

NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF DIFFERENT SORTS OF HAY

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Summary. Hay is prepared from grasses of cultured and natural grasslands and pastures, from grasses and legumes sowed on arable land. The nutritional value and chemical composition of hay depend on its sort, harvesting time, meteorological conditions, drying methods and storage. Irrespective of the sort of hay, it should contain sufficient amounts of nutrients and mineral substances. Analysis of nutritional value of different sorts of hay showed, that red clover hay contained most feed units, metabolisable energy, crude and digestible proteins, crude lipids. The lowest amounts of feed units, metabolisable energy and proteins were found in the hay of natural grasslands.

The chemical composition of separate sorts of hay varied as well. Plenty of calcium and magnesium cumulated in red clover hay, sodium – in the mixture of red clover and timothy grass, phosphorus and potassium – in the hay of natural grasslands. The ratio of calcium and phosphorus (Ca:P) less suitable for animals is found in red clover hay and in the mixture of red clover and timothy grass.

Keywords: feed units, metabolisable energy, crude and digestible proteins, dry matters, crude lipids, crude fibre, crude ash, nitrogen-free extractives, sugar.