In one aspect, there is provided a process to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal that is kept in situations free of microbial challenge, 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 that is kept in situations free of microbial challenge, 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 that is kept in situations free of microbial challenge, 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 disclosure, which can be used during the life of the animals.

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

CLAIMS

1. A process to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal that is kept in situations free of microbial challenge, 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.

2. A process as defined by Claim 1, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is ricinoleic acid, hydroxystearic acid or a blend of such compounds.

3. A process as defined by Claim 1, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is ricinoleic acid.

4. A process as defined by Claim 1, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is hydroxystearic acid.

12. A process as to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal that is kept free of microbial challenge, 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.

13. A process as defined by Claim 12, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is ricinoleic acid, hydroxystearic acid, or a blend of such compounds.

14. A process as defined by Claim 12, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is ricinoleic acid.

15. A process as defined by Claim 12, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is hydroxystearic acid.

23. A process to improve the feed efficiency and carcass characteristics of an animal that is kept in situations free of microbial challenge, 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.

24. A process as defined by Claim 23, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is ricinoleic acid, hydroxystearic acid or a blend of such compounds.

25. A process as defined by Claim 23, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is ricinoleic acid.

26. A process as defined by Claim 23, wherein the hydroxylated fatty acid is hydroxystearic acid.