

THE EFFECT OF THE TYPE OF FORAGE AND ITS CHEMICAL COMPOSITION ON ORGANIC MATTER DIGESTIBILITY

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Summary. The experiments were aimed at determining the dependence of OM digestibility on the changes in its chemical composition and comparing OM digestibility of grass, hay and straw. In the first stage of the experiment chemical composition and fodder units [1] of hay from cultural pastures and its OM digestibility *in vitro* [5] were analysed. In the second stage - the chemical composition and food units as well as OM digestibility of grass from pastures, hay and straw were analysed.

Direct correlation of OM digestibility, amount of protein and fodder units and inverse correlation with the amount of fibre in hay were determined. The higher amount of fibre in hay, the lower its OM digestibility. OM digestibility differs in different types of forage and depends on its type and processing technology. OM digestibility of grass was 79,2 %, hay (after drying) - 74,9 %, straw - 53,5 %.

Keywords: forage, chemical composition, fibre, protein, fodder unit, organic matter digestibility, cow.