The present invention shows that the improved energy efficiency of animals treated with this composition occurs when the animals are kept in situations free of microbial challenge. Therefore, the improved energy efficiency is not caused by the decrease in microbial challenge or the lower amount of energy used by the immune system, but by changes in the use of energy. Thus, in the present invention, a process has been developed:

to improve the energy efficiency of animals;

to improve the carcass characteristics of animals;

to decrease the cost of feeding animals;

to not leave residues in the meat, milk, eggs, wool or other products of animals.

SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

Briefly described, this disclosure~~invention~~ provides a process that can be used to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of animals. This process can be used in foods for various types of animals. This process does not leave toxic residues in food or in the carcass of animals.

In one aspect, there is provided a process to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal, wherein the process comprises orally treating the animal with a composition which comprises:

A. from about 2.0 to about 76.0 percent by weight of at least one triglyceride containing at least one hydroxylated fatty acid having from about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms in its chain and

B. from about 24.0 to about 95.0 percent by weight of cashew nut shell liquid or a compound selected from the group consisting of cardol, cardanol, anacardic acid and salts of anacardic acid,

wherein the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of the animal are improved in comparison to the animal before treatment.

In another aspect, there is provided a process as to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal, wherein the process comprises orally treating the animal with a composition which comprises:

A. from about 2.0 to about 76.0 percent by weight of at least one triglyceride containing at least one hydroxylated fatty acid having from about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms in its chain and

B. from about 24.0 to about 95.0 percent by weight of cashew nut shell liquid or a compound selected from the group consisting of cardol, cardanol. anacardic acid and salts of anacardic acid,

wherein the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of the animal are improved in comparison to the animal before treatment and wherein the ratio of component A: component B is from about 1 :4 to about 1 :2.

In another aspect, there is provided a process to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal, wherein the process comprises orally treating the animal with a composition which comprises:

A. from about 2.0 to about 76.0 percent by weight of at least one triglyceride containing at least one hydroxylated fatty acid having from about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms in its chain and

B. from about 24.0 to about 95.0 percent by weight of cashew nut shell liquid or a compound selected from the group consisting of cardol, cardanol, anacardic acid and salts of anacardic acid,

wherein the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of the animal are improved in comparison to the animal before treatment and wherein the composition is present in an amount of about 10 to about 10,000 parts per million of the feed.

There are no known adverse or side effects of animals treated by the process of this ~~invention~~disclosure, which can be used during the life of the animals.

These and other features and advantages of this ~~invention~~ disclosure will become apparent from the following detailed description.