

EFFECT OF DIFFERENT SILAGES ON OUTPUT CHEMICAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY OF MEAT OF FATTENING BULLS

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Summary. In 2000, a trial of 125 days involving two groups (n= 6 per group) of fattening bulls was carried out at the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science to determine carcass quality, chemical composition of meat and growth rate of bulls fed grass-legume or maize silage. The yield of carcass including abdominal cavity fat of bulls fed maize silage was by 1.44% higher, and the muscling score was by 0.53 units higher compared with the control group of bulls fed on grass-legume silage. Grass or maize silage had no significant influence on the composition of ground meat or *M. longissimus dorsi*. Feeding on maize silage has increased pH of *M. longissimus dorsi* by 0.05 units, colour coefficient by 105.5 units ($P < 0.05$), water binding capacity by 3.75%, protein value index by 7.27% and decreased cooking losses of meat by 0.15%. Daily weight gains of bulls fed maize silage were by 1.35% higher and food consumption by 0.74% lower compared with the control group.

Keywords: carcass yield, muscling score meat pH, water binding capacity, protein value index, daily weight gain.