

GROWTH RATE AND MEAT QUALITY OF FATTENING BULLS FED LEGUMINOUS GRAIN

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Summary. In 2000, a trial was carried out at the Farm Management Department of the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science (LIAS) with two groups of 7 Lithuanian Black-and-White bull calves each analogous by age, weight and parentage. In winter, both groups of bulls were fed silage ad libitum and in summer green feeds. Besides, each animal was daily offered 2.5 kg of compound feeds and in winter 1.0 kg of hay additionally. In winter time, control compound feed contained 27% of rapeseed cake, while experimental feed contained 18% of rapeseed cake and 16% of field peas. In summer, the corresponding figures were 7; 5 and 3%. The trial indicated that this type of feeding had no significant influence on the growth performance of bulls. The price cost of consumed feeds per 100 kg weight gain was 18.52 litas or by 7.4% lower than that for animals fed higher amounts of rapeseed cake. There was no significant difference for the morphological composition of carcasses, meat percentage and meat quality between the two groups of bulls.

Keywords: fattening bulls, compound feed, rapeseed cake, field peas, growth performance of bulls, feed cost, morphological composition of carcasses, meat percentage, meat quality.