COMPARISON OF METHODS USED FOR EVALUATION OF FODDER CONTAMINATION BY MOULDY FUNGI AND THEIR TOXINS

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Summary. There are different methods of determining of fodder contamination by mouldy fungi. One of them is determination of ergosterol content, which is a dominating sterol in mouldy fungi and yeasts. Some cereals and mixed feed were investigated and ergosterol was found in all of them. The amount of ergosterol was compared with the amounts of spores and mycotoxins. The highest amount of ergosterol was found in artificially contaminated barley and in wheat bran. The lowest amount – in peas and corn. A reliable correlation ($r = 0,5196$, $p < 0,05$) between ergosterol and the amount of spores was determined.

Keywords: Mouldy fungi, ergosterol, mycotoxins, amount of spores, fodder.