and it was significantly lower than those at other levels (*P*<0.01). The DLys level had no obvious effect on the test chicken's feed intake. F/G reached the optimum value at the DLys level of 1.02%, but it was not significantly different from those at 1.13%, 0.92% and 0.82% (*P*>0.05). F/G at the DLys level of 0.71% was significantly higher (*P*<0.05, or *P*<0.01) than those at other DLys levels.

The DLys requirement was estimated using a quadratic regression equation based on 99% of the optimum response, which was not significantly different from the best effects. As shown in Table 5, the DLys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 22 to 42 d of age were 0.89% and 0.84%, respectively, and the converted total Lys requirements in this study were 1.02% and 0.97%, respectively, based on ADG and F/G.

## 4. Discussion

## 4.1 Lys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age

In this study, the regression analysis results showed that the DLys level had a quadratic relationship with ADG and F/G, which was consistent with the results on broilers reported by Han and Baker (1991, 1994), Knowles and Southern (1998), and Mack *et al* (1999).

Using ADG as the indicator, Garcia and Batal (2005) found that the DLys requirements of Cobb 500 broilers were 0.98% and 1.01%, respectively, at 4d and 21d of age, whereas, using F/G as the indicator, DLys requirements were 1.08% and 1.10%, respectively, at 4d and 21d of age. Both were lower than the results of this study. Similarly, the DLys requirements of Liuzhou Mahua broilers in this study were higher than those of other breeds of broilers reported by researchers outside China (Muramoto *et al*, 1997; Knowles and Southern, 1998; Barboza *et al*, 2000). However, using ADG as the indicator, Conhalato *et al* (1999) estimated that DLys requirement of male Hubbard broilers was 1.05%, which was very close to the results reported here. Dozier *et al* (2009) reported that DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 chickens from 14~28 d of age was between 1.07% and 1.09% based on ADG, which was consistent with that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age in this study; DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 broilers was between 1.10% and 1.15% based on F/G, which was lower than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers; DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 broilers was between 1.10% and 1.15% based on F/G, which was lower than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers; DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 broilers was between 1.10% and 1.15% based on F/G, which was lower than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers; DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 broilers was between 1.10% and 1.15% based on F/G, which was lower than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers; DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 broilers was between 1.10% and 1.15% based on F/G, which was lower than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers; DLys requirement of male Ross x Ross TP16 broilers was between 1.10% and 1.15% based on F/G, which was close to that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers in this study.

NRC (1994) recommendation for total Lys requirement of broilers from 1 to 21 d of age was 1.10%, which was lower than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age for optimum ADG in this study (1.23%). Based on ideal protein amino acid profile, IICP (1994) recommendation for DLys requirement of broilers from 1 to 21 d of age for male and female chickens were 1.12% and 1.02%, respectively, and the average value was close to the DLys requirement (1.07%) of mixed feeding Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age based on ADG in this study.

## 4.2 Lys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 22 to 42 d of age

During 22~42 d period, according to the regression analysis results, the DLys levels also showed a quadratic relationship with ADG and F/G, and the DLys requirement for the highest ADG was lower than that for the lowest F/G (as shown in Table 5). Conhalato *et al* (1999) found that for optimum ADG and F/G, the DLys requirements of male Hubbard chickens from 22 to 42 d of age were 1.02% and 0.98%, respectively. The research of Schutte *et al* (1997) showed that the total Lys requirement of Ross broilers from 28 to 42 d of age for optimum F/G was 1.19%. The above results demonstrated that Lys requirements of both male Hubbard chickens and Ross broilers were significantly higher than that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers. NRC (1994) recommendation for total Lys requirement of broilers from 22 to 42 d of age was 1.0%, which was close to that of Liuzhou Mahua broilers for optimum ADG in this study (1.02%). Based on ideal protein amino acid profile, IICP (1994) recommendation for DLys requirement of male broilers from 22 to 42 d of age was 0.89%, which was the same as that of mixed feeding Liuzhou Mahua broilers for optimum ADG in this study.

The above comparisons demonstrated that the Lys requirement of mixed feeding Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age in this study was close to that of fast-growing male broilers, such as Ross and Hubbard, as well as IICP (1994) recommendation of broiler chicks, but slightly higher than NRC (1994) recommendation and that of local breeds of broilers in China. The Lys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 22 to 42 d of age was

close to NRC (1994) and IICP (1994) recommendations, but significantly lower than the reported results of broilers such as Hubbard and Ross.

## 4.3 Analysis of Lys requirement differences for different breeds of chickens

Using ADG as the indicator, the DLys requirement of mixed feeding Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age was close to that of fast-growing male broilers from outside China, but for broilers from 22 to 42 d of age the DLys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers was significantly lower.

In this study, for single Liuzhou Mahua broiler from 1 to 21 d of age, the average weight gain was around 350g, and the average feed consumed was about 560g. NRC (1994) recommendation for weight gain and feed consumption of broiler chicks from 1 to 21 d of age were 590g and 880g, respectively. Therefore, both the absolute feed intake and body weight gain of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age were significantly lower than those of fast-growing broilers from aboard, which might be determined by their genetic specificity. In addition, the effect of amino acid variation in feed on weight gain for Liuzhou Mahua broilers was not as big as for fast-growing broilers. For example, during the second week growth of Liuzhou Mahua broilers, below the highest DLys requirement (i.e. in the range of linear response for productivity) with every 0.1% increase of DLys, ADG of Liuzhou Mahua broilers in this study increased 0.56g, whereas, the ADG increase of fast-growing broilers was 2.89g (Edwards *et al*, 1999). Therefore, with the variation of Lys concentration in diet, the weight gain increase of Liuzhou Mahua broilers was slow, and not as sensitive to Lys concentration as fast-growing broiler chickens.

## 5. Conclusions

(1) When the ME of diet was 3.00 Mcal/kg (12.55 MJ/kg, calculated using 88% DM), the following results were obtained through quadratic regression analysis:

(1) At 99% of the maximum quadratic curve response, the DLys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 1 to 21 d of age was 1.07% based on ADG, and 1.12% based on F/G.

(2) At 99% of the maximum quadratic curve response, the DLys requirement of Liuzhou Mahua broilers from 22 to 42 d of age was 0.89% based on ADG, and 0.84% based on F/G.

(2) In the range of Lys levels adopted in this study, Liuzhou Mahua broilers were not as sensitive to Lys concentration variations as fast-growing broiler chickens from abroad.

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		DLys leve	el		
1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	
47.597	53.386	59.026	64.696	70.298	
40.6	35.7	30.87	26.03	21.25	
4	4	4	4	4	
4.4	3.52	2.72	1.91	1.1	
0.33	0.28	0.24	0.19	0.15	
0.72	0.76	0.79	0.82	0.84	
1.143	1.144	1.144	1.144	1.152	
0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	
0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	
0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	
100	100	100	100	100	
3	3	3	3	3.01	
24.08	22.42	20.78	19.11	17.46	
1.37	1.26	1.15	1.04	0.92	
1.2	1.1	1	0.9	0.8	
0.67	0.6	0.55	0.48	0.42	
0.88	0.82	0.75	0.69	0.62	
0.87	0.81	0.74	0.67	0.61	
0.3	0.28	0.26	0.24	0.23	
0.99	0.92	0.86	0.79	0.72	
1	1	1	1	1	
0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	
	1.2%         47.597         40.6         4         4.4         0.33         0.72         1.143         0.03         0.13         0.2         0.1         0.5         0.05         100	1.2% $1.1%$ $47.597$ $53.386$ $40.6$ $35.7$ $4$ $4$ $4.4$ $3.52$ $0.33$ $0.28$ $0.72$ $0.76$ $1.143$ $1.144$ $0.03$ $0.03$ $0.13$ $0.13$ $0.2$ $0.2$ $0.1$ $0.1$ $0.5$ $0.05$ $100$ $100$ $3$ $3$ $24.08$ $22.42$ $1.37$ $1.26$ $1.2$ $1.1$ $0.67$ $0.6$ $0.88$ $0.82$ $0.87$ $0.81$ $0.3$ $0.28$ $0.99$ $0.92$ $1$ $1$ $0.45$ $0.45$	DLys level           1.2%         1.1%         1.0%           47.597         53.386         59.026           40.6         35.7         30.87           4         4         4           4.4         3.52         2.72           0.33         0.28         0.24           0.72         0.76         0.79           1.143         1.144         1.144           0.03         0.03         0.03           0.13         0.13         0.13           0.2         0.2         0.2           0.1         0.1         0.1           0.5         0.5         0.5           0.05         0.05         0.05           100         100         100           100         100         100           1.37         1.26         1.15           1.2         1.1         1           0.67         0.6         0.55           0.88         0.82         0.75           0.87         0.81         0.74           0.3         0.28         0.26           0.99         0.92         0.86           1         1         1 <td>DLys level           1.2%         1.1%         1.0%         0.9%           47.597         53.386         59.026         64.696           40.6         35.7         30.87         26.03           4         4         4         4           4.4         3.52         2.72         1.91           0.33         0.28         0.24         0.19           0.72         0.76         0.79         0.82           1.143         1.144         1.144         1.144           0.03         0.03         0.03         0.03           0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13           0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2           0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1           0.5         0.05         0.05         0.05           0.05         0.05         0.05         0.05           100         100         100         100           1         1.1         1         0.9           0.67         0.6         0.55         0.48           0.88         0.82         0.75         0.69           0.87         0.81         0.74         0.67&lt;</td> <td>DLys level           1.2%         1.1%         1.0%         0.9%         0.8%           47.597         53.386         59.026         64.696         70.298           40.6         35.7         30.87         26.03         21.25           4         4         4         4         4           4.4         3.52         2.72         1.91         1.1           0.33         0.28         0.24         0.19         0.15           0.72         0.76         0.79         0.82         0.84           1.143         1.144         1.144         1.152         0.03         0.03         0.03           0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13           0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2           0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1           0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5           0.05         0.05         0.05         0.05         0.05         100         100           1.1         0.1         0.1</td>	DLys level           1.2%         1.1%         1.0%         0.9%           47.597         53.386         59.026         64.696           40.6         35.7         30.87         26.03           4         4         4         4           4.4         3.52         2.72         1.91           0.33         0.28         0.24         0.19           0.72         0.76         0.79         0.82           1.143         1.144         1.144         1.144           0.03         0.03         0.03         0.03           0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13           0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2           0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1           0.5         0.05         0.05         0.05           0.05         0.05         0.05         0.05           100         100         100         100           1         1.1         1         0.9           0.67         0.6         0.55         0.48           0.88         0.82         0.75         0.69           0.87         0.81         0.74         0.67<	DLys level           1.2%         1.1%         1.0%         0.9%         0.8%           47.597         53.386         59.026         64.696         70.298           40.6         35.7         30.87         26.03         21.25           4         4         4         4         4           4.4         3.52         2.72         1.91         1.1           0.33         0.28         0.24         0.19         0.15           0.72         0.76         0.79         0.82         0.84           1.143         1.144         1.144         1.152         0.03         0.03         0.03           0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13         0.13           0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2         0.2           0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1         0.1           0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5         0.5           0.05         0.05         0.05         0.05         0.05         100         100           1.1         0.1         0.1

Table 1. Composition and nutrient levels of diets for chickens from 1 to 21 d of age (%)

<sup>1</sup> The purity of synthesized AA and mineral raw materials were calculated by 98%.

<sup>2</sup> Per kilogram of vitamin premix contained: VA 20 million IU; VD3 2.8 million IU; VE 13,000 IU; VK<sub>3</sub> 5 g; VB<sub>1</sub> 2 g; VB<sub>2</sub> 15 g; VB<sub>6</sub> 6 g; VB<sub>12</sub> 30 mg; folacin 500 mg; nicacid 35 g; calpanate 25 g.

<sup>3</sup> Per kilogram of mineral premix contained: Fe 80.0 ppm, Cu 8.0 ppm, Mn 60.0 ppm, Zn 40.0 ppm, Se 0.15 ppm, I 0.35 ppm.

<sup>4</sup> Salinomycin was in the form of salinomycin sodium, with the content of 10%. Choline chloride was in the form of solid, with the content of 50%.

Ingradiant			DLys Lev	el		—
Ingreatent	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	
Corn	50.93	57.44	63.54	69.6	75.59	
Soybean meal	39.5	33.92	28.72	23.57	18.44	
Fish meal	2	2	2	2	2	
Soy oil : lard oil (1:1)	4.05	3.1	2.18	1.29	0.42	
DL-Methionine <sup>1</sup>	0	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	
CaCO <sub>3</sub>	0.32	0.28	0.25	0.2	0.16	
CaHPO <sub>4</sub>	0.78	0.82	0.86	0.88	0.92	
Vitamin premix <sup>2</sup>	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	
Choline chloride <sup>4</sup>	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
Salt	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	
NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Mineral premix <sup>3</sup>	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Salinomycin <sup>4</sup>	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	
Nutrient levels						
ME (Mcal/kg)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	
СР	22.69	20.81	19.05	17.28	15.51	
Lys	1.26	1.15	1.03	0.92	0.81	
DLys	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.80	0.70	
DMet	0.63	0.57	0.52	0.45	0.40	
DThr	0.83	0.75	0.68	0.61	0.54	
DIle	0.82	0.74	0.67	0.59	0.52	
DCys	0.29	0.27	0.25	0.23	0.21	
DVal	0.93	0.85	0.78	0.70	0.63	
Ca	0.95	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.95	
AP	0.41	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	

Table 2. Composition	and nutrient le	evels of diets for	chickens from	22 to 42 d of age (%)
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<sup>1</sup> The purity of synthesized AA and mineral were calculated by 98%.

<sup>2</sup> Per kilogram of vitamin premix contained: VA 20 million IU; VD3 2.8 million IU; VE 13,000 IU; VK<sub>3</sub> 5 g; VB<sub>1</sub> 2 g; VB<sub>2</sub> 15 g; VB<sub>6</sub> 6 g; VB<sub>12</sub> 30 mg; folacin 500 mg; nicacid 35 g; calpanate 25 g.

<sup>3</sup> Per kilogram of mineral premix contained: Fe 80.0 mg; Cu 8.0 mg; Mn 60.0 mg; Zn 40.0 mg; Se 0.15mg; I 0.35 mg.

<sup>4</sup> Salinomycin was in the form of salinomycin sodium, with the content of 10%. Choline chloride was in the form of solid, with the content of 50%.

Table 3. Eff	fect of the	DLys level	on the growth	performance c	of 1~21-day-ol	d Liuzhou M	ahua broiler chickens
		2	U	1	2		

DLys level	ADG (g)	Daily feed intake (g)	Average F/G (g:g)
1.22%	15.68 <sup>aA</sup> ±0.41	24.81±0.33	1.54 <sup>aA</sup> ±0.025
1.12%	15.84 <sup>aAC</sup> ±0.47	25.80±0.50	1.59 <sup>bA</sup> ±0.021
1.02%	15.31 <sup>abAC</sup> ±0.22	25.31±0.46	1.61 <sup>bB</sup> ±0.022
0.91%	$14.94 \ ^{bBC} \pm 0.10$	25.20±0.18	1.65 <sup>B</sup> ±0.0126
0.81%	14.21 <sup>cB</sup> ±0.15	25.44±0.21	$1.76 \ ^{\text{C}}\pm 0.0096$

In the same row, values with different superscripts in lower-cases were significantly different (P < 0.05), and values with different superscripts in upper cases were significantly different (P < 0.01).

Table 4. Effect of the DLys level on the growth performance of 22~42-day-old Liuzhou Mahua broiler chickens

DLys level	ADG (g)	Daily feed intake (g)	Average F/G (g:g)
1.13%	33.18 <sup>abA</sup> ±0.523	72.25±1.52	2.18 <sup>aA</sup> ±0.022
1.02%	34.39 <sup>aA</sup> ±0.71	74.31±1.86	2.16 <sup>aA</sup> ±0.014
0.92%	33.23 <sup>abA</sup> ±0.67	73.26±0.55	2.21 <sup>aAB</sup> ±0.049
0.82%	32.92 <sup>bA</sup> ±0.38	72.41±1.28	2.20 <sup>aA</sup> ±0.027
0.71%	30.99 <sup>B</sup> ±0.60	72.66±1.60	2.29 <sup>bB</sup> ±0.023

In the same row, values with different superscripts in lower-cases were significantly different (P < 0.05), and values with different superscripts in upper-cases were significantly different (P < 0.01).

Table 5. Estimated DLys requirements of Liuzhou Mahua broilers at different growth stages through regression analysis

Growth phase	Indicator	DLys level at maximum quadratic curve response	DLys level at 99% maximum quadratic curve response	Total Lys requirement	Regression equation
1~21 d	ADG	1.18%	1.07%	1.23%	$y=-10.78x^{2} + 25.61x + 0.531$ $R^{2} = 0.975$
	F/G	1.28%	1.13%	1.30%	$y = 0.925x^2 - 2.362x + 3.055$ $R^2 = 0.959$
22~42 d	ADG	0.98%	0.89%	1.02%	y = -46.04x <sup>2</sup> + 90.32x - 10.01 R <sup>2</sup> = 0.987
	F/G	1.00%	0.84%	0.97%	$y = 1.612x^2 - 3.218x + 3.759$ $R^2 = 0.993$